

EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS' WATER SUPPLY ALERT

CURRENT STATUS

OUR 2014 WATER SUPPLY – March 21, 2014 update:

FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY

1. On March 18, 2014, the Executive Director of the California State Water Resources Control Board signed a revised Temporary Urgency Change (TUC) order that lifted the restriction which limited the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) from providing the Exchange Contractors an allocation of water from the Delta-Mendota Canal.
2. In the Order, the Executive Director also indicated he is anticipating that the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) would be finalizing an operations plan for the projects for the remainder of 2014 and 2015. The projects had indicated the operations plan would include provisions to protect water quality in the Delta sufficient to ensure that at a minimum, health and safety water could be delivered even if dry hydrology continues.
3. The Exchange Contractors, all of the Water Right Settlement Contractors and AG Service and M&I Contractors have been working with Reclamation to develop the operations plans.
4. The projects have indicated that initial allocations based on the March 1 snow surveys will be announced on April 1, 2014. Until then:
 - Based on the modeling that we have helped to develop it looks like we will receive the equivalent of a 40% water supply in 2014, consisting of deliveries from the Delta-Mendota Canal and the San Joaquin River. We won't know this for sure until April 1.
 - What is certain is that water delivery operations this year will provide flexibility to the Exchange Contractors which will also be passed on to our water users. The member agencies will have a monthly schedule of water deliveries. Water not used from February, March, & April schedule can be rolled into May. Water not used in May can be rolled into June, and then July and so on until the end of October. **Water cannot be pulled forward from a later month to an earlier month.**
5. To reiterate, Reclamation will make its updated water supply announcement on April 1, 2014. Reclamation and the Exchange Contractors will be updating water supply quantities monthly and will notify you of any changes immediately.

Each individual water user must weigh the information as we know it today, make their individual risk assessment and decide on when and how much to plant and irrigate.

The Exchange Contractor's member entities will notify their growers on or about April 1st as to the updated allocation.

We are working diligently on your behalf. Please understand that things can change quickly and that we will update you as often as necessary so that you can make informed decisions.

Please feel free to call the Exchange Contractors at (209) 827-8616 or your member entity's office with any questions and/or comments you may have:

- Central California Irrigation District (Main Office): (209) 826-1421
- San Luis Canal Company: (209) 826-5112
- Firebaugh Canal Water District: (559) 659-1245
- Columbia Canal Company: (559) 659-2426