

Central California Irrigation District
IMPORTANT WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION
Preparing for the 2016 Water Year

WHAT WE KNOW:

- 1) The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will not make an official allocation for CCID and the Exchange Contractors until late February 2016 at the earliest.
- 2) Presently, dry year forecasts performed by our consultants indicate that we will be under the Critical Year provisions of the Exchange Contract.
- 3) USBR and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are working on a 2016 Drought Operations Plan that is scheduled to be submitted to the State Water Board on January 15, 2016.
- 4) We are offering input to USBR as they prepare and submit their plan to the State Board.
- 5) Our water supply allocation will not be certain until these processes are complete.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR CCID OPERATIONS:

- 1) The District plans to start filling canals by February 15, 2016.
- 2) Water delivered to consumers will be counted against their allocations.
 - a. The initial allocation under the Exchange Contract for February and March combined is as follows:
FEBRUARY AND MARCH COMBINED ALLOCATION *
Tier 1 Allocation: 5.25"/acre (Exchange Contract Surface Supply)
Tier 2 Allocation: 0.50"/acre (CCID Well Water)
 - b. We won't know until February if and where unused Feb/Mar allocation can be moved. It's possible that again this year unused allocation will not be able to be moved into the summer. Water delivered will also be counted against the annual allocation. The 2016 Critical Year supply under the Exchange Contract will be available once hydrology, State Board and other regulatory processes are complete.

*** It's possible under extreme dry or regulatory conditions that less water will be available.**

3) **CRITICAL YEAR RATES**

In December, the CCID Board of Directors adopted *initial* Critical Year Rates as follows:

Tier 1 Rate: \$17.00/acre-foot

Tier 2 Rate: \$40.00/acre-foot

As a reminder, in a critical year there is no District water available for Class 2 lands.

To reiterate, USBR is expected to make our initial water supply announcement in **late February 2016**. Even though the present statewide weather situation is more promising than the past few years, it could change to a drier pattern quickly. CCID and the Exchange Contractors will update you as soon as we receive the allocation and will notify you of any changes throughout the irrigation season 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.** 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.