EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS 2022 WATER SUPPLY ALERT

March 14, 2022

CURRENT STATUS:

1) On February 15, 2022, the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors) received notice from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) that 2022 was determined to be a Shasta Critical Year based on the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake. There has been a record-breaking lack of precipitation from early January through the present date throughout most of the state. On March 8th, we received an updated California Department of Water Resources (DWR) water supply forecast which indicates that if these dry conditions persist, the water supply situation throughout the state is very serious. The dry projections, combined with environmental restrictions, has prompted Reclamation to determine that it is likely that the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) supplies will be insufficient to meet our demands under the Exchange Contract and that San Joaquin River releases from Millerton would be needed.
2) The situation is now similar to what the Exchange Contractors faced in 2014 and 2015 in which we received a portion of our Critical Year supply from the San Joaquin River. We are concerned about the potential for these circumstances to result in a reduction of our Critical Year water supply this year.
3) The Exchange Contractors and member entity staff are working diligently on your behalf with Reclamation and other stakeholders throughout the state to determine the water operation's plan and solidify water supply projections for this water season. We believe we will have resolution based on this month's DWR forecasts later this month.

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

Please understand that conditions can change quickly and that we will provide updates as soon as additional information becomes available.

Please call your member entity or the Exchange Contractors' office with any questions.

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