

United States Department of the Interior

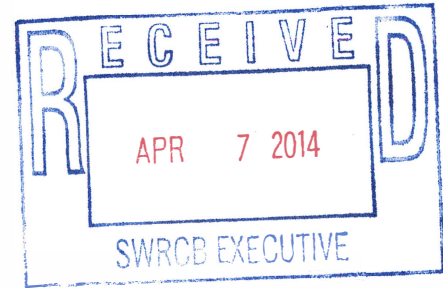
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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APR 1 2014



Honorable Andy Vidak
California Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Vidak:

On behalf of Acting Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Lowell D. Pimley, I am responding to your letter of March 7, 2014, regarding concerns raised by your constituents about “the possibility of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Bureau of Reclamation reducing water allocations to members of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors (Exchange Contractors) below their guaranteed 75 percent allocation.”

As background, a Drought State of Emergency was announced by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on January 17, 2014, and a 0 percent allocation announcement was made by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 31, 2014, for all 29 public water agencies that buy from the State Water Project.

Then, on February 21, 2014, Reclamation announced only an initial 40 percent water supply was available for settlement, exchange, and refuge contractors that receive water from the Central Valley Project (CVP). Although none of these types of contracts specifically provide for such a water supply quantity, the unfortunate fact is that there is insufficient water in the system to accommodate the 75 percent critical-year contract quantities. In addition, the allocation for all CVP agricultural water service contractors is 0 percent.

These unprecedented allocations are a result of water supply conditions throughout California that remain uncharacteristically dry with a very low probability of full recovery to normal conditions this water year. As such, it is imperative that the management of these record low storage levels is carried out in a manner that maximizes conservation throughout the year to ensure that, at a minimum, public health and safety are not compromised.

Reclamation continues to work closely with DWR, the SWRCB, and other State and Federal natural resource agencies to implement unprecedented measures to combat the drought conditions.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-978-5000.

Sincerely,

FOR

David G. Murillo

David G. Murillo
Regional Director

cc: Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

✓ Honorable Felicia Marcus
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100