Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Water Year 2015 Drought Impacts

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Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority

- Operate & Maintain Sacramento Canals Unit of the Central Valley Project
  - Tehama Colusa Canal (110 miles)
  - Corning Canal (22 miles)
  - Funks Reservoir
  - Red Bluff Diversion Facilities

- Serves 17 Water Districts with CVP water service contracts throughout a four county service area (Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo County)

- Total TCCA District Contract amounts = 318,700 acre feet

- Irrigation to 150,000 acres
  - almonds
  - pistachios
  - walnuts
  - prunes
  - olives
  - rice
  - tomatoes
Impacts to CVP Water Supply Reliability

- Central Valley Project Improvement Act
- Trinity Record of Decision
- SWRCB Bay Delta Water Quality Plans
- Endangered Species Act; Central Valley Project OCAP Biological Opinions by NMFS and USFWS (2006 and 2009)
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C = CRITICAL  
D = DRY  
W = WET  
AN = ABOVE NORMAL  
BN = BELOW NORMAL  

*= Decrease of 5% on 6-3-2008  
**= Started at 5%; Increase to 40% on 5-22-2009  
***= Started at 0%; Increase to 50% on 3-16-2010; Increase to 100% on 4-15-2010  
****= Started at 30% on 2-22-2012; Increase to 100% on 4-13-2012
In-district grower transfers (move water to permanent crops)
In-basin Project Water transfers (5-year accelerated water transfer document). CVPIA Section 3405(a)(1)(M)
Groundwater- Warren Act Contracts (5-year TC wide Warren Act Contract; limited availability and water quality concerns)
Shasta critical years- idling/groundwater substitution transfers
2015 Drought Response
2014 & 2015: First Ever 0% Water Allocations

- Fallowing of Approx. 70,000 acres
- Water Transfers/Purchases via Crop Idling and Ground Water Substitution (Forbearance Agreements)
- Greatly Increased Ground Water Pumping
- Warren Act Contracts (Relaxed Water Quality Requirements and Water Monitoring Program)
- Installation of Lift Pumps at Several Check Structures
- Enhanced Conservation and Deficit Irrigation
2015 Drought Impacts

• Greatly Increased Cost of Water
• Increased Conveyance and Delivery Costs
• Increased Reliance and Reduction of Reserve Funds
• Deferred Maintenance and Staffing
• Stress to Permanent Crops due to Deficit Irrigation (Long-term Impacts)
• Increased Ground Water Use
• Local Economic Impacts Associated with Crop Idling
  • Labor Impacts
  • 3rd Party Local Economic Impacts
Opportunities to Reduce Drought Impacts

• Improved communications with USBR regarding water allocation announcements
• Streamlining of the environmental/ regulatory/ administrative process for water transfers (federal, state, and local agreements)
• Integrated Regional Water Management Planning
• Rescheduling
• New surface storage – Sites Reservoir
Questions?

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