

Central Valley Project Water Supply Outlook Water Year 2010 Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region – January 29, 2010

In preparation for the initial Water Year (WY) 2010 water allocation announcement in February, the Bureau of Reclamation today presented information on the water supply outlook for the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) to CVP water contractors and others. Reclamation provided a comparison of current storage and hydrologic conditions to those in January 2009, 2008, 2007; to drought years 1992 and 1977; and to the recent 15-year average.

WY 2009 was classified as “Dry” with Northern California receiving about 93 percent of the average annual precipitation. (Reclamation’s WY runs from October 1 to September 30.) Although precipitation in WY 2009 was near average for the Northern Sierra, river runoff remained low at about 74 percent due to lower-than-average snow pack and very dry conditions in WY 2007 and WY 2008. The 3-year combined total Northern California precipitation for WY 2007 (37.2 inches), WY 2008 (34.9 inches), and WY 2009 (46.7 inches) is 118.8 inches, the 14th driest 3-year period since 1921 and was about 79 percent of average.

The California Department of Water Resources’ first Snow Survey on December 30, 2009, reported snow water content to be 85 percent of normal statewide as compared to 76 percent of normal statewide on this same date last year. However, with the recent storms, precipitation in Northern California has improved to 102 percent of the seasonal average, and snow water content in the northern Sierra is at 130 percent of average for this date.

Reclamation operates and manages the largest surface storage system in California. The CVP’s carryover storage to WY 2010 was 4.4 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 66 percent of average for that date. This was an improvement over the previous year when the CVP carried over 3.9 MAF from WY 2008 to WY 2009 (59 percent of average). As of January 27, 2010, total CVP reservoir storage continued to improve to 5.64 MAF.

The following table shows current conditions in five key CVP reservoirs as of January 27 for 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007, as well as the 15-year average:

CVP Reservoir Storage Comparisons for 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, and 15-Year Average As of January 27 for Each Year – Storages Listed in Millions of Acre-feet (MAF)									
CVP Reservoir Capacities	2010	% of 15-year Average	2009	% of 15-year Average	2008	% of 15-year Average	2007	% of 15-year Average	15-Year Average
Shasta 4.552	2.516	80%	1.407	44%	2.103	64%	3.375	101%	3.131
New Melones 2.420	1.214	72%	1.165	71%	1.480	91%	1.979	129%	1.689
Trinity 2.448	1.030	60%	.981	57%	1.411	78%	1.800	103%	1.706
Folsom 0.977	.308	66%	.240	50%	.264	54%	.474	94%	.464
Fed. San Luis 0.966	.573	74%	.294	38%	.752	92%	.776	98%	.769
Total 11.363	5.641	73%	4.087	52%	6.010	75%	8.404	106%	7.758

In comparing current conditions to past drought years, storage in these five reservoirs as of January 27, 1992, was 3.1 MAF (28 percent of capacity) and 1977 was 3.5 MAF (31 percent of capacity).

As of January 27, 2010, precipitation in the Upper San Joaquin River Basin was 20.67 inches as measured at Huntington Lake, compared to a 30-year average of 20.41 inches or 101 percent of average. Current storage at Millerton Lake is 238,268 acre-feet compared to a 30-year average of about 324,256 acre-feet for the same date.

The first official 2010 CVP water allocation announcement is planned for Friday, February 26, 2010. The allocation will then be evaluated monthly based on snowpack and other information, and updates will be provided throughout the precipitation season. To receive the latest update on CVP operations, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 916-978-5100 (TTY 916-978-5608) or e-mail mppublicaffairs@usbr.gov. In the coming months, additional information will be posted on the Mid-Pacific Region's website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/>.

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