

Article 18(a)

18. Shortage in Water Supply.

(a) Shortages; Delivery Priorities.

In any year in which there may occur a shortage due to drought or any other cause whatsoever, in the supply of project water available for delivery to the contractors, with the result that such supply is less than the total of the annual entitlements of all contractors for that year, the State shall allocate the available supply in proportion to each contractor's annual entitlement as set forth in its Table A for that year and shall reduce the allocation of project water to each contractor using such water for agricultural purposes and to each contractor using such water for other purposes by the same percentage of their respective annual entitlements for that year: Provided, that the State may allocate on some other basis if such is required to meet minimum demands of contractors for domestic supply, fire protection, or sanitation during the year. If a contractor is allocated more water than it requested, the excess water shall be reallocated among the other contractors in proportion to their annual entitlements as provided for above: The foregoing provisions of this subdivision shall be inoperative to the extent necessary to comply with subdivision (c) of this article and to the extent that a contractor's annual entitlement for the respective year reflects established rights under the area of origin statutes precluding a reduction in deliveries to such contractor.