

Application Efficiency: Alfalfa 2001

Table 1 - Application Efficiencies for different Irrigation Systems

Irrigation System	Application Efficiencies (%)		
	Low	Mean	High
Surface Irrigation			
Wild Flood	50	68	86
Border	62	73	83
Basin	72	83	93
Furrow	60	73	85
Surface - Sprinkler Side-Roll	60	68	75
Surface - Sprinkler Hand-Move	60	68	75
Sprinkler			
Permanent	70	78	85
Hand-Move	60	70	80
Linear-Move	73	82	90
Side-Roll	60	70	80
Micro-Mini	73	81	88
Hose-Pull	70	73	75
Center - Pivot	70	80	90
Drip			
Above ground	77	86	95
Buried drip	77	86	95

Table 2 - Application Efficiency Estimates

Code	Hydrologic Region	Application Efficiency (%)		
		Low	Mean	High
1	North Coast	63.8	72.8	81.9
2	San Francisco Bay	58.7	70.9	81.7
3	Central Coast	61.7	72.1	82.5
4	South Coast	61.9	72	82.2
5	Sacramento River	60.5	71.9	82.6
6	San Joaquin River	61.5	72	82.3
7	Tulare Lake	61	72.1	82.8
8	North Lahontan	63.8	73.6	83
9	South Lahontan	63.5	74.2	84.9
10	Colorado River	61.8	72.2	82.7
	Statewide	61.9	72.5	82.8

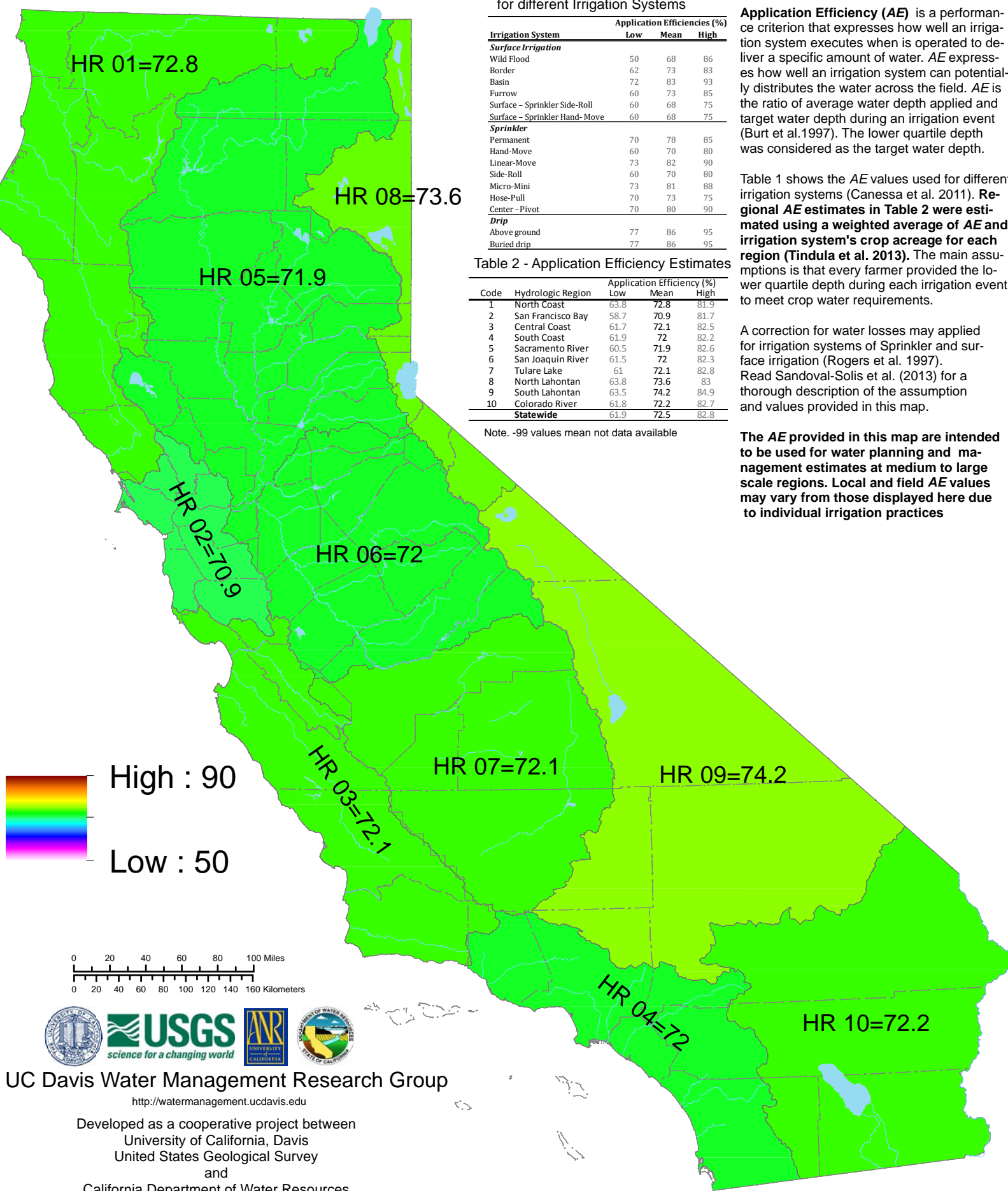
Note: .99 values mean not data available

Application Efficiency (AE) is a performance criterion that expresses how well an irrigation system executes when is operated to deliver a specific amount of water. AE expresses how well an irrigation system can potentially distributes the water across the field. AE is the ratio of average water depth applied and target water depth during an irrigation event (Burt et al.1997). The lower quartile depth was considered as the target water depth.

Table 1 shows the AE values used for different irrigation systems (Canessa et al. 2011). **Regional AE estimates in Table 2 were estimated using a weighted average of AE and irrigation system's crop acreage for each region (Tindula et al. 2013).** The main assumption is that every farmer provided the lower quartile depth during each irrigation event to meet crop water requirements.

A correction for water losses may applied for irrigation systems of Sprinkler and surface irrigation (Rogers et al. 1997). Read Sandoval-Solis et al. (2013) for a thorough description of the assumption and values provided in this map.

The AE provided in this map are intended to be used for water planning and management estimates at medium to large scale regions. Local and field AE values may vary from those displayed here due to individual irrigation practices



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Map prepared by P.I.: Samuel Sandoval Solis, Ph.D. © 2013.

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