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CIMIS

California
Irrigation
Management
Information
System

Efforts under way to mitigate spatial ETo data gaps

The significance of obtaining accurate estimates of reference evapotranspiration (ETo) data has been stressed in the preceding issues of *CATI Update*.

CIMIS has been instrumental in providing localized ETo and other weather data for more than 20 years. Despite all the efforts by CIMIS, however, there remained a problem of spatial data gaps resulting from the fact that the stations are sparsely scattered across the state.

The focus in the past has been on installing new stations. With technological advancements in acquiring and processing large volumes of weather data, however, the efforts have become multidimensional. CIMIS is currently working on multiple projects designed to mitigate the spatial data gaps.

The GOES Project

This project involves producing statewide daily maps of ETo by coupling remotely sensed satellite data from

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Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) with point measurements at the CIMIS stations.

CIMIS and the University of California, Davis (UCD) have created a promising product which they are currently beta testing. UCD has recently obtained funding from Proposition 50 grants to refine the model and improve data delivery methods to end users. We anticipate the product to be released to the public within a year.

Non-ideal Site Study

Another effort that CIMIS has been promoting for quite some time is what is known as a non-ideal site station. This involves installing weather stations at sites that do not satisfy the standards

required by CIMIS and converting the collected data into an equivalent reference condition. This would be achieved by setting up paired reference and non-ideal stations in a given study area and correlating the data.

CIMIS, in cooperation with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC), has started installation of the non-ideal site stations. In addition to providing the data for local consumption, these stations will provide data vital for the accuracy of the ETo maps from the GOES project.

New Stations

Four new stations have been added to the CIMIS network this year, bringing the number of active stations to 131.

The new stations are Indio 2 (#200), UC Andrade (#201), Nipomo (#202), and Alpaugh (#203). Several other potential station locations are also being evaluated.

For more CIMIS information...

CIMIS information is published quarterly in the *CATI Update* newsletter. Articles are provided by the California Department of Water Resources, CIMIS program staff.

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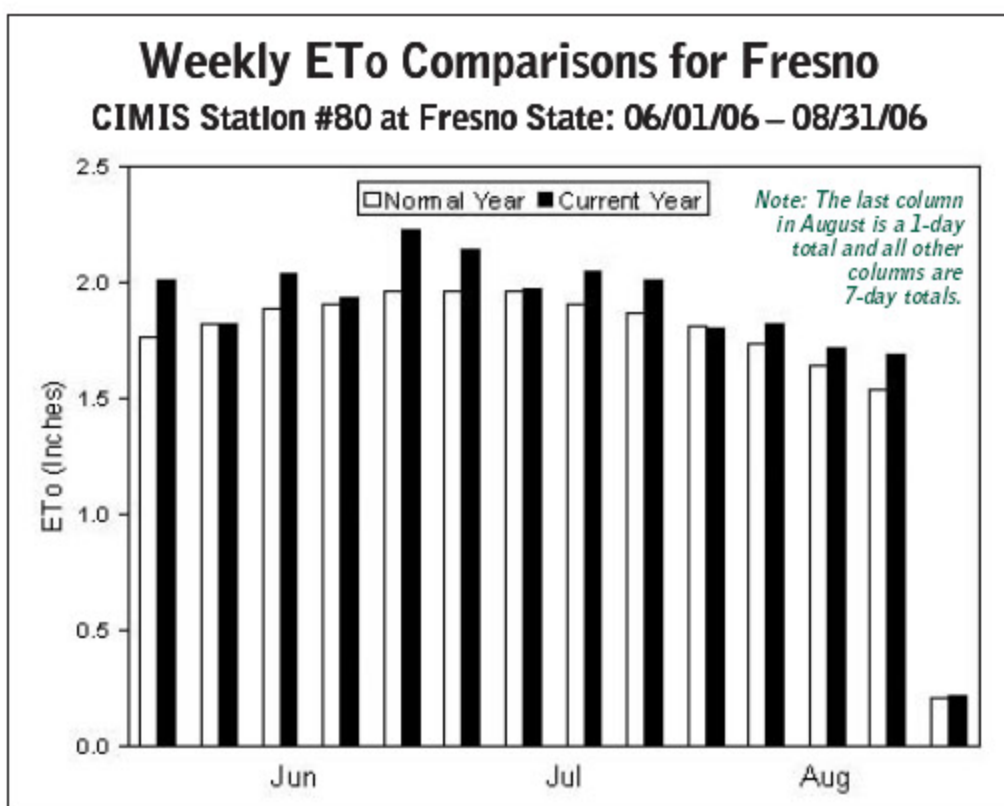


Chart shows ETo variation from normal over last three months.