



Westlands Water District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT OF WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT ON THE PASSING OF JACK STONE

Don Peracchi, the President of Westlands Water District, released the following statement on behalf of the District's Board of Directors and its current and former employees:

Jack Stone was one of the giants whose foresight and hard work built the Central Valley as we know it today. All of us at the Westlands Water District join in expressing our sympathy to his family at his passing and our deep appreciation for his leadership.

Jack was a member of the greatest generation. He not only fought to protect democracy in time of war, but he also made the investments in peacetime that laid the foundation for the modern prosperity we all enjoy in California, especially on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley. His confidence, tenacity and persuasiveness inspired a generation of landowners, business leaders and elected officials who shared his vision for the future of our region.

For 21 years, beginning in 1972, Jack served on the board of directors of the Westlands Water District. He was the district's president for 17 of those years during some of the most contentious and difficult periods in Westlands' history. He led the district through two major droughts,

Congressional efforts to reform federal reclamation law, the Kesterson controversy over drainage, and the beginning of a sustained effort by the critics of agriculture to reduce the water supplies that our communities on the Westside depend on.

Under his leadership, Westlands became a world leader in agricultural water conservation. His knowledge, experience and insight helped the families who farm on the Westside to secure and sustain their homes and businesses at a time when water law was changing, the needs of the environment were rapidly expanding, and advancements in technology were revolutionizing the agricultural industry. His personal warmth and kindness were appreciated by everyone who worked with him at the district.

California is a better place because of Jack's accomplishments. We will miss him at Westlands, but we will never forget how much we owe to him.

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