



Westlands Water District

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July 18, 2013

This notice contains important information about the following:

- **Water Supply Update**
- **Supplemental Water Supply Update**
- **Water Ordering Procedures for Groundwater Management and Temporary Diversion Programs**
- **Limited Repairs Water Users Can Perform on the Distribution System**

Water Supply Update

At the July 16 Board of Directors' meeting, Mr. Birmingham reported that he had received a number of inquiries from District water users concerning an apparent inconsistency between the District's forecast of the 2014 contract allocation reported at the June 18, 2013, water users' workshop, and a forecast released on July 10, 2013, by Tom Boardman, a water resource engineer with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. Mr. Birmingham explained that the forecasts, in fact, are not inconsistent. First, he noted that the District forecast presented on June 18 pertained to the initial allocation, and Mr. Boardman's forecast pertains to the final allocation. Moreover, Mr. Boardman's forecast was based on assumptions concerning the degree to which biological opinions would restrict Central Valley Project operations in the Delta; Mr. Boardman forecasted final allocations based on "moderate fish cuts" and "minimal fish cuts."

To help clarify existing forecasts of allocations for the 2014 contract year, District staff prepared the following table to describe the potential range of allocations under differing hydrologies and differing degrees to which the biological opinions restrict Central Valley Project operations in the Delta:

Water Year Type*	Delta Restrictions Imposed Under Biological Opinions					
	Maximum		Moderate		Minimal	
	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation
Wet	0-25%	35-40%	0-25%	50-55%	0-25%	65-80%
Above Normal	0-15%	20-30%	0-15%	30-45%	0-15%	45-50%
Below Normal	0%	5-10%	0%	25-30%	0%	35-40%
Dry	0%	0%	0%	5-10%	0%	10-20%
Critically Dry	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

*This water year type classification is based on the Sacramento Valley 40-30-30 Index, which classifies water year type based on unimpaired flow in million acre-feet:

- Wet – equal to or greater than 9.2
- Above Normal – greater than 7.8, and less than 9.2
- Below Normal – greater than 6.5, and equal to or less than 7.8
- Dry – greater than 5.4, and equal to or less than 6.5
- Critically Dry – equal to or less than 5.4

Year types are set by first-of-month forecasts beginning in February. The final determination is based on the May 1, 50% exceedence forecast. An “average” water year falls into the Below Normal classification.

Supplemental Water Supply Update

The District received timely applications for 2013-2014 Supplemental Water totaling approximately 263,000 AF on 384,000 acres. At this time, the District anticipates that it will be able to acquire approximately 135,000 AF of water supply to partially meet the requests from water users. The District estimates the delivered cost to water users will be \$375 per AF, but the cost may increase as the District continues to pursue additional supplies. Advance payment for the acquisition costs of the water is required at the time of allocation, while conveyance related costs will be billed when the water is used.

Based upon acquisition totals of approximately 135,000 AF, District staff estimates that water users could receive up to 0.385 AF/acre, or a lesser amount if requested, on the irrigable acres represented by the water user account listed on the application. This amount is only an estimated projection of the annual Supplemental Water allocation based on current information available.

Allocations of Supplemental Water began in April, and the timing and amounts of expected allocations for the year are shown in the table below. Based upon the water supply shortage this year, on July 16 the District’s Finance & Administration Committee authorized an early allocation this year of Supplemental Water in the month of July (reflected below).

Allocation Month	AF Amount
April – Actual	48,057
May – Actual	1,387
June – Actual	1,313
July – Actual	25,000
August - Estimated	25,000
September - Estimated	20,000
October - Estimated	10,000
November - Estimated	3,000
December - Estimated	1,200

The August-September schedule reflects the projected timing for pumping of Supplemental Water the District acquired from north of the Delta. This schedule will continue to be updated monthly to reflect additional supplies and/or changes to the timing for delivery.

Water Ordering Procedures for Groundwater Management and Temporary Diversion Programs

Water users that participate in the Groundwater Management and/or the Temporary Diversion Programs are required to place their water orders 3 days in advance, in accordance with the District’s Terms and Conditions of Agricultural Water Service. The Terms and Conditions also apply to water delivered under these programs.

The District’s programs utilize energy from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Base Resource Contract. Because the energy available under the District’s contract is rarely enough to cover energy demands of the programs, the District seeks to cover the balance of the demands by

ordering the delivery of energy to the “grid” from long-term purchase contracts. To the extent that actual usage does not match this order, the District is either purchasing additional power or disposing of excess purchased power on the spot market. The spot market is often unfavorable for either purchasing or selling power and, as a result, increased costs are incurred.

It is important that water users comply with the ordering procedures to ensure that the District’s request for power to operate your facilities is accurate. Failure to place timely “on” or “off” orders will result in inaccurate power requests and higher power costs to each of these programs and their participants.

Limited Repairs Water Users Can Perform on the Distribution System

The Board recently implemented a new policy which allows water users, under certain criteria, to perform work on District facilities. The permitted work is limited to above ground facilities such as:

1. Install or replace primary and secondary meters
2. Rotate primary and secondary meters
3. Grade and slope dirt away from meter bases to prevent corrosion
4. Repair/replace above ground valves
5. Raise meter bases.

Materials will be provided by the District to perform these projects.

Prior to performing any work on District facilities, water users are required to sign an “Agreement for Repair of Distribution System” and each project must be reviewed and approved by the Planning & Maintenance Support Department. Please call (559) 884-2523 and contact Chuck Serrano at extension No. 106, or Brian Farnen at extension No. 135 for more details or to schedule work.