



# Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

November 22, 2013

*This notice contains important information about the following:*

- **CVP Water Supply Update and 2014-2015 Contract Allocation**
- **Supplemental Water Update**
- **Expanded Irrigation System Improvement Program**
- **2014-2015 Agricultural Water Allocation Applications Due January 15, 2014**
- **Assessments and Land-Based Charges**
- **Landowner Responsibilities**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Surplus Vehicles and Equipment for Sale**
- **Holiday Office Closures and Water Ordering Procedures**

## CVP Water Supply Update and 2014-2015 Contract Allocation

The CVP has approximately 4.5 million acre feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 70% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 1.7 million acre-feet (68% of 15-year average). Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 283,000 acre-feet (61% of 15-year average). Jones Pumping Plant continues to operate at less than 50% capacity in order to meet Delta Outflow requirements. The federal share of San Luis Reservoir will likely not fill before the end of the water year.

Based upon these conditions and certain assumptions concerning hydrology, District staff is projecting the ranges of potential Central Valley Project allocations for the 2014-2015 water year as follows:

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%

## Supplemental Water 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 155,000 to 160,000 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 155,000 to 160,000 AF, District staff estimates that water users could receive up to 0.452 to 0.473 AF/acre, or a lesser amount if requested, on the irrigable acres represented by the water user account listed on the application. These amounts are only an estimated projection of the annual Supplemental Water allocation based on current information available.

Allocation of Supplemental Water began in April, and the timing and amounts of expected allocations for the year are shown in the table below. The District allocated 27,397 AF in early November, and we anticipate receiving final confirmation from the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation that the balance of the north-of-Delta water transfers occurred. The District will allocate this balance following receipt of confirmation.

<b>Allocation Month</b>	<b>AF Amount</b>
April – Actual	48,057
May – Actual	1,387
June – Actual	1,313
July – Actual	25,000
August – Actual	31,854
September – Actual	0
October – Actual	0
November – Actual	27,397
December – Estimated	12,500
January – Estimated	4,000
February – Estimated	3,500

### **Expanded Irrigation System Improvement Program**

The Board of Directors has approved the use of Public Purpose Program (P3) funds to provide a cost share element to the District's Expanded Irrigation System Improvement Program (EISIP). Under the cost share, the District will fund up to 35% or \$45,500, whichever is less, of an irrigation system lease/purchase. The cost share funds will be offered on a first come first served basis, for one system per pump enrolled in a District power program, and the system must be installed on a field served by that pump. The balance of the system's cost will be funded under and in conformance with the EISIP (i.e., water users must offer 160 acres of non-annexed land as security and provide 20% down payment followed by four annual payments amortized at 3.1% per annum). For additional information on applying for this program, please contact Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237.

### **2014-2015 Agricultural Water Allocation Applications Due January 15, 2014**

Water users will receive their 2014-2015 Agricultural Water Allocation Application packets during the first part of December. Landowners will not receive packets unless they are also water users or have requested them previously. Applications are due at either the Fresno or Five Points Offices by 5 p.m. on or before January 15, 2014.

Typically, the landowners' tenant farmers will submit the allocation applications. However, landowners may apply for allocations, especially if more direct control of the allocation to their land is desired or tenants have not been selected. In these situations, landowners are reminded that the costs associated with water applied for and allocated must be paid, even if the water is not used.

If more than one application is received for the same parcel of land, priority will be given to the landowner in accordance with the District's rules and regulations. If no applicants own the land, priority will be given to the water user who provides evidence of the right to occupy the land and receive the allocation.

### **Assessments and Land-Based Charges**

The 2013 Repayment Contract Assessments are delinquent after November 21, 2013. Land-based charges were due March 25, 2013 for the first installment, and September 25, 2013 for the second installment. Unpaid assessments and land-based charges will result in the interruption of water service to the water user until payment is received.

### **Landowner Responsibilities**

As a courtesy each year, the District reminds landowners of their responsibilities as property owners in Westlands. Landowners are ultimately responsible for the payment of all District assessments, land-based charges and water charges attributable to their property. Any private agreement with tenants for use of the land does not relieve landowners of their responsibility for paying these costs. Landowners must enforce leases between lessors and lessees. Landowners should be aware of the following obligations regarding their property:

**Assessments:** Westlands uses a "benefit valuation" method in establishing assessments. Lands are assessed annually based on the relative benefits that they receive from the District. Assessment statement billings are mailed to District landowners and normally become delinquent in mid-November of each year. If an assessment becomes delinquent, the following actions are taken:

- A 5% penalty is assessed.
- Agricultural water service is discontinued.
- Any remaining water allocation applicable to the water user is not available for transfer, but the cost for such water must still be paid.
- A lien is recorded against each delinquent parcel.
- A \$17 or \$12 recording fee is imposed against each delinquent parcel.
- A publication fee is imposed against each delinquent amount (in the past this amount has varied from \$30 to \$200).
- Interest charges accrue against the delinquent amount at 9% per annum.
- Neither contract water nor any other water will be allocated to any land for which assessments have been delinquent for 30 days or more at the time the water is allocated.

**Land-Based Charges:** Land-based charges may be imposed by the Board of Directors, after a hearing is held and absent written protest from a majority of affected landowners. The hearing is typically held in February, although additional hearings may be held if new charges are implemented or if warranted by other circumstances. Land-based charges anticipated for next year are for costs related to a portion of the District's operations and maintenance activities, District water supply, long-term water, extraordinary repairs of pipe and certain litigation. Land-based charges are normally due March 25 and September 25, and if they become delinquent the following actions are taken:

- A penalty ranging from 2% to 10% is assessed and interest charges of 1.5% per month are applied.
- Agricultural water service is discontinued.
- Any remaining water allocation applicable to the water user is not available for transfer, but the cost for such water must still be paid.
- If left unpaid, charges are transferred to the District's assessment roll and become a lien against the land.
- Neither contract water nor any other water will be allocated to any land for which charges have been delinquent for 30 days or more at the time the water is allocated.

Water Charges: Landowners are financially responsible if their tenants do not pay their water bills. Water users have approximately 25 days to pay for water charges billed for the previous month. Bills not paid by the due date are considered delinquent. Landowners are notified of the delinquent account by mail. These bills may include charges for:

- CVP water, District water supply or long-term water allocated to the land, and any other water transferred into the water user's account. Other water may come from a variety of sources with costs substantially higher than CVP water.
- Water delivered to the land.
- Reduction in future year's water supplies for overused water, unless the water user purchases additional water to replace the overused amount.
- Unused water, if the water user does not reschedule it or does not find a buyer for the unused amount.
- Miscellaneous charges for M&I water costs, CVP Improvement Act Restoration Fund Costs, or other service charges.

If water charges become delinquent, the following actions are taken:

- A penalty ranging from 2% to 10% is assessed and interest charges of 1.5% per month are applied.
- Agricultural water service is discontinued.
- Any remaining water allocation applicable to the water user is not available for transfer, but the cost for such water must still be paid.
- If left unpaid, a Certificate to Secure Delinquent Water charges is filed against the water user on all lands owned within Westlands Water District.
- If the account remains unpaid, charges will be transferred to the District's assessment roll in May of each year and a Certificate of Sale will be filed against the land where the water was used if delivered or allocated if unused.
- Neither contract water nor any other water will be allocated to any land for which charges have been delinquent for 30 days or more at the time the water is allocated.

The information listed above summarizes the financial obligations landowners and water users have to the District. If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the Customer Accounting Department at (559) 241-6250. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming water year.

### **Lease of District Owned Land**

The District still has land available for lease. For a detailed list of available land, please contact Cork McIsaac of Agricultural Industries, Inc. at (916) 372-5595 or (800) 822-1415.

### **Surplus Vehicles and Equipment for Sale**

The District is offering for sale, by sealed bid, sixteen used vehicles and miscellaneous heavy duty equipment. **All bids must be received by 3:00 p.m. on December 6, 2013, in the District's Purchasing Department at 3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703.** Facsimile offers will not be accepted. For a detailed list of sale items, please see the attached. Anyone interested in submitting a bid or wanting additional information, contact Gilbert Cano in the District's Purchasing Department at (559) 241-6209 or visit the District's website at <http://goo.gl/IOGf1Z> to obtain bidding instructions.

**Holiday Office Closures & Water Ordering Procedures**

District offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving; Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday; and Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Thursday or Friday - November 28 or 29	Wednesday, November 27, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Sunday or Monday - November 30, December 1-2	Wednesday, November 27, noon
Tuesday - December 24	Monday, December 23, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday or Thursday - December 25 or 26	Monday, December 23, noon
Wednesday - January 1	Tuesday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday - January 2	Tuesday, December 31, noon

The emergency telephone number for after hours and holidays is (559) 224-1523.

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<u>Veh. #</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Mileage</u>	<u>Minimum Bid Amount</u>
110	1997	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	269,100	\$ 500.00
111	1997	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	178,500	\$ 500.00
117	1999	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	278,800	\$ 500.00
119	1998	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	262,998	\$ 500.00
120	1998	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	280,300	\$ 500.00
124	1994	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	196,600	\$ 500.00
126	1998	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	282,500	\$ 500.00
134	1998	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	320,100	\$ 500.00
138	1995	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	260,000	\$ 500.00
141	2003	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	217,600	\$ 500.00
160	1995	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	189,400	\$ 500.00
164	1997	Ford F-150, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	264,400	\$ 500.00
173	2004	GMC Sierra, 4 x 2 Pickup Truck	306,300	\$ 500.00
267	2003	Ford F-250 SD Pickup Truck	331,300	\$ 500.00
393	1999	Ford F-450, Super Duty w/utility box	182,900	\$1000.00
397	1997	Ford F-350, Super Duty w/utility bed	167,200	\$1000.00
512	1972	Ford model #34011K Bucket Loader	647.5 meter hrs.	\$ 900.00
514	1979	Caterpillar model #D6D Dozer	1184 meter hrs.	\$18,000.00
		Steam Cleaner		\$100.00