



# Westlands Water District

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

December 13, 2013

## IMPORTANT - RESPONSE REQUIRED

*This notice contains important information about the following:*

- **2014-2015 Agricultural Water Allocation Application and Purchase Agreement**
- **Reclamation Law Certification/Reporting**

### **2014-2015 Agricultural Water Allocation Application and Purchase Agreement**

Enclosed is your Agricultural Water Allocation Application and Purchase Agreement form(s) for the new water year. Applications are due on or before January 15, 2014. Postmark dates will not be accepted. **Applications received after January 15, 2014, will not receive an initial 2014-2015 Central Valley Project (CVP) Contract water allocation.**

Applications may be mailed to Westlands Water District, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703, or delivered to either of the District offices listed below:

- Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703
- Five Points Office, 23050 W. Mt. Whitney Avenue, Five Points, CA 93624

All water users are subject to the District's Regulations for the Allocation and Use of Agricultural Water and the Terms and Conditions for Agricultural Water Service. Terms and Conditions and Regulations are available on the District's website at [www.westlandswater.org](http://www.westlandswater.org) under the News & Information menu item. Please note that a portion of the Regulations has been superseded by the *Sagoupe* settlement agreement (i.e., from March 1, 2008 forward, the District's contract water shall be allocated equally per irrigable acre to all Priority Area I and II lands). Notwithstanding this change, a water user may still apply for a lesser amount than the pro-rata allocation to which his land is entitled. Blank application forms are available under the Landowners & Water Users menu item on the forms page of the customer web site.

The District anticipates an **initial** CVP water supply of 0 to 5 percent of contract entitlement. Based upon this, and depending upon a water user's acre-feet requested on the enclosed application, the irrigable acres in Priority Areas I and II will **initially** receive up to 0.1157 acre-feet per acre (AF/ac). Water users should keep in mind when completing the application that the District will also automatically allocate Long-Term water, if made available, in accordance with the District's Regulations, policies and applicable agreements irrespective of the amount of CVP water requested. This Long-Term Water allocation could result in an additional 0.0007 AF/ac.

### **Allocation Application Form Instructions**

- A separate application form for each priority area is enclosed.

- Complete and sign both sides of the form.
- Update the water user name and address. The water user name must be the same as that used on Reclamation law forms.
- List all land within Westlands' boundaries for which you want an allocation of CVP contract water. Land must be eligible under Reclamation law on March 1, 2014, to receive an allocation of water.
- Indicate the maximum amount of CVP contract water you would like to receive for each field. Actual allocations will be determined by the amount of water available to the District. If the amount requested is less than the ratable share, the amount requested will be the amount allocated to the water user.
- The District uses acreage records from the U.S. Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) to determine your allocation. You must provide verification from the CFSA for any changes. CFSA determinations dated after March 1, 2014, will not result in an adjustment to your initial 2014-2015 allocation, but will be used for allocations made subsequent to the change.
- If you are making changes to the land you farm that occur prior to March 1, 2014, you must submit a revised 2013-2014 application in addition to your 2014-2015 application.

#### **Account Contact Information Form Instructions**

- Please review the list of authorized contacts associated with your account and make necessary changes. This information allows District staff to contact the appropriate individuals within your organization should any questions arise regarding your account.

You may call your Customer Accounting Technician at (559) 241-6250 if you have any questions about the allocation application or contact information process.

#### **Reclamation Law Certification/Reporting**

Federal Reclamation law requires certain landholders to annually submit certification/reporting forms as a condition of continued eligibility to receive water. Only landholders whose **total west-wide** landholdings exceed the following acreage thresholds must submit forms.

<u>Acreage Limitation Status</u>	<u>Forms Submittal Threshold</u>
• Qualified Recipient (New Law, 25 people or fewer)	240 acres
• Limited Recipient (New Law, more than 25 people)	40 acres
• Public Entities	40 acres
• Trusts and Estates (benefiting 25 people or fewer)	240 acres
• Trusts and Estates (benefiting more than 25 people)	40 acres
• Trusts benefiting a class of beneficiaries	40 acres
• Farm Operator	960 acres

A separate Form 7-21 VERIFY must be submitted for each standard form. If one Form 7-21 VERIFY is used to verify two or more standard forms, the Bureau of Reclamation will assess an administrative fee for a form submittal violation.

In an effort to reduce costs, the District does not mail the Certification Forms booklet. We encourage you to obtain your forms from the Bureau's website at [www.usbr.gov/rra](http://www.usbr.gov/rra) under the RRA Forms menu item. Reclamation law forms are also available at the District's Fresno or Five Points Field Office.

Please submit completed forms by February 1, 2014, to allow timely processing before water is ordered for the next water year and to ensure water service is not interrupted. If your forms are not received prior to the beginning of the 2014-2015 water year, your land will be ineligible to receive water or any benefit of CVP facilities until the forms are submitted.

### **Certification/Reporting Form Instructions**

- For land exceeding your non-full-cost entitlement, please complete the Selection of Full-Cost Land (Form 7-21FC). For land exceeding your ownership entitlement, please complete the Designation of Excess Land (Form 7-21XS).
- All forms for multiple ownership entities must be signed by all partners or part owners unless you have a notarized entity signature authorization form on file with the District or your partnership agreement allows for only one party to sign on behalf of the entity. Spouses must sign on all individual forms unless a notarized spousal signature authorization form is on file with the District. Signature authorization forms are available from the District. Submittal of incomplete, unsigned, or undated certification/reporting forms may result in your land remaining ineligible to receive Project water. The Bureau of Reclamation will assess administrative fees for forms violations if water is delivered prior to receipt of forms.
- Landowners and water users are required to identify farm operators that perform farming services for an entity or trust. The Bureau of Reclamation defines a farm operator as an individual or entity other than the owner, lessee, or sub-lessee that performs any portion of the farming operation. This includes farm managers, but does not include spouses, minor children, employees for whom the employer pays social security taxes, or custom service providers. Farm operators that provide more than one service on more than 960 acres west-wide must submit a "Declaration of Farm Operator Information" (Form 7-21FARMOP).
- If your landholdings change during the water year, you must notify all districts in which you hold land within 30 calendar days, and you must submit new forms within 60 calendar days of the change.

Please call Lucinda Anderson at (559) 241-6218 or Christine Braziel at (559) 241-6224 if you have any questions about certification/reporting rules.