



# Westlands Water District

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

April 21, 2014

*This Notice contains important information about the following:*

- **CVP Water Supply**
- **Rescheduled Water**
- **2014-15 Supplemental Water**
- **Update on Proposed San Luis Canal Integration Program**
- **Distribution Integration Program Temporary Change**
- **Water Ordering Procedures**
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## **CVP Water Supply**

On February 21, 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation announced an initial zero allocation for south-of-Delta CVP agricultural water service contractors. Reclamation has not made an updated allocation announcement since then. Due to extraordinarily dry conditions, the District expects that the allocation will remain at zero for this water year. The District will provide additional notice to water users if the allocation changes.

Reclamation currently has approximately 5.8 million acre-feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents about 65% of the 15 year average. Shasta storage is approximately 2.4 million acre-feet (63% of average). Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 550,000 acre-feet (66% of average). Hydrology continues to be well below average with the Northern Sierra 8 Station and the San Joaquin 5 Station indices recording only 62% and 46%, respectively, of average precipitation for the year. In April, Jones Pumping Plant has been exporting water at approximately 90% of capacity and has pumped approximately 114,000 acre-feet thus far. Exports at Jones are expected to drop to about 45% of capacity this week to address water quality concerns in the Delta.

## **Rescheduled Water**

Water users that have Rescheduled Water in their accounts may use this water throughout the current water year. Additionally, when water users have arranged for individual transfers of water to the District, the water will be allocated to the user's account at the time the District receives acknowledgment from the approving agency, provided the water is south-of-the Delta or stored in San Luis Reservoir.

### **2014-2015 Supplemental Water**

The District has received timely Supplemental Water applications for approximately 248,000 acre-feet on 372,000 acres. The District will make every effort to acquire Supplemental Water from available sources for the 2014-15 water year. However, due to the extremely dry conditions, lack of available water, and issues concerning Delta operations, it is highly unlikely that the District will fulfill more than a third of the Supplemental Water requests. Further, the District's likely sources of Supplemental Water will be from north-of-Delta, which are pumped between July and September. As a result, it is unlikely that any allocations of Supplemental Water will be made before August.

For water that is acquired, the District estimates that the delivered cost to water users will be in the range of \$800-\$1,200 per acre foot. Advance payment for the acquisition costs for the water is required at the time of allocation, while conveyance costs will be billed when the water is used.

### **Update on Proposed San Luis Canal Integration Program**

The District continues to seek approval from DWR and the State Water Contractors (SWC) for conveyance of groundwater in the San Luis Canal. The SWCs have requested that the District provide water quality data for groundwater wells that may participate in the program. Interested water users should contact Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237 to discuss the water quality testing requirements.

### **Distribution Integration Program Temporary Change**

The District will implement a new, temporary approval process for the Distribution Integration Program (DIP). Effective immediately, if a DIP is proposed on a lateral, the District will mail notification letters to all users on that lateral. Included with the notification will be an objection form that water users must return to the District if they oppose the proposed DIP on the lateral. This temporary approval process will end on September 30, 2014, at which time DIP applicants will again be responsible for seeking approval from all water users on a lateral.

### **Water Ordering Procedures**

Due to the limited water supply this year, it is very important that water users comply with ordering procedures. Orders may be placed by calling (559) 241-6250 or (800) 266-6574, by Fax (559) 241-6276 or online at [www.westlandswater.org](http://www.westlandswater.org). The schedule for placing orders is as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Sunday or Monday	Preceding Friday, Noon
All Other Days of Week	Previous Day, 9:30 a.m. by phone/fax; 10:00 a.m. online

Water users that would like to set up an online account should contact their Customer Accounting technician at the telephone number above.

### **Water Ordering Procedures for Pumps Enrolled in District Power Programs**

The District's Groundwater Management Program and Temporary Diversion Program provide Western Area Power Administration energy to temporary diversion pumps, groundwater pumps, and drip system booster pumps. The District's Terms and Conditions for Agricultural Water Service apply to water delivered under the Groundwater Management and the Temporary Diversion Programs. Accordingly,

water users are required to place their water orders 3 days in advance if they are delivering water through a pump enrolled in a District power program. It is critical that water users comply with the ordering procedures to insure that the District's request for power to operate these facilities is accurate. Failure to place timely "on" or "off" orders will result in inaccurate power requests and, therefore, higher power costs which are passed on to program participants.

### **Outdoor Use of M&I Water Prohibited**

On February 27, 2014, the District announced that outdoor use of District M&I water is prohibited. This action is necessary to conserve water for public health and safety needs. The prohibition will be in effect until further notice.

### **Assessment Equalization Hearing**

The Board of Directors will hold an equalization hearing to establish the District's 2014 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 1:30 p.m., at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703. Copies of the 2014 Assessment Book are available for review at the Fresno and Five Points offices. The Assessment Book contains the valuation of all District lands and is based on the benefit assessment valuation schedule approved by the Board at its February meeting.

Landowners who question their land valuations and wish to petition the Board must submit a written application for a reduction of the land valuation on or before May 14, 2014. Landowners must include the reasons supporting the claim for reduction and an opinion of the proper valuation. For additional information, please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212.

### **Land-Based Charges**

The 2014-15 Land-Based Charges will be mailed out the first of May with the first installment due May 25, 2014. The second installment will be due on September 25, 2014, as usual. Please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for additional information about Land-Based Charges.

### **Lands Available for Lease**

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

### **Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Enrollment**

The District has agreed to act as the third party representative for landowners that are subject to the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) General Order to landowners in the Western Tulare Lake Basin Area. On March 25, 2014, the District mailed enrollment materials, including a Notice of Confirmation (NOC), to all District landowners. The NOC indicates your intent to have the District represent you. If you choose not to complete the NOC, you will need to contact the RWQCB and request that you be regulated as an individual. Otherwise, please complete and return the NOC to the District by June 13, 2014. If you did not receive enrollment materials or have any questions, please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244.

**Accepting Reservations for Bollibokka Fishing Club**

The Bollibokka Fishing Club is continuing to accept reservations. The District's March 24, 2014, Notice No. 419 contains additional information for anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity. The club's season extends from April 26 through November 15 and there are still a number of weeks available at both the Clubhouse and the Way Station. The normal reservation period is Wednesday through Sunday, but reasonable accommodations to this schedule will be made, if possible. Please contact Michael Caranci of The Fly Shop at (800) 669-3474 (office), (530) 222-3572 (fax), michael@theflyshop (email), or by mail at 4140 Churn Creek Road, Redding CA 96002. For additional information, visit the Club's website: <http://www.theflyshop.com/adventures/bollibokka.htm>.

**Holiday Office Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

District offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014, in observance of Memorial Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Saturday or Sunday - May 24 or 25	Friday, May 23, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - May 26 or 27	Friday, May 23, noon

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