



Westlands Water District

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

May 23, 2014

This Notice contains important information about the following:

- **Loss of 2014 Rescheduled Water**
- **2014-2015 CVP Water Supply Update**
- **2014-2015 Supplemental Water Update**
- **Proposed Change to District Rules and Regulations – Prohibition of Furrow Irrigation**
- **Update on Proposed San Luis Canal Integration Program**
- **Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Enrollment**
- **Summer Irrigation Evaluation Program**
- **Outdoor Use of M&I Water Prohibited**
- **Assessment Equalization Hearing**
- **Lands Available for Lease**
- **Holiday Office Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

Loss of 2014 Rescheduled Water

Last week the Bureau of Reclamation notified the District that the Final Approved 2014 Rescheduled Water for the District was 204,562 acre-feet, 13,480 acre-feet less than the District's rescheduling request. To address this reduction of 2014 Rescheduled Water, the Board of Directors decided at its May 20, 2014 meeting that the District's Rescheduled Water Policy would be followed, with the reduction of the 13,480 acre-feet treated as Cap Loss at March 1, 2014, and with waiver of the first loss criteria pertaining to water in excess of the Acreage Based Cap.

As a result of the Board's decision, water rescheduled by the District (System Gain), totaling 7,633 acre-feet, must be the first water applied against the reduction. Since 3,817 acre-feet of this System Gain was allocated to water users during March, this water will be recovered from water user accounts first. The balance of the reduction, 5,847 acre-feet, will be pro-rated among water user accounts with Rescheduled Water as of March 1, 2014. A loss factor of approximately .028 per acre-foot results, and will be applied to water user accounts in the order listed in their priority of use. This activity will be reflected in water user accounts this month. If water users would like to alter their use priority, changes should be submitted to Customer Service Representatives by May 28, 2014.

With this decision, the Board also provided some financial relief to water users. Pursuant to the Rescheduled Water Policy, water users normally must pay all water costs that the District incurs, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority O&M rate and any applicable District rates for lost water. For this year, the cost of lost water (excludes System Gain) will be credited for some Bureau of Reclamation charges, including its rescheduling fee, totaling \$56.91, and the Authority O&M rate of \$82.51. In addition, if the application of the loss of Rescheduled

Water (including System Gain recovery by the District) results in overuse, water users will be allowed until March 1, 2015 to correct the deficiency without penalty or interest and Account Monitoring charges will be waived.

Please direct any questions to your Customer Service Representative at (559) 241-6250.

2014-2015 CVP Water Supply Update

The Bureau of Reclamation's initial zero allocation for south-of-Delta CVP agricultural water service contractors has not changed and, due to extraordinarily dry conditions, the District expects that the allocation will remain at zero for this contract year.

2014-2015 Supplemental Water Update

The District has received timely Supplemental Water applications for approximately 248,000 acre-feet on 372,000 acres. The District believes that it can acquire approximately 60,000 acre-feet of Supplemental Water, although the pursuit to acquire water will continue. The majority of Supplemental Water is being acquired from north-of-Delta and will be pumped between July and September. Therefore, allocations should not be expected until the transfers are confirmed as delivered by either the Department of Water Resources or the Bureau of Reclamation. For water that is acquired, the District estimates that the delivered cost to water users will be in the range of \$800-\$1,100 per acre-foot. Advance payment for the acquisition cost of the water is required at the time of allocation.

Proposed Change to District Rules and Regulations – Prohibition of Furrow Irrigation

At its May 20, 2014 meeting, the Water Policy Committee considered and approved a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the amendment of the District's Rules and Regulations to prohibit furrow irrigation. The Board will consider amending Article 2 of the Rules and Regulations to prohibit furrow irrigation on and after October 1, 2015 at its June 17, 2014 meeting.

Update on Proposed San Luis Canal Integration Program

The District continues to seek approval from the Department of Water Resources 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.

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.

Summer Irrigation Evaluation Program

The District received an invitation to participate in a summer irrigation evaluation program in conjunction with students from Cal Poly's Irrigation Training and Research Center. A free evaluation is conducted on drip/micro irrigation systems to measure the Distribution Uniformity (DU) and irrigation efficiency of existing systems. This program is funded by the Department of Water Resources. Participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis since available appointments are limited. For details see the attached flyer or contact: Dr. Burt at cburt@calpoly.edu or Coral Norris at clnorris@calpoly.edu.

Outdoor Use of M&I Water Prohibited

Water users are reminded 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

At the equalization hearing on May 20, 2014, the Board of Directors established the District's 2014 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment, which constitutes liens on each parcel of land assessed, due and payable as of May 20, 2014. Statements will be mailed in June and the assessments are delinquent after November 20, 2014. Please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for additional information.

Lands Available for Lease

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

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:

For Water Use On	Place Water Order By
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.



moving water in new directions

IRRIGATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Phone: (805) 756-2434

www.itrc.org Contact: Dr. Burt cburt@calpoly.edu and Coral Norris clnorris@calpoly.edu

Summer Irrigation Evaluation Program

Drip/Micro Irrigation Systems

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE – First come, first served

Funded by the California Dept. of Water Resources

Supported by local Irrigation/Water Districts and California Farm Bureau

What the student team does:

- Spends about 1 day in the field taking measurements of pressures, flows, and make observations of the filtration, chemical injection, etc.
- Inputs data into the Cal Poly ITRC Irrigation Evaluation Programs, examines field data.
- Prints out the data, results, and recommendations
- Sets up an appointment with the farmer to review the information.

The type of information provided:

The Cal Poly ITRC Irrigation Evaluation Programs provide:

- The Distribution Uniformity (DU) of the irrigation system. The DU is a measure of how evenly the irrigation water is applied to plants throughout a field.
- The causes of non-uniformity. For example, the program will tell a farmer what percentage of the non-uniformity is due to plugging, what percentage is due to pressure differences, etc.
- Recommendations on how to improve that specific system's performance.

Who gets the information:

- The farmer
- The irrigation district (but without any farmer's name or address)
- The Calif. DWR (but without any farmer's name or address)
- Cal Poly ITRC

The obligation by the farmer:

- There is no fee; it is completely funded by the Calif. DWR
- The farmer must agree to have someone show the students the field, explain the layout, and start and stop the pump on the agreed-upon date and at the agreed-upon time. It is VERY helpful to provide a map of the irrigation system.
- If the system is a subsurface drip system, the farmer must provide workers with shovels to uncover tape in 3 locations, about 30' per location.
- The farmer must be willing to take the time to sit down and go over the results (about 30 minutes).

Why participate?

- Irrigation systems cost money to operate, and their performance has a huge impact on yield and yield quality. Older systems need to be checked out just as automobiles do. Sometimes they need a tune-up; sometimes they don't. This evaluation lets a farmer know if a tune-up is needed, and what types of things can be done.
- On the average, we find that the DU of drip/micro systems is about 0.76 (out of a perfect 1.00), whereas reasonably attainable values are about 0.92 for drip/micro systems. If you can shift from a DU of 0.76 to a DU of about 0.92, the ratio of (maximum/minimum) water applied to different plants throughout a field will shift from about (2/1) to about (1.2/1).
- Farmers should expect a high DU from a new irrigation system. This program allows farmers to verify the quality of a new system that might have been recently purchased.