



Westlands Water District

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September 18, 2015

This notice contains important information about the following:

- **2015-2016 CVP Water Supply Update**
- **Rescheduled Water**
- **2015-2016 Supplemental Water Supply Update**
- **Settlement of Drainage Lawsuit**
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Workshop**
- **Land-Based Charges September Installment**
- **Westlands Has A Facebook Page**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**

2015-2016 CVP Water Supply Update

Reclamation currently has approximately 2.9 million acre-feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents about 47% of the 15-year average. Shasta Reservoir storage is approximately 1.7 million acre-feet (69% of average). Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 72,000 acre-feet (30% of average). Hydrology continues to be well below average with the Northern Sierra 8-Station and the San Joaquin 5-Station indices recording only 74% and 47%, respectively, of average precipitation for the water year ending September 30. Jones Pumping Plant has been exporting water at 40% of capacity and has pumped approximately 44,400 acre-feet thus far in September.

Rescheduled Water

The District rescheduled approximately 200,000 acre-feet of water in San Luis Reservoir on March 1, 2015. It is expected the opportunity to continue to store and use this water will not be limited through the 2015-2016 contract year.

2015-2016 Supplemental Water Supply Update

The District received timely Supplemental Water applications for approximately 306,400 acre-feet on 412,000 acres. The District anticipates that it will fulfill only about 90,000 to 105,000 acre-feet of the Supplemental Water requests; however, the majority of supplemental water will not be allocated until the end of the year. The District has allocated 8,000 acre-feet to-date. The delivered cost to water users is estimated to be in the range of \$1,300-\$1,350 per acre-foot.

Reclamation continues to manage upstream reservoir releases into the Sacramento River under a plan approved by the State Water Resources Control Board to protect winter-run Chinook

salmon. According to the plan, Reclamation will maintain lower Keswick base releases to preserve cold water in Shasta so that target water temperatures of 56°F to 58°F can be maintained at Clear Creek during the fall. The effect of these lower target base releases is that less water has been available at the Delta for export until depletions on the Sacramento River began to fall recently.

Implementation of the temperature management plan has delayed the conveyance of transfer water purchased by the District. Though some transfer water is beginning to move as pumping increases, final accounting of September transfers will probably not occur until late November. Additionally, Reclamation borrowed water stored in San Luis Reservoir to meet the summertime demands of the Exchange Contractors. However, the District, Reclamation, Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority will complete all necessary tasks to ensure that all of the District's transfer water is conveyed south-of-Delta this year, that Reclamation returns all borrowed water before the end of the year, and that Reclamation's return of borrowed water does not interrupt the conveyance of transfer water.

Settlement of Drainage Lawsuit

On September 15, 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice and Westlands Water District approved a settlement ending a decades-long dispute over the Bureau of Reclamation's responsibility to provide drainage for the farmland within Westlands. The settlement requires Congressional approval. Highlights of the settlement include: the District will assume responsibility for managing drainage within Westlands, and a minimum of 100,000 acres will need to be permanently retired; the federal government will provide a permanent water contract to the District, with water deliveries capped at 75% of the current contract quantity; the District will be relieved of its existing repayment obligation for CVP construction costs; and acreage limitations for lands within the District will be removed. The settlement documents are available on the District's website [here](#). Additional press documents can be found on the District's website [here](#). In addition, staff will be available to answer questions regarding this settlement at the workshop detailed below.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Workshop

The District will host a workshop/scoping session for water users and landowners concerning requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and what the District's anticipated role will be on October 13, 2015 at 9 a.m., at the District's Five Points Shop and Field Office. The District will be seeking input from water users at the meeting and will also use this opportunity to answer questions regarding the recently executed drainage settlement agreement with the United States.

Land-Based Charges September Installment

The September installment of the 2015-2016 Land-Based Charges is due September 25, 2015. A penalty will be added to unpaid charges on the day following the payment due date. The recently-approved drainage settlement does not dismiss responsibility for payment of land-based charges. Please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for additional information about Land-Based Charges.

Westlands Has A Facebook Page

Westlands has joined Facebook to better engage with those in the District and communicate more transparently with local and statewide partners. The page will provide timely information about news and events important to the Central Valley's farming and agricultural industries. Find Westlands on Facebook by clicking on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/westlands1952>. Please "**Like**" the page to help build our following. Here are some steps:

1. **Share the Westlands Page** – Share the Facebook page to help increase our visibility. Once you've liked the page, click on the ellipsis button (3 dots icon) and choose the dropdown "Share" option to share the page with your Facebook friends. Add in a note to let your friends know Westlands has joined Facebook and encourage them to "Like" the page as well.
2. **Add to Your News Feed** – Stay up-to-date by adding Westlands to your newsfeed. Once you've liked the page, click on the "Like" button and choose the dropdown "Follow" option. You will see everything we post in real-time. Be sure to share our posts and comment on items you find interesting.

If you have any questions, please contact Public Affairs at (559) 241-6233.

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 Agriculture Industries, Inc. at (916) 372-5595 or (800) 822-1415.

Tenants are reminded that livestock grazing, although a permitted use under the standard lease terms, is not an effective means of weed control or abatement. Fields must not become overgrown with weeds because they create a nuisance to neighbors. When District staff identify a field with excessive weeds, the tenant will be given notice and must mow and/or disc within a reasonable timeframe, not to exceed 30 days. Otherwise, the District will retain a contractor to perform the work and recover the cost according to the security provisions of the lease.