



Westlands Water District

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

November 19, 2015

This notice contains important information about the following:

- **CVP Water Supply Update**
- **Supplemental Water Update**
- **2016-2017 Agricultural Water Allocation Applications Due January 15, 2016**
- **Landowner Responsibilities**
- **Storm Water Runoff and Water Quality Sampling of Creeks**
- **2015 Assessments and Land-Based Charges**
- **Backflow Prevention**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Department of the Navy Agricultural Leases**
- **Holiday Office Closures and Water Ordering Procedures**

CVP Water Supply Update

District staff expects that the initial allocation to Central Valley Project south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors will be 0% for the 2016-2017 water contract year. If wet hydrologic conditions persist on the San Joaquin River watershed in December, January, and February, then the allocation could be greater than zero. However, the allocation to agricultural water service contractors would likely be made in the spring.

The CVP currently has approximately 2.36 million acre feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 42% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 1.37 million acre-feet; 61% of normal for this time of year. Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 98,000 acre-feet; 24% of the 15-year average. Jones Pumping Plant is currently operating at 40% of capacity and has pumped approximately 105,000 acre-feet thus far in November.

Supplemental Water Update

The District received timely Supplemental Water applications for approximately 278,000 acre-feet on 411,800 acres. The District anticipates that it will fulfill about 100,000-110,000 acre-feet of the Supplemental Water requests. The majority of Supplemental Water will not be allocated until the end of the year. The District has allocated 25,000 acre-feet to-date. The delivered cost to water users is estimated to be approximately \$1,300 per acre-foot.

Implementation of the Bureau of Reclamation's temperature management plan delayed the conveyance of transfer water purchased by the District. Though some transfer water has been conveyed, final accounting of transfers will not occur until December. The District, Reclamation, and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority expect to be able to complete all necessary tasks to ensure that all of the District's transfer water is conveyed south-of-Delta this year.

2016-2017 Agricultural Water Allocation Applications Due January 15, 2016

Water users will receive their 2016-2017 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, 2016.

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.

The District is also requesting an estimate of the number of acres you expect to fallow in the 2016-2017 water year. Providing this information will not affect your request for a water supply allocation; it will only be used to educate the public on how the continued lack of water supply is impacting our water users.

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 \$300).
- 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, Westlands Water Quality Coalition, 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.

Storm Water Runoff and Water Quality Sampling of Creeks

All landowners and farm operators adjacent to the Panoche-Silver Creek, Cantua Creek and Arroyo Pasajero Creek are reminded to allow District staff and laboratory personnel access to creeks for water quality sampling. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMP) should be utilized during the application of chemicals, along with adherence to the EPA's requirements listed on labels. It is extremely important you verify that everyone involved in the chemical application process is made aware of the BMP's used for mixing, applying and disposing of the chemicals. Please contact Charlotte Gallock (559) 241-6244 if water is flowing in the aforementioned creeks or if you have any questions regarding the Westlands Water Quality Coalition requirements or the Regional Board's General Order.

2015 Assessments and Land-Based Charges

The 2015 Repayment Contract Assessments are delinquent after November 19, 2015. Land-based charges were due March 25, 2015 for the first installment, and September 25, 2015 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. Contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for payoff amounts.

Backflow Prevention

The District reminds all water users that they are to configure their on-farm distribution system and install appropriate equipment to prevent water from reverse-flowing into the District's deliveries and distribution system. Water users that are found to be out of compliance will be contacted and asked to re-configure their system(s) or

install appropriate equipment. Failure to comply could result in termination of water service at the affected deliveries.

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.

Department of the Navy Agricultural Leases

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest has provided the enclosed announcement informing interested bidders about Department of the Navy Agricultural Leases at Naval Air Station Lemoore. Please use the contact information in the announcement if you have any questions about the agricultural lease program.

Holiday Office Closures & Water Ordering Procedures

District offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving; Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday; and Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

For Water Use On	Place Water Order By
Thursday or Friday - November 26 or 27	Wednesday, November 25, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Sunday or Monday - November 28 or 29 and 30	Wednesday, November 25, noon
Thursday or Friday - December 24 or 25	Wednesday, December 23, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Sunday or Monday - December 26 or 27 and 28	Wednesday, December 23, noon
Friday or Saturday - January 1 or 2	Thursday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday or Monday - January 3 or 4	Thursday, December 31, noon

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

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO LEASE GOVERNMENT LANDS
FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES**

1. The Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest, proposes to lease Government owned land for agricultural purposes located at the Naval Air Station Lemoore, Lemoore, California, under the process and terms outlined in the **Request for Proposal** (RFP).

2. Sealed RFP must be received at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest, ATTN: Lorna Timog, Desert IPT Real Estate, Code JV10.LT, 1220 Pacific Highway, Building 130, San Diego, California, 92132-5190, by **2:00 P.M.**, Pacific Standard Time (PST), on December 1, 2015. Proposals will be opened promptly at 2:00 P.M. (PST). Proposals will NOT be accepted after 2:00 P.M. **FAX COPIES OF PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED RESPONSIVE.**

3. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

Parcel Numbers	Acres	RFP Number	Lease Term
*4A01,4A02,4A03,4A04	+/- 623.8	N62473LO10554	Firm Term + One (1) Five-Year Option
4A20, 4A22 F1	+/- 243.6	N62473LO10555	Firm Term + One (1) Five-Year Option
4A22 F2, 4A23, 4A24, 4A25, 4A26	+/- 806.1	N62473LO10557	Firm Term + One (1) Five-Year Option
4A30	+/- 239.8	N62473LO10556	Firm Term + Six (6) One-Year Options
4A35, 4A39	+/- 320.1	N62473LO10553	Firm Term + One (1) Five-Year Option
4A48,4A51,4A52	+/- 672.6	N62473LO10552	Firm Term + Six (6) One-Year Options

4. Proposal package and instructions will be posted electronically on Navy Electronic Commerce Online (NECO). Interested offerors can view proposal package by parcel number and, if interested, review the proposal package and instructions. Interested offerors will then print and complete the proposal form and return to the address mentioned in Section 2 above.

5. Interested bidders should go to the following NECO website: <https://www.neco.navy.mil/> and proceed with the following steps:

- a. Search Synopsis
- b. Under NAICS Code scroll down to: "111 - Crop Production"
- c. Click on "Search" at bottom of page.
- d. Click on "NAS Lemoore, Parcels 4A_ _ _ _."
- e. Click on "View Solicitation."
- f. Under the Line Items section, download the file listed.
- g. The Request for Proposal documents must be reviewed thoroughly.
- h. Print the Proposal Form, which is included in the downloaded file.
- i. Complete and submit Proposal Form according to all instructions outlined in the Request for Proposal.

6. If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Timog, Realty Specialist, at (619) 532-3866 or via email at lorna.timog@navy.mil.

7. The Department of the Navy reserves the right not to award the Lease.

* A "Modification Notice" was issued to amend the Solicitation for RFP Number N62473LO10554, Parcels 4A01, 4A02, 4A03,4A04 to replace with the correct parcel maps (Exhibit A) and Soil and Water Conservation Plan (Exhibit B).