



# Westlands Water District

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

January 22, 2016

*This notice contains important information about the following:*

- **2015-2016 Rescheduled Water**
- **2015-2016 Supplemental Water Update**
- **2016-2017 CVP Contract Allocation**
- **Public Hearing on Proposed 2016 Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule**
- **Public Hearing on Proposed 2016-2017 Water Rates, Charges and Land-Based Charges**
- **Reclamation Law Certification/Reporting**
- **Low Interest Irrigation Equipment Lease Program**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Holiday Office Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

## **2015-2016 Rescheduled Water**

If demands for water and transfers into the District match staff's projections through February, the District will have about 205,000 acre-feet of water in San Luis Reservoir on March 1, 2016. Because San Luis Reservoir is not projected to fill this year, the District expects that there will be unlimited opportunity to reschedule water into the 2016 contract year.

## **2015-2016 Supplemental Water Update**

The District received timely 2015-2016 Supplemental Water applications for approximately 268,000 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 water contract year. The District has previously allocated 25,000 acre-feet to-date and plans to allocate another 25,000 acre-feet the week of January 17. The delivered cost to water users is estimated to be approximately \$1,300 per acre-foot.

Delays in supplemental allocations have been a result of uncertainty related to the calculation of Delta Carriage Water Loss performed by Reclamation and DWR. The District has been advised that the final calculation will be available by the end of the month and that Carriage Water Loss will not exceed the amount assumed by the District.

## **2016-2017 CVP Contract Allocation**

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 because San Luis Reservoir will have very little new year water stored in it at the end of February. If wet hydrologic conditions persist on the San Joaquin River watershed, thereby reducing the impact from the Old and Middle River reverse flow restrictions, the final allocation by Reclamation could be higher. However, any CVP allocation to agricultural water service contractors is expected to be made in the latter part of the spring.

The CVP currently has approximately 3.18 million acre-feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 48% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 1.80 million acre-

feet; 66% of normal for this time of year. Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 124,000 acre-feet; 19% of the 15-year average. Jones Pumping Plant is currently operating at 50% of capacity and has pumped approximately 90,000 acre-feet thus far in January.

### **Public Hearing on Proposed 2016 Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule**

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2016 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule on February 16, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703. Landowners and water users will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed valuation schedule.

The Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment is levied to collect a portion of the District's annual repayment obligation to the United States for costs incurred in building distribution and drainage collector facilities. The Recommended Schedule of Per Acre Valuations for the 2015 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment is unchanged from the schedules that have been used since 1990. Copies of the schedule are available from Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212.

### **Public Hearing on Proposed 2016-17 Water Rates, Charges and Land-Based Charges**

The District will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2016-2017 water rates, charges and land-based charges on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703. At this public hearing, the Board will hear and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the proposed water rates, charges and land-based charges.

These rates and charges are proposed in order to pay the costs of water service, including District operations and maintenance; debt service related to the acquisition of long-term water supplies; certain repairs of distribution system pipe; drainage service area costs for representation of landowners; and activities of the Westlands Water Quality Coalition associated with the waste discharge requirements general order for the Western Tulare Lake Basin Watershed. For additional information, please refer to the District's notice dated December 31, 2015.

If you have any questions, please call the following:

- For water rates and charges, Customer Accounting at (559) 241-6250
- For land-based charges, Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212
- For charges of the Westlands Water Quality Coalition, Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244

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

Earlier this month, notices were mailed to water users and landowners regarding the Reclamation Law's annual certification/reporting requirements. The forms are due for filing with the District by February 1, 2016. Lands are ineligible for service in the new water year until the forms are submitted. This filing deadline allows timely processing of the forms and helps to ensure water service is not interrupted. Water users who lease land may want to check with their landowners to make sure the landowner is aware of and will return the form(s) by the deadline. If you have any questions, please call Lucinda Anderson at (559) 241-6218 or Christine Braziel at (559) 241-6224.

### **Low Interest Irrigation Equipment Lease Program**

The District's Expanded Irrigation System Improvement Program (EISIP) offers low interest loans to water users for the lease-purchase of irrigation system equipment. EISIP funds up to \$130,000 towards the purchase

of irrigation system equipment, the design of irrigation systems, and purchase of portable aluminum irrigation pipe, micro-irrigation, linear move and center pivots. Interested water users may contact Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237 to begin the application process.

**Lease of District Owned Land**

The District has land available for lease in Fresno and Kings Counties. For a detailed list of available land, please contact Cork McIsaac 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, February 15, 2016, in observance of President's Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Saturday or Sunday - February 13 or 14	Friday, February 12, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - February 15 or 16	Friday, February 12, noon

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