



Westlands Water District

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

March 3, 2017

This notice contains important information about the following:

- **2016-2017 Supplemental Water Update**
- **2017-2018 Supplemental Water Application – Response May Be Required**
- **2017-2018 Budget, Water Rates and Charges Approved**
- **2017-2018 Land-Based Charges**
- **2017 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment**
- **Reclamation Law Forms Reminder**
- **Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**
- **Westlands Water Quality Coalition Members**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Annual Water User Workshop**

2016-2017 Supplemental Water Update

The District received adjusted timely applications for 2016-2017 Supplemental Water totaling 116,705 acre-feet and late applications totaling 8,863 acre-feet on 256,450 acres. The District fulfilled the timely and late requests and has approximately 16,500 acre-feet remaining that will be rescheduled to the 2017-2018 water supply year. Allocations of Supplemental Water began in May, and the timing and amounts of allocations for the year are shown in the table below.

Allocation Month	AF Amount
April	0
May – Actual	11,039
June – Actual	78,161
July – Actual	8,961
August – Actual	0
September – Actual	10,086
October – Actual	9,882
November – Actual	6,789
December – Actual	650
January – Actual	0
February – Actual	0
Total	125,568

2017-2018 Supplemental Water Application - Response May Be Required

The District is planning to acquire supplemental water from multiple sources for the 2017-2018 water contract year. It is estimated that the delivered cost to water users will be in the range of \$350 - \$500 per acre-foot. The District anticipates that a partial allocation of Supplemental Water to water users could occur in late spring, but the majority of the Supplemental Water is currently planned to be allocated in the summer.

When the allocation of Supplemental Water occurs, the quantity allocated to a water user's account is a proration based upon the water available at that time and the number of irrigable acres associated with accounts that have outstanding requests. When an account's request has been fulfilled, it will no longer receive allocations, and the irrigable acres associated with that account will not be factored into subsequent allocations. Accordingly, water users with relatively high per acre requests will receive the bulk (increment above the pro-rata amount) of their request later, if water is available.

Advance payment for acquisition costs of the water is required at the time of allocation, while operation and maintenance related costs will be billed when the water is used. The District will notify water users regarding the allocation advance payment when acquisition costs are more certain. The allocation advance payment will apply toward the delivered Supplemental Water rate. If an advance payment is delinquent for 30 days or more, the District may withdraw the water made available for allocation to a water user and reduce the water user's outstanding request by the same amount. The water will be allocated to water user accounts as Project water or non-Project water (if available), allowing Full-Cost rates to be applied as required by Reclamation law.

Given the pending Central Valley Project (CVP) south-of-Delta initial water allocation in mid-March, applications are not due until May 1, 2017. If you would like to be part of the Supplemental Water program, please complete the enclosed agreement and return it to the Fresno Office by close of business on May 1, 2017. The agreement may be mailed to Westlands Water District, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703, but agreements not received at the District by the due date will not be considered timely (regardless of the postmark). You may also hand deliver the agreement to the District's Fresno Office at 3130 N. Fresno Street. Requests received after the deadline will receive a lower priority for allocations and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please direct questions to your Customer Accounting Technician at (559) 241-6250.

2017-2018 Budget, Water Rates and Charges Approved

At the February 28, 2017 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 2017-2018 budget, water rates, and charges. The budget totals \$194,085,000 and may be revised when the final water supply is determined, if warranted. The budget provides funds for water and power purchases and the operations, maintenance and administrative activities of the District. The budget also includes funding for coordination with other agencies and contractors on water supply matters; legal challenges to our water supplies; and Westlands Water Quality Coalition activities.

The water rates and charges are based upon 471,415 acre-feet of water from all sources. With this total supply, the District O&M rate is \$31.86 per acre-foot. The Board also approved land-based charges for long-term water supply debt service, District water supply debt service, extraordinary repairs of distribution system pipelines, and operations and maintenance costs. A drainage service area land-based charge was approved on behalf of associated landowners for litigation activities. In addition, a Westlands Water Quality Coalition charge was approved to cover the costs associated with administering this program.

Water users should also note that approved Account Monitoring Charges are \$11,244 each month when any billed overuse occurs, and \$567 for those who are subject to Advance Payment Monitoring. Water users can avoid these charges by discontinuing water use when their water supply is exhausted, and making payments timely in compliance with District regulations. Tools are available on the customer section of the District's website to help water users determine when they will run out of water. Contact your Customer Accounting Technician if you need assistance with website data or to establish a secure login.

The complete list of rates, charges and credits may be found on the District's website at www.wwd.ca.gov. From the home page, point to the *Water Management* tab and click on the *Water Rates* tab.

2017-2018 Land-Based Charges

The bills for the 2017-2018 Land-Based Charges will be mailed on or about March 10, 2017, with the first installment due March 27, 2017, and the second installment due September 25, 2017. A penalty will be added to unpaid charges on the day following the payment due date. Please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for additional information about Land-Based Charges.

2017 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment

At the February 28, 2017 meeting, the Board of Directors adopted the Schedule of Per Acre Valuations for the 2017 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment and set the Equalization Hearing date of May 16, 2017 for equalizing the Assessment Roll and setting the benefit valuation rates.

Reclamation Law Forms Reminder

Reclamation Law Forms were due to the District on February 1, 2017, and are now considered late. Lands will be ineligible for water service in the new water year until all forms are submitted and processed by the District. All forms will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Water users with leases should check with their landowners to ensure forms for their leased lands have been submitted. If you have not already turned in your forms, please do so immediately. Please direct questions to Customer Accounting at (559) 241-6250.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

The District will form a technical group made up of interested land owners to review and discuss the development of the District's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). If you are interested in participating in the described group that will focus on the technical side of the District's GSP development, please contact Kiti Campbell at (559) 241-6226 or sgma@westlandswater.org. The District's SGMA activities are on our webpage at: <http://wwd.ca.gov/resource-management/sustainable-groundwater-management-act/>.

Westlands Water Quality Coalition Members

Westlands Water Quality Coalition (WWQC) members were required to complete the 2016 Farm Evaluation Survey and the 2016 Nitrogen Summary Report by March 1, 2017. The WWQC utilizes a web-based system for the submittal of both reports at: <https://wwqc.ilrpdb.com/>. Notifications will be sent out for parcels that do not have a 2016 Farm Evaluation and 2016 Nitrogen Summary Reports in the web-based system. Failure to complete submittals could result in fines assessed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or cgallock@westlandswater.org or Debra Dunn at (559) 241-6242 or ddunn@westlandswater.org with any questions or comments.

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.

Annual Water User Workshop

The annual water user workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., at the District's Five Points Field Office. District staff will provide updates on District activities and other matters. An agenda for the workshop is attached.

**2017-2018 AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND
PURCHASE SUPPLEMENTAL WATER**

Water User Name _____ Telephone No. _____

WWD Account No. _____ Amount Requested (AF) _____

- I request **only** supplemental non-Project water.
- I will take **either** supplemental non-Project or supplemental Project water.
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I, herein referred to as "Water User", hereby request that the District purchase on my behalf the amount of water requested above for the March 2017 – February 2018 Water Year and agree, as a condition of the allocation and furnishing of any agricultural water during that water year and in accordance with the District's Regulations, policies, and applicable agreements, as follows:

1. To accept, if and when provided by the District, the total amount of Supplemental Water requested herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District will not allocate water to land for which charges or assessments have been delinquent for 30 days or more at the time water is allocated or to any land for which advance payment is required until such advance payment is received, or in lieu thereof security, in a form acceptable to the General Manager, for such payment has been provided.
2. To purchase the requested quantity of water if the District makes the water available. I understand, however, that I can revoke this agreement by written notice to the District, provided the District has not already agreed with other agencies to acquire water on my behalf.
3. Water will become available as it is acquired and is dependent on various factors, including excess capacity available in the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.
4. To pay the actual delivered cost of Supplemental Water, to make advance payment for such water purchased on my behalf by the District at the time payment is requested and to make all payments by the due dates specified in the District's Terms and Conditions for Agricultural Water Service.
5. The District, in its sole discretion and dependent upon actual water supplies for the year, may withdraw water made available for allocation, and reduce my outstanding water request by the same amount, if any advance payment for such water is delinquent for 30 days or more.
6. Except as otherwise provided by the District, to remain liable to the District for any unused portion of the water unless the District is able to sell the water to another water user or the water has been transferred to another water user.
7. To comply with the Terms and Conditions for Agricultural Water Service and the Regulations for the Allocation of Agricultural Water, copies of which will be furnished upon request, both of which are incorporated herein as though set forth at length.
8. Allocation calculations will be based on irrigable acres as determined by U. S. Farm Service Agency or District measurements.

9. The District will notify Water User as to the amounts of water allocated to him and maintain a record of the revisions, if any, of his allocated water supply.

10. The District may use any funds held for the benefit of or on behalf of Water User to pay or offset any monetary obligation Water User has to the District.

11. Water User hereby further agrees that there are no intended third party beneficiaries to this Agreement and nothing contained herein, expressed or implied, is intended to give to any person, partnership, corporation, joint venture, limited liability company or other form of organization or association any right, remedy or claim under or pursuant hereto, and any agreement or covenant required herein to be performed by or on behalf of Water User or the District shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of Water User or the District.

Date _____ Print Name _____

Signature _____

Please complete this agreement and return it to the Fresno Office no later than close of business, May 1, 2017. Mail it to: Westlands Water District, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703. Requests postmarked, but not received by the due date are not considered timely.

Westlands Water District Annual Water Users' Workshop

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

1:30 p.m.

Westlands' Five Points Shop and Field Office

Program

Welcome

*Don Peracchi, President
Board of Directors*

Introductions, Opening Comments and Matters of Interest

Tom Birmingham, General Manager

Water Supply Outlook for 2017-2018 CVP Allocation, Rescheduling & Transfers

*Jose Gutierrez, Deputy General Manager – Resources
Russ Freeman, Supervisor of Resources*

2017-2018 Adopted Budget, Water Rates, Charges & Assessments

Bobbie Ormonde, Director of Finance & Administration

Groundwater Conditions

Jose Gutierrez

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

Kiti Campbell

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update

Charlotte Gallock

Questions & Answers

Tom Birmingham