



Westlands Water District

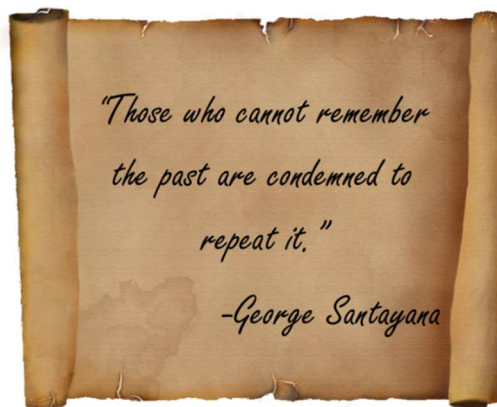
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WESTLANDS' FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

THE WEEKLY REPORT ON CALIFORNIA'S BROKEN WATER SYSTEM

June 22, 2017

We Need Reform Before the Next Drought



We are approaching a very familiar pattern in water policy that usually ends in inaction; a long dry spell where there is heightened concern followed by heavy rains that relieve the political pressure to improve the system and make changes that will mitigate the effects of the next drought. If we let this opportunity pass, our water supply will dwindle, rationing will be required, and anti-farming activists will again blame the next water shortage on farming rather than ineffective policies. Then, Californians who work hard to provide for their families will ask themselves, “Did our leaders learn ANY lessons from the drought?”

In a timely [editorial](#), A.G. Kawamura, former California Secretary of Agriculture from 2003 to 2010, aptly described what is at stake:

“As California’s prime farmland thirsts for water, now is the time to demand answers to the difficult questions. How will we keep affordable foods on the table? Will California be forced to import fruits and vegetables from other countries that do not follow our safety standards?”

We need ... a comprehensive solution to our water challenges. We cannot rely on conservation alone to ensure thriving farms and plentiful, healthy food. Instead, we need an expansive and balanced solution to ensure a clean and reliable water source for our farms – and for all Californians.”

It's time for honesty in the very worthwhile debate about how YOUR water is being prioritized.