



Westlands Water District

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

January 31, 2014

This notice contains important information about the following:

- **2013-2014 Rescheduled Water**
- **2013-2014 Supplemental Water Update**
- **2014-2015 CVP Contract Allocation**
- **Public Hearing on Proposed 2014 Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule**
- **Reclamation Law Certification/Reporting**
- **Land Must Be Irrigable to Receive an Allocation of Agricultural Water**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Holiday Office Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

2013-2014 Rescheduled Water

It was widely reported last week that the Bureau of Reclamation was evaluating the need to impose limitations on the rescheduling of unused Central Valley Project water into the 2014-2015 contract year by south-of-Delta CVP agricultural water service contractors. Yesterday, the District was informed by Reclamation that it will not impose any limitations on the rescheduling of unused Project water. Accordingly, and since the San Luis Reservoir is not projected to fill this year, the District expects that there will be unlimited opportunity to reschedule water into next year based on Reclamation's current Rescheduling Guidelines.

At the end of December, District water users had remaining supplies of approximately 206,000 acre-feet. If demands for water and transfers into the District follow current projections through February, the District will probably have about 220,000 acre-feet of water in San Luis Reservoir on March 1, 2014.

2013-2014 Supplemental Water Update

The District received timely applications for 2013-2014 Supplemental Water totaling approximately 263,000 AF on 384,000 acres. At this time, the District anticipates that it will be able to acquire approximately 155,000 to 160,000 AF of water supply to partially meet the requests from water users. The District estimates the delivered cost to water users will be \$375 per AF, but the cost may increase as the District continues to pursue additional supplies. Advance payment for the acquisition costs of the water is required at the time of allocation, while conveyance related costs will be billed when the water is used.

Based upon acquisition totals of approximately 155,000 to 160,000 AF, District staff estimates that water users could receive up to 0.452 to 0.473 AF/acre, or a lesser amount if requested, on the irrigable acres represented by the water user account listed on the application. These amounts are only an estimated projection of the annual Supplemental Water allocation based on current information available.

Allocation of Supplemental Water began in April, and the timing and amounts of expected allocations for the year are shown in the table below.

Allocation Month	AF Amount
April – Actual	48,057
May – Actual	1,387
June – Actual	1,313
July – Actual	25,000
August – Actual	31,854
September – Actual	0
October – Actual	0
November – Actual	27,397
December – Actual	12,128
January – Actual	8,957
February – Estimated	2,400

The schedule will be updated monthly to reflect additional supplies and/or changes to the timing for delivery.

2014-2015 CVP Contract Allocation

Based upon current conditions and certain assumptions concerning hydrology, District staff expects that the Bureau of Reclamation's initial water allocation in late-February for south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors will be 0%, and will likely remain zero unless the hydrology changes and the wet season ends with average or better precipitation totals.

In its January 24 announcement for 2014 CVP water supply conditions, Reclamation reported the Project has approximately 4.6 million acre feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 58% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 1.7 million acre-feet (56% of 15-year average). Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 335,000 acre-feet (46% of 15-year average). Jones Pumping Plant has operated at less than 20% capacity for the month of January due to water quality conditions. At this time, operation of Jones PP is being influenced by the extremely dry hydrology and the need to meet water quality objectives rather than restrictions under biological opinions to protect endangered species. The federal share of San Luis Reservoir will not be filled before the end of the water year.

Public Hearing on Proposed 2014 Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule on February 18, 2014, at 1:30 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 2014 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.

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, 2014. 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. Please direct questions to Lucinda Anderson at (559) 241-6218 or Christine Braziel at (559) 241-6224.

Land Must Be Irrigable to Receive an Allocation of Agricultural Water

As a reminder to landowners who may be considering alternative uses of their land, the District's Regulations state the annual entitlement to agricultural water is based on cropland which is defined in the Regulations as irrigable acreage as determined by U.S. Consolidated Farm Service Agency measurements. The annual Agricultural Water Allocation Application and Purchase Agreement provides affirmation that allocation calculations are based on U.S. Consolidated Farm Service Agency measurements of irrigable acres.

It is important to remember that if the land use changes such that it is no longer irrigable, the non-irrigable acres will not be entitled to future allocations of agricultural water. If you need more information, you may contact your Customer Service Representative at (559) 241-6250.

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 17, 2014, in observance of President's Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

For Water Use On	Place Water Order By
Saturday or Sunday - February 15 or 16	Friday, February 14, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - February 17 or 18	Friday, February 14, noon

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