



## Westlands Water District

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### **Thanks for Passage of Comprehensive Water Legislation**

#### **Statement by Thomas W. Birmingham, General Manager Westlands Water District**

Upon this morning's passage by the California Legislature of a comprehensive legislative package to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta and to create a reliable water supply for the State, Westlands Water District general manager, Thomas Birmingham, issued the following statement:

The passage of this legislation is an historic moment. The legislation clearly articulates that this State has co-equal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and creating a reliable water supply for the State. The legislation represents a sensible balance between efforts to restore the Delta and efforts to supply the water necessary to sustain the economy of the State.

We would not have witnessed the enactment of this historic legislation without the tremendous work and leadership of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and leaders from both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the Assembly. The passage of this legislation and the water bond, authored by Senator Dave Cogdill, creates a clear path for the construction of new water supply infrastructure, including conveyance facilities in the Delta, that will benefit both the environment and the people around this State who rely on water imported from the Sacramento River watershed. California has taken an important step toward fixing our broken water system.

Westlands Water District wants to thank Governor Schwarzenegger, Senate Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Senator Cogdill, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, and other members of the Legislature who worked tirelessly to pass legislation that will benefit the people of the State for generations.

I also want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the District, to express our gratitude to the people of the westside for their support and for their extraordinary courage in the face of the water shortages we have had to endure these past few years. There is no question that the success of this historic legislative effort would not have been possible without the attention that the hardships on the westside helped to focus on the consequences of California's water crisis. This is a victory for our entire community - for our family farmers, farm workers, elected officials and business and community leaders

The passage of this legislation will not provide immediate relief from the water shortages we are facing. However, the legislation lays the foundation for restoring reliability to California's water supplies over the long term. In the meantime, we must continue working together to take the necessary actions to help us get through the years ahead while these reforms are being implemented.

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