



Westlands Water District

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**PRESS RELEASE**

November 26, 2014

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Westlands Water District Approves Emergency Water for Rural Westside City of Huron**

**FRESNO, CA** – During its monthly meeting held yesterday, Westlands Water District Board of Directors unanimously approved making water available to the City of Huron, as the City struggles with a desperate situation of diminishing water resources in the face of the drought.

As the State of California experiences unprecedented water supply conditions, and many rural communities are struggling to meet basic water needs for their residents, the City of Huron has experienced the same perilous situation. It recently approached Westlands about acquiring water to enable it to meet the City's water needs. Westlands Water District Board President Don Peracchi stated, "We are very pleased to be able to assist one of our local, rural communities during this difficult situation. Every day we hear of another family or community succumbing to a dry well. Unfortunately, situations like these are becoming all too commonplace."

The City of Huron welcomed the recent news ensuring they would receive water from the District. Mayor Sylvia Chavez said, "Our community continues to suffer with the effects of the drought. We take for granted that water will remain plentiful, but the drought has depleted our reserves. We are thankful that Westlands was willing to work with us during this difficult situation." Earlier this year, the Bureau of Reclamation initially denied the City of Huron's request for assistance; at which point, the City turned to Westlands as an additional source. The issue was brought before Westlands' board members who agreed to help the City look for viable solutions.

The drought has caused irreparable harm not only to agriculture but also to families, businesses and communities with effects that are far-reaching beyond this year. This decision will provide limited relief to a much greater problem.

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