



# Westlands Water District

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

February 20, 2015

*This notice contains important information about the following:*

- 2014-2015 Rescheduled Water
- 2015-2016 CVP Contract Allocation
- 2015-2016 Supplemental Water Application – Response May Be Required
- 2015-2016 Canal Integration Program
- 2015-2016 Budget, Water Rates and Charges Approved
- 2015-2016 Land-Based Charges
- 2015 Assessments
- Proposed Amendment of the District’s Rules and Regulations Regarding Irrigation Practices
- Electronic Monthly Statements
- Reclamation Law Forms Reminder
- Lease of District Owned Land
- Annual Water User Workshop

## 2014-2015 Rescheduled Water

Based upon staff’s projections, the District will have about 186,000 acre-feet of water in San Luis Reservoir on March 1, 2015. Because the Reservoir is not projected to fill this year, it is expected that there will be unlimited opportunity to reschedule water into the 2015 contract year.

## 2015-2016 CVP Contract Allocation

Based upon current Central Valley Project reservoirs storage and operating conditions, and assumptions concerning hydrology, District staff is projecting the ranges of potential CVP allocations for the 2015-2016 contract year as follows:

2015-2016 Contract Year South-of-Delta CVP Water Supply Allocation Forecast						
<u>Water Year Type</u>	Delta Restrictions Imposed Under Biological Opinions					
	Maximum		Moderate		Minimal	
	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation
Wet	0-10%	35-45%	0-25%	35-50%	0-25%	50-65%
Above Normal	0-5%	25-30%	0-10%	25-35%	0-15%	35-50%
Below Normal	0%	0-15%	0%	0-20%	0%	0-50%
Dry	0%	0%	0%	0-5%	0%	0-10%
Critically Dry	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The CVP has approximately 4.6 million acre-feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 69% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 2.5 million acre-feet (82% of 15-year average). Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 367,000 acre-feet (49% of 15-year average). With the Jones Pumping Plant operating at about 20% capacity, the federal share of San Luis Reservoir will not fill by February 28, 2015.

### **2015-2016 Supplemental Water Application - Response May Be Required**

The District is planning on acquiring Supplemental Water from multiple sources for the 2015-2016 contract year. It is estimated that the delivered cost to water users will be in the range of \$900-\$1,200 per acre-foot. The District anticipates that the allocation of Supplemental Water to water users will occur, for the most part, after August.

Advance payment for acquisition costs of the water is required at the time of allocation, while conveyance 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. 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.

The Supplemental Water agreement has been revised this year, at paragraph 5, to encourage timely payment of the advance requirement. 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.

When the allocation of Supplemental Water occurs, the quantity allocated to a water user 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.

If you need Supplemental Water, please complete the enclosed agreement and return it to the Fresno Office by close of business on March 31, 2015. 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.

### **2015-2016 Canal Integration Program**

The District is working to complete a new Warren Act contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to continue the Canal Integration Program for the conveyance of non-Project groundwater in the San Luis Canal. Staff anticipates restarting the program after April 1, 2015, when final approvals are received from Reclamation. Water users that are interested in participating in the Program should direct any questions to Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237.

### **2015-2016 Budget, Water Rates and Charges Approved**

At the February 17, 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 2015-2016 budget, water rates, and charges. The budget totals \$193,916,900 and will 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 200,046 acre-feet of water from all sources. With this total supply, the District O&M rate is \$96.20 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. 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 \$11,629 each month when any billed overuse occurs, and \$649 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 will be available on the District's website at [www.wwd.ca.gov](http://www.wwd.ca.gov). From the home page, point to the *Water & Power* tab and click on the *Water Rates* tab.

### **2015-2016 Land-Based Charges**

The bills for the 2015-2016 Land-Based Charges will be mailed on or about March 2, 2015, with the first installment due March 25, 2015, and the second installment due September 25, 2015. New this year is the Westlands Water Quality Coalition charge that will be included and due in the September 25, 2015 installment. 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.

### **2015 Assessments**

At the February 17, 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors adopted the Schedule of Per Acre Valuations for the 2015 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment and set the Equalization Hearing date of May 19, 2015 for equalizing the Assessment Roll and setting the benefit valuation rates.

### **Proposed Amendment of the District's Rules and Regulations Regarding Irrigation Practices**

At its March 17, 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors will consider amending Article 2 of the District's Rules and Regulations to require that water users take reasonable steps to eliminate the use of surface irrigation (furrow, border strip, etc.) or irrigation practices that do not promote water conservation by October 1, 2016.

The Board meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the District's Five Points Field Office. Water users are encouraged to attend and provide comments. Written comments may be submitted to the District before the meeting at P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703 or by fax at (559) 241-6277. Previously submitted comments will be included in the record, so there is no need to resubmit.

### **Electronic Monthly Statements**

The District is pleased to announce the availability of electronic versions of the monthly statements provided to agricultural water users. The Statement of Account, which includes the revised monthly Allocation Summary Report (also known as "Water Activity Report"), will be available through your online account at the District's website on or about March 10, 2015. A monthly e-mail will be sent to notify you when statements are available. The District will continue to send your statements via regular mail at this time. In order to realize the full benefits of electronic statements, however, this mailing will eventually be eliminated unless you request to continue to receive paper statements. Regarding the electronic monthly statements, and as a reminder, you have the ability to establish additional login(s) for your online account(s) that can be tailored to the screens you deem appropriate for each person in your organization.

The District recognizes the challenging times that water users are currently experiencing and will continue to pursue other cost-effective solutions like electronic monthly statements. Please contact your Customer Service Representative if you have questions about electronic monthly statements or maintenance of your online account or logins.

### **Reclamation Law Forms Reminder**

Reclamation Law Forms were due to the District on February 1, 2015, 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 serve basis. Water users with leases may want to check with their landowners to make sure they submitted their forms. If you have not already turned in your forms, please do so immediately. Please direct questions to Customer Accounting 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.

### **Annual Water User Workshop**

The annual water user workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 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.

**2015-2016 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 2015 – February 2016 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. Consolidated Farm Service Agency 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, March 31, 2015. 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 17, 2015**

**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 2015-2016 CVP Allocation, Rescheduling & Transfers**

*Jose Gutierrez, Deputy General Manager – Resources*

### **2015-2016 Adopted Budget, Water Rates, Charges & Assessments**

*Bobbie Ormonde, Director of Finance & Administration*

### **Groundwater Conditions**

*Jose Gutierrez*

### **Questions & Answers**

*Tom Birmingham*