

Decades-long Drainage Issues Resolved

Settlement provides economic and environmental benefits for the San Joaquin Valley and California



THE AGREEMENT

This settlement resolves a decades-long dispute concerning the federal government's obligation to provide drainage for Central Valley farmers receiving water from the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The agreement provides that Westlands Water District will permanently retire a minimum of 100,000 acres from agricultural production, assume full responsibility for managing drainage in the District, and caps deliveries of CVP water at 75% of its contract quantity.

The Federal Government will relieve Westlands Water District of its existing repayment obligation for construction of the Central Valley Project. The federal Government will provide a permanent water contract with the District and remove the acreage limits.

Settlement preserves a robust economic future in the most productive agricultural region in the nation



Preserves San Joaquin Valley agricultural production

By setting appropriate parameters for land retirement in Westlands, the drainage settlement preserves the District's **700** family-owned, multi-generational farms that produce more than **\$1 billion** of food and fiber for California and the nation which generates about **\$3.5 billion** in farm-related economic activities.



Protects a critical source of jobs in the region

Through maintained agricultural production, the drainage settlement protects the livelihood of more than **50,000** people that live and work in the Westlands region and depend on Westlands' agricultural economy.



Supports Central Valley businesses that rely on agricultural production

The settlement ensures businesses that support farming will continue to have agriculture as the financial base of the region. For every 100 jobs in agriculture, including the food industry, there are 94 additional jobs created throughout the state. Every dollar of value added in farming and agricultural-related industries generates an additional \$1.27 for the state economy.



Settlement transfers the drainage responsibility to Westlands – Westlands farmers already utilize best practices to handle drainage on their lands



Simultaneously resolves existing and future drainage management issues by transferring full responsibility to Westlands

Westlands will assume management of drainage resulting from agricultural irrigation, relieving the Bureau of Reclamation of its existing and future obligation. Westlands will implement comprehensive drainage solutions to preserve the soil and further reduce the volume of drain water, resulting in positive environmental outcomes.



Calls for retirement of 100,000 acres to productive use – continuation of Westlands’ efforts to repurpose lands

The settlement is a continuation of Westlands’ efforts to repurpose and preserve the San Joaquin Valley environment. Approximately 100,000 acres of land, or 20 percent of the District, will be retired and redeployed for environmentally-friendly uses such as solar business power facilities. In addition to nine solar energy parks already underway with PG&E in the District, 17 more projects have been planned. Fish and wildlife resources will be enhanced through habitat restoration projects.



Transfers responsibility of damaged lands from the federal government to Westlands

Westlands will compensate landowners within the District affected by historical drainage issues, saving government and taxpayer resources.



Resolves long-standing dispute and lays the foundation for a path forward in the District



Relieves the government of drainage liability in the Westlands region

Westlands’ assumes responsibility to manage drainage, relieving taxpayers of a multi-billion dollar burden (approximately \$3.5 billion). This makes the California economy and taxpayers winners in this long-awaited deal.



Ends the uncertainty around the District and allows the community to plan for its economic future

The settlement allows for local governments to move forward with their plans to enhance thousands of agricultural jobs. These jobs support a region that accounts for one-third of California’s field, vegetable, fruit and nut crop production.

