



# Westlands Water District

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May 19, 2016

*This Notice contains important information about the following:*

- **2016-2017 CVP Water Supply Update**
- **San Luis Reservoir Refill Projection**
- **2017-2018 Rescheduled Water**
- **2016-2017 Supplemental Water Update**
- **Update on San Luis Canal Integration Program**
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update**
- **Assessment Equalization Hearing**
- **Outdoor Use of M&I Water Prohibited and Other Mandated Conservation Measures**
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## **2016-2017 CVP Water Supply Update**

The Bureau of Reclamation's initial allocation to Central Valley Project (CVP) south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors is 5% for the 2016-2017 water contract year. If Jones Pumping Plant operates near the maximum permitted capacity from July through the fall, then Reclamation could increase the allocation to 10%. However, any increase in the agricultural water service contractor allocation would not be expected until early to mid-summer. This uncertainty is due to the NOAA Fisheries' temperature control requirements for Shasta Reservoir which mandates reduced releases to conserve cold water for salmon.

The CVP currently has approximately 7.49 million acre-feet of water stored in northern CVP reservoirs; this represents approximately 88% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 4.21 million acre-feet; 110% of normal for this time of year. Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 393,000 acre-feet; 61% of the 15-year average. Jones Pumping Plant is currently operating at about 30% of capacity and has pumped approximately 42,000 acre-feet thus far in May.

## **San Luis Reservoir Refill Projection**

Based on pumping operations and projected agricultural demands, water users should be aware that San Luis Reservoir could fill before the end of the 2016-17 water contract year. Jones Pumping Plant is expected to pump between 80%-100% of capacity during the summer and at or near capacity during the fall, with winter and spring pumping controlled by hydrology and regulatory actions. As for demand, water deliveries in the District are trending lower than last year, and we do not anticipate delivering all of the 2015-16 Rescheduled Water or any 2016-17 CVP allocation. If pumping occurs at the higher end of the range and the minimal demand trend

continues, the likelihood of the Reservoir filling is increased, as well as that of water loss at year-end. Water users are encouraged to manage their 2016 surface water deliveries to minimize the risk of losing water.

### **2017-2018 Rescheduled Water**

To provide an equitable manner for the District to apportion water users' use of Rescheduled Water, there is a 0.5 acre-feet per irrigable acre Acreage Based Cap for Rescheduled Water. Unless limited by the Bureau of Reclamation or the District, a water user may reschedule water in excess of the Acreage Base Cap, but water in excess of the cap will be the first water lost. Water users should also note that the Acreage Based Cap of 0.5 acre-feet per irrigable acre is not secure from loss.

Under Reclamation's typical Rescheduling Guidelines, the quantity of water that may be rescheduled into the 2017-18 water contract year will be limited by Reclamation's calculation of lost rescheduled water due to forgone pumping. That loss occurs when the District's and other contractors' south-of-Delta usage is less than Jones pumping, after San Luis Reservoir fills (see discussion above).

In recent years, the District's ability to reschedule water was not limited by a full San Luis Reservoir. However, circumstances indicate that water users should be mindful of the storage conditions going into the 2017-18 water contract year, and water users should plan their 2016 surface water deliveries to minimize their risk of losing water. District staff will continue to provide monthly updates on the prospects for rescheduling water as the year progresses, and on the risks for losing water.

### **2016-2017 Supplemental Water Update**

The District received timely applications for 2016-17 Supplemental Water totaling 143,052 acre-feet on 252,381 acres. It is estimated that the delivered cost to water users will be in the range of \$700 - \$750 per acre-foot. At this time, the District anticipates that it will be able to acquire approximately 100,000 AF (~0.4 AF/acre) of water supply and partially fulfill the requests. 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.

Allocations of Supplemental Water began in May, and the timing and amounts of expected allocations for the year are shown in the table below. This schedule will continue to be updated monthly to reflect additional supplies and/or changes to the timing for delivery.

<b>Allocation Month</b>	<b>AF Amount</b>
April	0
May – Estimated	10,600
June – Estimated	30,000
July – Estimated	23,000
August – Estimated	5,000
September – Estimated	17,000
October – Estimated	9,000
November – Estimated	5,000
December – Estimated	1,000

### **Update on San Luis Canal Integration Program**

The District started operation of the Canal Integration Program (CIP) on April 1, 2016, and will continue to operate it until August 2016, or when the quantity of water conveyed reaches 30,000 acre-feet, whichever is sooner. About 7,800 AF was pumped and conveyed in April. Water users interested in participating in the CIP should direct any questions to Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update**

The California Water Commission is expected to adopt the final regulations for the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by June 1, 2016. Also in June, the Board of Directors will consider initiating the necessary tasks in order for the District to serve as the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Westside Subbasin, which is the groundwater subbasin that underlies the District. Serving as the GSA will promote local management of our groundwater resources. If the Board approves, the District will hold public hearings in July in Fresno and Kings Counties to gather input on the District's pursuit to serve as the GSA. Please contact Kiti Campbell at (559) 241-6226 for additional information.

### **Assessment Equalization Hearing**

At the equalization hearing on May 17, 2016, the Board of Directors established the District's 2016 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment, which constitutes liens on each parcel of land assessed, due and payable as of May 17, 2016. Statements will be mailed in June and the assessments are delinquent after November 17, 2016. Please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for additional information.

### **Outdoor Use of M&I Water Prohibited and Other Mandated Conservation Measures**

The Bureau of Reclamation has provided notice that it would supply water for municipal and industrial (M&I) uses within the District again this year. The District delivers water to M&I customers, which include our growers' houses, shops and processing facilities; small and large businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail stores; and the Naval Air Station Lemoore.

Conservation of the water that has been made available to the District is of the utmost importance. Further, the Governor's recent Executive Order B-37-16 encourages making water conservation a California way of life. As a result, the District's prohibition against all outdoor use of M&I water, which was instituted in February 2014, shall remain in effect. As a reminder, restaurants shall only provide water to patrons upon their request. Some other conservation methods are also encouraged: repair leaky faucets and toilets, install low-flow shower heads and toilets (or place a brick in the tank to displace water), take showers instead of baths, wash only full loads of laundry (or adjust the setting to the proper load size), and wash only full loads in dishwashers.

These water conservation measures will remain in place for an indeterminate time. The District will update M&I water users when additional information regarding the sufficiency of the District's water supply becomes available. Please call your Customer Service Representative at (559) 241-6250 if you have any questions.

**Summertime Irrigation Evaluation Program**

The Irrigation Training and Research Center of Cal Poly (ITRC) is offering free irrigation evaluations this summer under a program funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Water Resources. Additional information on the types of evaluations being offered is included in the attached flyer from the ITRC. Interested water users should contact Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237 as soon as possible because the number of evaluations being offered is limited by available funding.

**Westlands Water Quality Coalition Members**

Those wishing to submit written comments regarding the revisions to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's General Order R5-2012-0116, that will likely take precedence and be applied to all Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program General Orders, can now do so until June 1, 2016 by 12 noon. Comments to the State Water Resources Control Board can be submitted by email to: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) or contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or [cgallock@westlandswater.org](mailto:cgallock@westlandswater.org) if you have any questions.

**Lands Available for Lease**

The District has several parcels for lease. For a list of available land, please contact Cork Mclsaac 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, May 30, 2016, in observance of Memorial Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Saturday or Sunday - May 28 or 29	Friday, May 27, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - May 30 or 31	Friday, May 27, noon

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



*moving water in new directions*

IRRIGATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Phone: (805) 756-2434

www.itrc.org Contact: Dr. Burt [cburt@calpoly.edu](mailto:cburt@calpoly.edu)

**Summer Irrigation Evaluation Program - 2016**

Drip/Micro Irrigation Systems

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE – First come, first served**

Evaluations begin on June 20

Funded by the California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and USBR (Mid-Pacific Region)

Supported by local Irrigation/Water Districts

What the student team does:

- Spends about 1 day in the field taking measurements of pressures, flows, and make observations of the filtration, chemical injection, etc.
- Inputs data into the Cal Poly ITRC Irrigation Evaluation Programs, examines field data.
- Prints out the data, results, and recommendations
- Sets up an appointment with the farmer to review the information.

The type of information provided:

The Cal Poly ITRC Irrigation Evaluation Program results tell you:

- The Distribution Uniformity (DU) of the irrigation system. The DU is a measure of how evenly the irrigation water is applied to plants throughout a field.
- The causes of non-uniformity. For example, the program will tell a farmer what percentage of the non-uniformity is due to plugging, what percentage is due to pressure differences, etc.
- Recommendations on how to improve that specific system's performance.

Who gets the information:

- The farmer
- The irrigation district
- The Calif. DWR (but without any farmer's name or address)
- Cal Poly ITRC (we have a database of results, but without contact information)

The obligation by the farmer:

- There is no fee; it is completely funded by the Calif. DWR or USBR (MPR)
- The farmer must agree to have someone show the students the field, explain the layout, and start and stop the pump on the agreed-upon date and at the agreed-upon time. It is VERY helpful to provide a map of the irrigation system.
- If the system is a subsurface drip system, the farmer must provide workers with shovels to uncover tape in 3 locations, about 30' per location.
- The farmer must be willing to take the time to sit down and go over the results (about 30 minutes).

Why participate?

- Irrigation systems cost money to operate, and their performance has a huge impact on yield and yield quality. Older systems need to be checked out just as automobiles do. Sometimes they need a tune-up; sometimes they don't. This evaluation lets a farmer know if a tune-up is needed, and what types of things can be done.
- On the average, we find that the DU of drip/micro systems is about 0.76 (out of a perfect 1.00), whereas reasonably attainable values are about 0.92 for drip/micro systems. If you can shift from a DU of 0.76 to a DU of about 0.92, the ratio of (maximum/minimum) water applied to different plants throughout a field will shift from about (2/1) to about (1.2/1).
- Farmers should expect a high DU from a new irrigation system. This program allows farmers to verify the quality of a new system that might have been recently purchased.