



Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

JUNE 2016

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE


Water Agencies Oppose Federal Attempt to Deny Water to Farmers

Westlands and several public water agencies that contract with the U.S. Government for Central Valley Project water joined together to oppose **proposals** by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service that if pursued, would further devastate already ravaged farms and disadvantaged communities across the state. It is our understanding that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be proposing somewhat conflicting policies that deny public agencies allocations previously set forth in the Bureau of Reclamation's April 1, 2016 water operations plan. Westlands and the other public agencies are calling for the following changes for any future FWS and NMFS actions:

1. Integrate public water agencies into the process;
2. Develop comprehensive solutions to improve efficacy, accountability and success of management actions;
3. Refrain from implementing actions that have uncertain outcomes;
4. Ensure that resources dedicated to the result do not have an adverse impact or undermine prior commitments.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me at jamaral@westlandswater.org.

Johnny Amaral
Deputy General Manager of External Affairs
Westlands Water District

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and join the conversation today.



IN THE NEWS

ON CORPORATE AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LOADED LANGUAGE

Western Growers: WGA responds to Los Angeles Times reporter George Skelton's column regarding California farming, agriculture and water use.

[READ THE COMMENTARY](#)

WESTLANDS' FOES DISTORT DRAINAGE COMPROMISE

Fresno Bee: Westlands Deputy General Manager, Johnny Amaral pens an op-ed about the Obama Administration drainage settlement with WWD.

[READ THE FULL OP-ED](#)

WHEN WATER POLICY KILLS FARMING, CONSUMERS WILL PAY THE PRICE

Breitbart: Westlands farmer Daniel Errotabere says Californians may have to settle for produce grown and imported from other countries if today's water status quo continues.

[READ THE FULL OP-ED](#)

CALIFORNIA NEEDS MORE WATER STORAGE

East Bay Times: Donald Anthrop, San Jose State University professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Studies, says California desperately needs additional water storage capacity.

[READ THE FULL OP-ED](#)

CONTACT US

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CALENDAR

**JUN
21**

WWD Board Meeting

**JUL
19**

WWD Board Meeting

WESTLANDS FACT SHEETS

Westlands has prepared several new fact sheets to provide more information about the District and critical issues facing our growers. We are distributing these documents to elected officials, the media, and interested parties to provide our point of view and to refute the misinformation about the District and our farming operations. We will showcase these fact sheets in the Westlands monthly newsletter throughout this summer. Please let us know if you need copies of the fact sheets for events or meetings you are attending.

What's New: Important Notices

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.

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE WEST SIDE SCHOLARSHIPS



Six outstanding high school seniors from communities on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley have been selected to receive scholarships offered by the Westlands Water District. The 2016 scholarships are offered by Westlands under a program to recognize and reward exceptional academic achievement and leadership by graduate seniors at six area high schools. The 2016 scholarship recipients include: Kristina Raulino, Jonathan Sanchez, Delaney Walker, Jonathan Guzman, Savannah Rodriguez, and Fatima Gamino.

Each scholarship recipient will receive \$1,000 to be used for community college or university expenses. Applicants were judged on their academic performance, school activities and community leadership. Each applicant submitted an essay on an agricultural-related topic.

[READ THE FULL RELEASE.](#)

Westlands Water District: Who We Are.

Westlands Water District is the largest agricultural water district in the United States, made up of more than 1,000 square miles of prime farmland in western Fresno and Kings Counties. Under federal contracts, Westlands provides water to 700 family-owned farms that average 875 acres in size.

- Growers in the fertile Westlands district produce more than sixty high-quality food and fiber crops, including row crops like tomatoes, onions, melons, grapes and nut crops. Central Valley farmers grow products consumed by Californians but also support transportation and logistics jobs involved in transporting products to other states and more than 150 countries around the world.
- Westlands growers produce an average of more than \$1 billion worth of food and fiber annually, generating approximately \$3.5 billion in farm-related economic activities in local communities.

FAST FACTS:

SERVICE AREA:

614,700 acres in Fresno and Kings County on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, including the communities of Mendota, Five Points, Huron, Tranquillity, Firebaugh, Three Rocks, Cantua Creek, Helm, San Joaquin, Kerman, Lemoore and Coalinga.

CUSTOMERS:

Westlands has more than 700 family farms in the District, which depend upon water for irrigation purposes. Westlands also provides limited quantities of untreated, non-potable CVP water which is ultimately used for municipal and industrial (M&I) purposes in the District.

MILES OF PIPE:

1,034

TEN-YEAR WATER ALLOCATION FROM CVP:

2006 – 100%	2012 – 40%
2007 – 50%	2013 – 20%
2008 – 40%	2014 – 0%
2009 – 10%	2015 – 0%
2010 – 45%	2016 – 5%
2011 – 80%	





Central Valley Project

- Westlands receives its water allocation under a joint venture agreement between the federal government and the State of California as part of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project (CVP), one of the largest public works projects in the country. Groundbreaking of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project took place in 1962; the San Luis Canal was completed in 1968 and Westlands began receiving water deliveries thereafter.
- Deliveries from the CVP allow growers in the Westlands District to curtail their dependence on groundwater pumping, which can be associated with aquifer overdraft. Recognizing the value of a consistent and stable water supply to the region and the state, the farms within the Westlands Water District are extremely productive and water-efficient, largely due to the installation and maintenance of modern technological innovations and sustainability strategies.
- The Westlands water delivery system utilizes 1,034 miles of fully-enclosed buried pipes and 3,300 water meters along the entirety of its system to ensure water is delivered with zero losses due to seepage, evaporation, or spills during transportation and delivery. About 80% of Westlands' irrigated lands are serviced by efficient drip irrigation systems, representing an investment of more than \$500 million.

