



Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2016

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

A Step in the Right Direction for California Water Policy Solutions


This week marked the beginning of a new era for the Central Valley and the State of California. With overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress passed legislation designed to restore operational flexibility for the water supply systems, which have been paralyzed for years, and to provide funding for major improvements to the water system including storage, conservation, and desalination projects.

This milestone is directly attributable to the leadership of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who responded to the bipartisan efforts of the Central Valley congressional delegation and shepherded this important legislation through Congress.

It's important, however, to remember that this legislation is a first step in restoring the State's ability to deliver water to California communities. Many challenges remain to ensure consistent water delivery, balanced with reasonable environmental protections. Going forward, it is our hope federal agencies will follow the spirit of the new law and operate the system to deliver the maximum amount of water under the restrictions imposed by the Endangered Species Act and the biological opinions.

Westlands is grateful to its partner water agencies, stretching from Tehama Colusa Canal Authority in northern California to the Metropolitan Water District in southern California, who were instrumental in the effort to secure passage of the legislation. Westlands is also deeply appreciative of the farmers, agricultural and water organizations, and its Congressional allies, who saw beyond the opponent's rhetoric and took action to secure a better future for our farmers, farmworkers, and the cities and towns dependent on agriculture and the water that fuels those operations.

Johnny Amaral
Deputy General Manager of External Affairs
Westlands Water District

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IN THE NEWS

WHO LIKES STATE'S PLAN TO KEEP MORE WATER FOR FISH IN CALIFORNIA RIVERS? PRACTICALLY NOBODY

Sacramento Bee: Farmers and elected officials react negatively to the State Water Resources Control Board's plan to devote more water to the state's fish and wildlife.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

USING DOG WHISTLES TO STIR UP OPPOSITION TO WATER-DRAINAGE DEAL

Sacramento Bee: Westlands' Johnny Amaral responds to Mark Arax's Nov. 27 guest commentary in The Fresno Bee attacking California farming.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

ECONOMICS OF STATE'S WATER GRAB DON'T ADD UP

Modesto Bee: The state's water demands demonstrate the State Water Resources Control Board's lack of understanding of the impacts of its proposed plans.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

TRUMP OFFERS HOPE FOR CALIFORNIA WATER

Fresno Bee: George Radanovich, president of the California Fresh Fruit Association, says it's time for unified advocacy of California's water needs.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

CONTACT US

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westlandswater.org



CALENDAR

DEC
20

WWD Board Meeting

JAN
17

WWD Board Meeting

RESCHEDULED TIMES FOR MONTHLY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The time for the Committee meetings and Westlands Board of Directors meeting on December 20, 2016 will be modified as follows:

9:00 a.m.
Finance & Administration Committee

10:00 a.m.
Water Policy Committee Meeting

12:00 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting

These meetings will be held at the District's Fresno Office located at 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703.

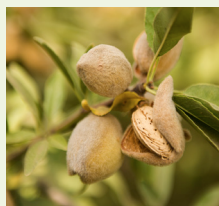
What's New: Important Notices

Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Westlands Water Quality Coalition Workshop - December 21, 2016

Westlands Water District has scheduled a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development workshop on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, at the District's Five Points Field Office. The GSP workshop will be divided into three workshops that focus on the water users within the western, central and eastern hydrogeologic areas of the Westside Sub basin at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., respectively. The District's staff will outline the hydrogeologic characteristics of the western, central and eastern areas at their respective workshop, present potential sustainability management measures by area, and provide interested parties a forum to provide comments and ideas on the District's GSP development. Please contact Kiti Campbell at (559) 241-6226 for additional information. In conjunction with the GSP workshop, District staff will summarize the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for Westlands Water Quality Coalition members to fulfill their required annual workshop attendance. Please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 for additional information.

2016 Crop Acreage Report

The 2016 Crop Acreage Report is now available on the District's website. This is a comprehensive list of crops grown in the District and the number of acres dedicated to each. Data is updated on an annual basis. Below are highlights of the top crops from 2016. To read the 2016 Crop Acreage Report, [CLICK HERE](#).



ALMONDS
87,912



TOMATOES
58,388



PISTACHIOS
42,625



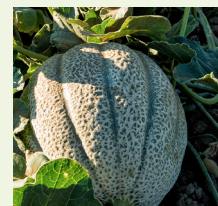
WHEAT
32,210



COTTON
22,118



GRAPES
14,704



CANTALOUPE
13,814



GARLIC
11,426

Please
Join Us

How Water Policy Is Clear-Cutting the Central Valley

Please join us for a discussion about how state water policy is having a detrimental impact on the region. Westlands Water District and Professor Michael Shires of Pepperdine University will be presenting an Economic Impact Report to the Fresno Chamber of Commerce December Government Affairs Council meeting.



WHERE

Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Board Room
2331 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

WHEN

Wednesday, December 14th
at 12:00 p.m.

RSVP

Gayle Holman,
gholman@westlandswater.org

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES



From all the staff at the District, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Westlands Water District offices will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday; as well as Monday, January 2, for New Year's Day.



WESTLANDS SUPPORTS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

On Thursday, November 10th, the Community Food Bank hosted its annual Empty Bowls, Full Hearts Benefit Dinner at The Grand, located at 1401 Fulton Street in Fresno. Westlands Water District is a proud sponsor of this annual event and supports the Community Food Bank's efforts to end hunger in the Central Valley by providing food to more than 180 agencies in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Kern and Tulare Counties. The benefit dinner honored Westlands with an appreciation award for the District's continued support to the Community Food Bank.



"We are grateful for the Food Bank and the food they provide during the drought. But what we really want is work."

—Anonymous, San Joaquin, CA