



# Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

JANUARY 2017

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

### A Year of Opportunity Ahead

With results of solid progress in 2016, we look forward to the New Year and the opportunity to build on our success. We have a full agenda of unfinished business that we need to address.

First, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act contains important provisions designed to provide more water to farmers dependent on the Central Valley Project. While the law is already positively impacting the operations of the project, the law does not provide a long-term solution; in fact, the law sunsets in 2020. The District will be pursuing long-term changes that will provide more certainty for the farmers, farmworkers, and communities that depend on a fair and effective management of state water resources.

Second, the latest storms are providing critical relief to the drought and regulatory-created water shortages, but these storms in the past have created a false sense of security. The District will look past these storms and the potential for a stronger 2017 water allocation and remain focused on changing the process so that the CVP is operated as intended, to provide water to communities South-of-the-Delta and to protect overuse of groundwater in the Central Valley.

It will be a busy year for policymakers at the federal and state level.

In Washington, the Trump Administration's support for farmers has already created momentum behind policies that will improve the national water supply systems. Additionally, Congressman David Valadao introduced [HR 23](#) to reform "onerous federal laws – such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act – that have severely curtailed water deliveries and resulted in hundreds of billions of gallons of badly needed water being flushed into the ocean."

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## IN THE NEWS

### MEMBERS OF CONGRESS URGE ADMINISTRATION TO CAPTURE RUNOFF FROM RECENT STORMS

[READ MORE](#)

### CALIFORNIA APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE ON MASSIVE WATER BILL

**Western Farm Press:** CA water leaders applaud President Obama's signature on a massive water bill though most say it's the first step to repair the state's broken water system.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### CALIFORNIA FARMERS OFFER US MORE THAN US FOOD

**Chico ER:** Chico farmer Rory Crowley explains why we should honor California farmers.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL IS A LANDMARK MOMENT FOR CALIFORNIA

**Sacramento Bee:** ACWA Board praises bi-partisan water legislation for moving in the right direction.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

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## CONTACT US

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### CALENDAR

**JAN  
17**

WWD Board Meeting

**FEB  
21**

WWD Board Meeting

## RESCHEDULED TIMES FOR MONTHLY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The time for the Committee meetings and Westlands Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 will be modified as follows:

9:00 a.m.  
Finance & Administration Committee

11:00 a.m.  
Water Policy Committee Meeting

1:00 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

### Grower Workshops

Westlands Water District regularly provides workshops for our growers on timely issues in conjunction with recent programs structured for on-farm activities. Below are photos from our recent workshops.



### Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Westlands Water District recently conducted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development workshops on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, at the District's Five Points Field Office. The GSP workshops were divided into three discussions that focused on water users within the western, central and eastern hydrogeologic areas of the Westside Subbasin. Presentations from the workshops are available on the District's SGMA [webpage](#). Please contact Kiti Campbell at (559) 241-6226 or [sgma@westlandswater.org](mailto:sgma@westlandswater.org) for additional information.

### Westlands Water Quality Coalition Members

The first quarter Westlands Water Quality Coalition (WWQC) Members' Workshop was held on December 21, 2016, to discuss coordination with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), member reporting, fees/budget, coalition activities, and program updates. Presentation materials are available on the District's [website](#). Additional opportunities for members to meet the annual workshop attendance requirement will be provided each quarter. Please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or [cgallock@westlandswater.org](mailto:cgallock@westlandswater.org) or Debra Dunn at (559) 241-6242 or [ddunn@westlandswater.org](mailto:ddunn@westlandswater.org) with any questions or comments.

### HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

**Monday, January 16, 2017** – Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Monday, February 20, 2017** – Observance of the President's Day

## How Water Policy Is Clear-Cutting the Central Valley

On Wednesday, December 14, 2016, Westlands Water District joined the Fresno Chamber of Commerce for their Government Affairs Council meeting to discuss how the state's water policy impacts our region. Pepperdine University Professor Dr. Michael Shires presented his Economic Impact Report to the Fresno Chamber. The results from impact report can be found [here](#). Below are photos from the meeting.



### PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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In Sacramento, the state will continue implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which will have a dramatic impact on many communities throughout the state. In addition, the Water Board is readying to make a decision on Phase 1 of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update, which, as proposed, would increase the minimum environmental flows from the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers. The Water Board actions could spur legislative proposals to develop more workable solutions. Hard work is ahead of us, but we look forward to building upon 2016's successes in order to build a stronger and more agriculturally productive 2017 for our great state.

**Johnny Amaral**  
Deputy General Manager of External Affairs  
Westlands Water District

### Social Media Update

We are excited to see our following on social media boost! In December we added more than 9,000 Followers to our Facebook Page and over 1,000 Followers on Twitter. If you don't already follow us on our social media channels, please click on the links below and check out our current totals and posts as of January 6, 2017.



**10,531**

**FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS**



**1,735**

**TWITTER  
FOLLOWERS**