



Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2017

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

California Needs Solutions to Water Supply Shortages, Not Finger-Pointing about the Consequences

There seems to be a growing effort by government agencies responsible for managing California's water system to blame everyone but themselves for the problems in the system. Case in point: the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a NASA report showing land in the San Joaquin Valley is sinking nearly 2 inches per month in some locations. Ironically, the DWR press release blamed "excessive groundwater pumping during drought conditions" as the cause of land sinking at record levels.

There was no mention of the fact that federal and state agencies have withheld more and more water deliveries each year to water contractors. Pointing to "drought conditions" and "over-pumping," DWR has failed to admit that the underlying cause of land sinking is that billions of gallons of water, previously delivered to communities south of the Delta, are now being sent to the ocean. Rather than blaming their own failed "environmental" policies, government agencies blame urban residents for using too much water at home and work and blame farmers for pumping water to continue to grow crops and keep their trees and vines alive.

Now, state government is charging ahead recklessly to limit groundwater use. Where is the effort to reexamine the policies denying surface water supplies and causing subsidence?

Reduction and dismantling appears to be the strategy for the future. Federal and state regulatory decisions have systematically reduced surface water deliveries, and now the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will further reduce groundwater supplies. If allowed to succeed, these agencies

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IN THE NEWS

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL IS A LANDMARK MOMENT FOR CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Bee: ACWA Board Members explain how the WIIN Act serves both state needs and the environment.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

CVP REMAINS CAUTIOUS ON WATER ALLOCATION

Ag Alert: Despite hydrology, Bureau leaders say it's too early to project agriculture water supplies.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

SAN LUIS RESERVOIR IN CALIFORNIA COULD FILL FOR FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS

Fresno Bee: Reservoir could be full by April 1.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

CA FARM GROUPS PUSH FOR MORE WATER

Capital Press: San Joaquin Valley groups say abundance of snow in the Sierra mountains should equal more water for farmers.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SITUATION

PowerTalk 96.7: Johnny Amaral explains how current hydrology could affect farmers this year.

[LISTEN TO INTERVIEW](#)

CONTACT US

Westlands Water District Office
3130 N. Fresno Street
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Phone: 559-224-1523
Fax: 559-241-6277

Email: info@westlandswater.org

Customer Accounting Main Line
Phone: (559) 241-6250
or 1 (800) 266-6574

Media Inquiries:
Phone: 559-241-6233
Email: pubaffairs@westlandswater.org

westlandswater.org



CALENDAR

FEB
28

WW Board and
Committee Meetings

MAR
21

WWD Board Meeting

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

District offices will be closed on
Monday, February 20, 2017, in
observance of President's Day.



What's New: Important Notices

Public Hearings – Tuesday, February 28, 2017, on Proposed 2017 Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule

The Westlands Board of Directors will hold two public hearings on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. for the proposed 2017-2018 water rates, charges and land-based charges and the proposed 2017 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment Valuation Schedule. At these public hearings, the Board will hear and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the proposed water rates, charges and land-based charges. Landowners and water users will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposed valuation schedule. Both hearings will be held at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703.

WWQC Workshop – Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Westlands Water Quality Coalition (WWQC) members are required to complete the 2016 Farm Evaluation Survey and the 2016 Nitrogen Summary Report by March 1, 2017. WWQC will utilize a web-based system for the submittal of both reports. A notification has been sent to the contact person on file with the Coalition that contains your login information. A workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at the District's Five Points office to discuss the web-based system and the reporting procedure. Westlands staff and the program developers will be onsite to assist in reporting. Please contact Debra Dunn at (559) 241-6242 or ddunn@westlandswater.org or Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or cgallock@westlandswater.org if you would like to attend the workshop. If you are unable to attend the live workshop, a recorded version will be available to all Coalition members.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Westlands Water District will form a technical group made up of interested land owners to review and discuss the development of the District's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). If you are interested in participating in the described group that will focus on the technical side of the District's GSP development, please contact Kiti Campbell at (559) 241-6226 or sgma@westlandswater.org for additional information. To stay updated on the District's SGMA activities, please visit our webpage: <http://wwd.ca.gov/resource-management/sustainable-groundwater-management-act/>.

SLDMA is Hiring!

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is seeking a dynamic, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic individual with a proven track record to serve as its Science Manager. For more details and to apply, visit <http://www.sldmwa.org/job-openings>

Educational Opportunities For All Ages

Westlands provides educational opportunities for all ages. Recently, the FARMS Advanced Leadership Program, a group of high school students from area schools in Fresno County, visited Westlands' Fresno Office to learn about issues affecting water supply. During the course of an interactive presentation, they learned about hydrology, water supply, economic and regulatory impacts. The session concluded with a leadership activity where students were given an opportunity to defend their position on a specific water-related issue.

Westlands actively engages the community with educational activities to increase awareness of water issues and fosters relationships with schools and organizations within the District area. If you would like more information regarding educational opportunities, please contact our public affairs office at (559) 241-6233.



FARMS Advanced Leadership Program visited Westlands' Fresno Office

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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will dismantle California farms and transform the region from the most productive agricultural area in the world into a government-created dust bowl.

Your team at Westlands Water District will be pointing out the hypocrisy of blaming Californians for using water, while the government agencies implement programs to withhold water supplies. As the crisis in Oroville unfolds and water policies are reexamined, we will expose the consequences of denying San Joaquin Valley communities water, including responsibility for the underlying cause of land subsidence.

Johnny Amaral
Deputy General Manager of External Affairs
Westlands Water District

Ag Solar & Irrigation Efficiency Workshop

PG&E and the Fresno County Farm Bureau will host a workshop for customers/members to provide tools and resources for energy efficiency. A trade show will showcase solar vendors and the opportunity to schedule a free pump test. Workshop speakers will include Dr. Charles Burt of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

DATE AND TIME

Tuesday,
February 28, 2017
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Lunch to Follow

LOCATION

CPDES HALL
172 W. Jefferson Ave.
Fresno, CA 93706

For more information, please contact PG&E at psr6@pge.com or the Fresno County Farm Bureau at info@fcfb.org.

[Register Here](#)

Extended Man-Made Drought

Most of the people of California don't realize it's the government water officials who have caused the problem.

Feb 09, 2017

Yes, this is a man-made drought and this is how it works. Over the past 25 years the state and the feds through various environmental policies have taken more and more water from farmers in the San Joaquin Valley and given it to rivers and fish without any objective proof that any of it ever did any good. They've never had to prove that any of the extra water benefited even one fish. No accountability, ever!

So, the more water the farmers lost the more they had to rely on pumping water from the underground. This has depleted the aquifers and caused the land to subside. Farmers had two choices: pump water or stop farming. Over the years, the depleted aquifers have become a crisis in need of a solution. But, they cannot be recharged without surface water that the state and feds refuse to supply.

The environmentalists and government officials, who are also in many cases from environmental organizations, have done a masterful job of blaming farmers for the situation. They say farmers use 80% of the water, they say almonds use too much water, and they say farmers are the reason people's wells are running dry.

Have to hand it to them, they have people running around blaming each other, blaming a business for leaving their sprinklers on in the daytime, or blaming the Beverly Hills homeowner for using too much water on their yards. Most of the people of California don't realize it's the government water officials who have caused the problem.

Here is a list of all the water that's been taken out of the Valley over the past 25 years through various government policies that have forced farmers to resort to underground pumping, and pretty soon with the

Groundwater Sustainability Act they won't be able to pump from the underground either.

1992: Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) - dedicated about 1,400,000 acre-feet per year (enough to irrigate over 500,000 acres or serve 2,000,000 valley households) from the federal Central Valley Project to fish and wildlife purposes. Result: no improvement in fish populations

1993: The Endangered Species Act listing of the winter run Chinook salmon stripping away another 250,000 to 800,000 AF/yr. Result: no improvement in fish populations.

1994: The ESA listing of the delta smelt. Result: no improvement in fish populations.

1995: The CalFed Bay/Delta program that collectively stripped the CVP and State Water Project of another 1,100,000 AF/yr. Result: no improvement in fish populations.

Since 1995: There's been even more regulatory actions the sum total of which have removed over 5,000,000 AF/yr. – more than the entire capacity of Lake Shasta or 10 times that of Millerton Lake.* Result: no improvement in fish populations.

Add to these the river flow hearings for more water for fish on the Stanislaus, Merced and Toulumne Rivers.

Add to that the Groundwater Sustainability Act that will further restrict farmer's ability to pump, forcing them to fallow more land.