



# Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

MAY 2017

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

### Two Signs of Progress

As the policy debate about how water is managed in CA roars, those of us interested in collaboration and progress continue to actively engage to find solutions. There are two encouraging developments to report. First, growers and water managers from up and down the state are putting aside their differences to find common ground on policies that will preserve California farming and provide water for communities. The recognition that our interests are aligned is a powerful bond that ties us together. While there are numerous threats to many regions, there is a growing belief that agriculture is under attack and differences must be put aside. As we know, there are several proposals that could radically impact the water supply for cities and farms, such as the [State Water Resources Control Board Bay Delta Plan](#) for new flow requirements, the implementation of the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#), and the rhetoric from activist groups calling for the retirement of hundreds of thousands of acres of prime farmland. But new collaboration within the water community provides hope for improvements to the water delivery systems and more effective use of the water resources.

The second encouraging sign is the growing support for a water policy that fully embraces the co-equal goals of a vibrant agriculture and urban economy and a healthy ecosystem. The impact of the drought and the collapse of elements of the state's water infrastructure focused public attention on the need to pursue water supply reliability as a vital part of the state's future. At the same time, Westlands and other farm and water groups continue to question the effectiveness of current policies in light of the fact that the situation is worse for all the impacted stakeholders – farmers, urban and rural communities, fish and wildlife, and the Delta.

Progress has been made on the legislative and regulatory front, and the policy discussions are moving toward a more balanced consideration of the issues. However, there are many challenges ahead and more work to ensure that policies live up to the co-equal goals and create a better future for farmers.

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

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and join the conversation today.



## IN THE NEWS

### WHEN FEDS DILLY-DALLY ON WATER, OUR AG ECONOMY TAKES A HIT

**Fresno Bee:** Late allocation announcements bring avoidable consequences.

[READ FULL OP ED](#)

### ONE STATE, UNDER WATER

**City Journal:** Regulatory constraints continue to threaten the Central Valley's access to water.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

### COMMENTARY: GUIDE HELPS FARMERS NAVIGATE WATER REPORTING RULES

**Ag Alert:** For farmers and ranchers with remote or complicated diversions, compliance can be particularly difficult and expensive. Farm Bureau's compliance guide can help.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

### FROM THE FIELDS

**Ag Alert:** Greg Meyers, Fresno County tree crop grower explains real time frustration with federal regulations.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

## CONTACT US

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### CALENDAR

MAY  
16

WWD Board Meeting

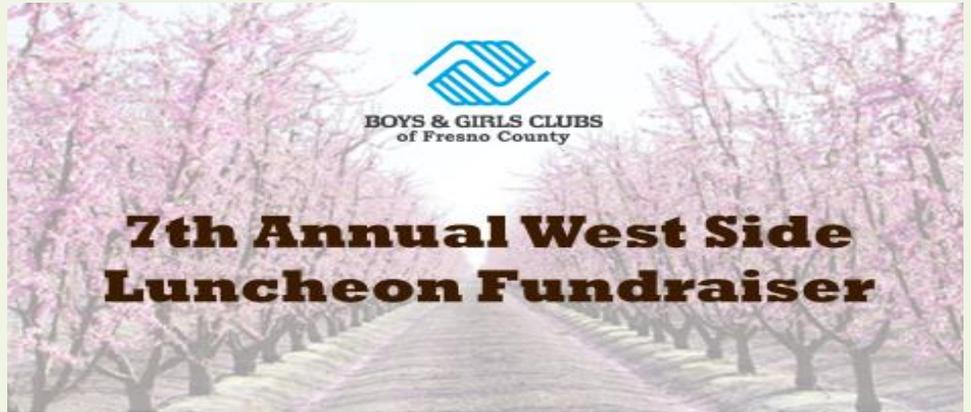
JUN  
20

WWD Board Meeting

Westlands Water District will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2017, in observance of Memorial Day.



## What's New: Important Notices



### 7th Annual Westside Luncheon for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County

Tickets are still available for the 7th Annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County Westside Luncheon, May 25th at Harris Ranch! All event proceeds will fund education and leadership programs at the Huron and Firebaugh clubs. For more information on sponsor opportunities or to purchase a table, contact Sandra Dee Chaney at (559) 266-3117 or [schaney@bgclubfc.org](mailto:schaney@bgclubfc.org).



### Westlands Charitable Foundation

For decades, Central Valley growers have contributed to a variety of charitable and community organizations. We're proud to carry on the tradition of giving and philanthropy through the Westlands Charitable Foundation, offering growers the opportunity to combine their contributions to make a substantial impact in our local communities. For more information on the Foundation, contact Gayle Holman at [gholman@westlandswater.org](mailto:gholman@westlandswater.org) or (559) 241-6233.

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering funding through the Environmental

Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide technical and financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers for addressing their natural resource concerns, including the air quality concerns from their farming operations. Funds are available to replace old diesel-powered farm equipment, establish windbreaks, and more. Interested farmers must apply by May 26th. For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).





#thecompetition

## DATES & DEETS

### JOIN US. BE A PART OF THE TECH REVOLUTION.

59DaysOfCode's #thecompetition returns to pit the best developers, designers, and entrepreneurs against one another in a giant geek-tastic battle.

**Kick-Off Party** @Hashtag  
June 17th 9pm-12am  
**Classic & Ignite Expo**  
@Pacific Southwest Building  
August 26th 12pm-4pm  
**VIP After Party**  
@Bitwise Mural District  
August 26th 8pm-late

#### ONE GREAT COMPETITION, TWO WORLD-CHANGING TRACKS



Classic is the origin story for many in the Valley, and we want to keep the tradition going. This is the old-school, nostalgic, original open-opportunity-to-create-some-thing-all-on-your-own competition.

CLASSIC



Ignite is a competition track dedicated to changing the world one solution at a time. Each year, we will select an economic, social, or environmental issue plaguing the San Joaquin Valley for ignite. In 2017, competitors will tackle issues around water.

ignite

#### OUR SPONSORS

#thecompetition wouldn't be possible without the help of our generous sponsors:



#### Water. It's Important!

Water is relevant to everyone, especially now, here at home in the Central Valley. This year, as we think about how geeks can save the world, we turn our attention to water.

California is finally nearing the end of its worst drought in 1,200 years, and there's no better time to figure out how to solve future water issues than now.

#### Don't Forget #FreakingBrilliant

We'll help you through the competition, from understanding ignite's water issues to business startups to pitching your project. #FreakingBrilliant starts May 24th with a water panel at Bitwise South Stadium.

2017.59daysofcode.org

59DaysOfCode is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## 59 Days of Code

The largest technology competition in the Central Valley

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In collaboration with local professionals, the 59 Days of Code competition comes to life June 18, 2017, as part of a multi-pronged approach to growing and cultivating technology entrepreneurship in the Valley. The competition and showcase is the catalyst in movements that brought you companies like Bitwise, Drip, and QuiqLabs. This year, competitors will use their brilliance to solve the plague of persistent problems our Valley faces. Full event information about the competition, sponsorships and timeline are [available here](#).



Westlands Water Quality Coalition

### Westlands Water Quality Coalition Members

The Westlands Water Quality Coalition will host a series of Nitrogen Management Plan Self-Certification courses this year which will allow members to self-certify the required Nitrogen Management Plan for three years. The first opportunity to take the no-cost course featuring Nitrogen Management Specialists Bill Jones, CCA, and Ryan Dodd, CCA, is Tuesday, June 13, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office located at 1274 W. Hedges Avenue, Fresno, CA. Seating is limited; to reserve your seat please contact Debra Dunn, at [ddunn@westlandswater.org](mailto:ddunn@westlandswater.org) or by phone (559) 241-6242 or Nicole Branum, at [nbranum@westlandswater.org](mailto:nbranum@westlandswater.org) or by phone (559) 241-6235.

# Westlands Water District Drainage Management Options

## SOURCE CONTROL: ADVANCED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Westlands is a leader in water conservation, employing advanced techniques and the latest technologies to increase water efficiency and help crops withstand harsh conditions. More than 93% of all fields in Westlands use some form of drip irrigation.



*Drip Irrigation in row crops.*



## RETIRED LAND PUT TO BENEFICIAL USE

Water systems on retired lands are capped to make additional water available to irrigable areas. Lands can be equipped with solar panels to take advantage of plentiful natural sunlight and convert it to renewable energy. Solar projects in the District are expected to generate up to 2.4 gigawatts of power, greater energy potential than the combined output of several large nuclear power plants.



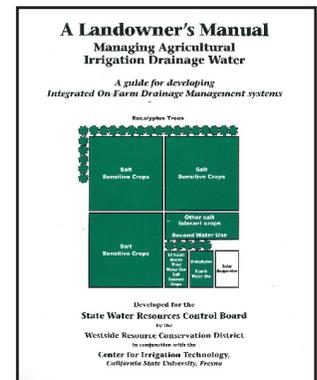
*A capped distribution system in a fallowed field.*



*Solar panels on the Westside.*

## INTEGRATED ON-FARM DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Integrated On-Farm Drainage Management (IFDM) system was developed to manage these problems. A state-of-the-art, yet practical irrigation management system, the IFDM provides for drainage water reuse to improve water availability for crop production and to minimize salt and selenium risks to water quality and the environment.



*Manual for land owners to maximize resources*

# Westlands Water District Drainage Management Options

Continued

## INNOVATIVE WATER COLLECTION AND REUSE PROCESS

Westlands could implement innovative collection and reuse technologies to supply agricultural water. The drainage settlement language requires Westlands to manage drainage water, and reuse is a potential solution.

*A tail water collection and reuse system.*



*Drainage water treatment facility.*



*Salt is a byproduct of the treatment process that requires disposal.*



## SUPPLY FOR WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

An example, the Panoche Water and Drainage District collects drainage water (through the process described to the left) and provides it as recycled water to irrigate crops such as Jose Tall Wheatgrass and pistachios.



*Jose Tall Wheatgrass and pistachios grown with drainage water.*



Westlands Water District