

NOTICE TO RECORD OWNERS OF PROPERTY WITHIN WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Westlands Water District (the District) has abandoned the Repayment Contract benefit assessment and now proposes to assess lands within the District based on a new benefit assessment methodology.

A benefit assessment is being proposed to collect fixed operations and maintenance costs (Fixed O&M) and debt service related to long-term water supply acquisitions. The benefit assessment proposed does not increase the current year's total revenue to be collected by the District. The proposed benefit assessment shifts costs currently recovered through land-based charges and water rates to a benefit assessment. The proposed benefit assessment totals \$17,208,522 and the assessment schedule incorporates a maximum escalation per year of 3% on the portion of the assessment that pays for Fixed O&M. The portion that pays for the bond debt service remains fixed. This results in a per acre assessment for each rate classification as shown below. The proposed benefit assessment will remain in force for ten (10) years, at the end of which term it will expire unless the District has undertaken the proper process to extend or modify it.

If the proposed assessment is approved by a majority of those parcel owners casting a vote, whose votes are weighted in accordance with the proposed assessment, the District will comply with California Water Code Section 36608 and fix an ad valorem rate of assessment upon each \$100 in value of the land assessed to raise the sum specified in the annual estimate.

Proposed Maximum Assessments per acre over the 10-Year term:

Fiscal Year	Maximum Revenue from Assessment	Assessment Eligible for CVP Water Allocation	Assessment Eligible for Other Water
2017-2018	\$17,208,522	\$36.50	\$10.63
2018-2019	\$17,617,034	\$37.37	\$10.88
2019-2020	\$18,037,800	\$38.26	\$11.14
2020-2021	\$18,471,190	\$39.18	\$11.41
2021-2022	\$18,917,582	\$40.12	\$11.69
2022-2023	\$19,377,365	\$41.10	\$11.97
2023-2024	\$19,850,942	\$42.10	\$12.26
2024-2025	\$20,338,726	\$43.14	\$12.56
2025-2026	\$20,841,144	\$44.20	\$12.87
2026-2027	\$21,358,634	\$45.30	\$13.19

A Public Hearing on the proposed assessment will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. at the Westlands Water District office located at 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703. At this Public Hearing, there will be an opportunity to be heard with respect to this proposed assessment, and all protests against the proposed assessment rate will be considered. The *2017 Engineer's Report in Support of the Proposition 218 Assessment Ballot Proceeding* has been prepared and is available at the District's website at wwd.ca.gov.

Please review and complete your enclosed ballot. The enclosed ballot includes the parcel owner's name and the Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) to which the ballot applies. The ballots returned by mail will be collected and tabulated along with any ballots returned to the District office before or during the public hearing. **Any ballot received after the conclusion of the Public Hearing will not be counted.**

In tabulating the ballots, the ballots shall be weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected property. The ballots will be tabulated on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at the end of the public hearing. If the number of votes (weighted according to the acres per APN and proposed assessment rate) on ballots submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment rate exceed the number of votes on ballots submitted in favor, the Board will not impose the proposed benefit assessment rate.