



Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

SUMMER 2017

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Telling the Story of California Farmers and Food Production

There are many positive efforts underway to provide facts about farming and water use and the benefits that agriculture and food processing provide to the residents of California. Although the drought strained state resources for several years, the water shortages brought focus and clarity to the problem. With the return of precipitation, the failure of the state system to deliver water revealed the systemic problems that exist and the need for major improvements. Disagreements will continue about the nature of the problems and how to fix the system; but over the last two years, Westlands growers, business leaders, elected representatives, and state organizations have individually acknowledged that the status quo is unacceptable.

Westlands' growers have made great efforts to inform decision-makers, attending meetings with President Trump, President Obama, and Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, providing information to help them gain a better understanding and a more balanced view of the importance of water to the region and the value of California agriculture to the nation. Only the anti-farming groups continue to call for a reduction in food production.

Westlands has proactively engaged with the media to offset some of the biased views of water use. When they see the conservation measures and water technology that has been deployed, they understand that Westlands produces more products with less water than any other region in the world. It may not change their philosophical point of view, but it has changed the tone of the reporting and given Westlands an opportunity to get facts into stories about California water resources and agricultural production.

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IN THE NEWS

EXPAND CA AG PRODUCTION, CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER NUTRITION

Fox and Hounds: Johnny Amaral explains why Central Valley produce is essential to ensuring a healthy food supply.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

CALIFORNIA FARMS ARE THIRSTY AND IN DANGER

Fresno Bee: Former Secretary of Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura, explains the threat to California farms and why all Californians should be concerned.

[READ FULL OP-ED](#)

TOMATO HARVEST SLOWLY GAINS MOMENTUM


Ag Alert: Growers and tomato canneries eager to start a late harvest.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE – A STATE OF ABUNDANCE

Northern California Water Association: California's ag production is larger than the total GDP of three other states.

[READ FULL BLOG POST](#)

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CONTACT US

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CALENDAR

Westlands has a number of upcoming meetings and workshops which are listed below. Additional calendar information can also be accessed on the Westlands website at www.wwd.ca.gov.

Tuesday, August 29 – 8:00 AM

Special Board Meeting Re: Prop 218 Votes and CA WaterFix
(Location: WWD Fresno Office)

Tuesday, September 19

Board Meeting



Westlands families are proud to grow food for our nation. **Check out** the latest Knorr Foods videos featuring Tony Azevedo, a fourth generation farmer, talking about sustainability and growing up in farming.

Important Notices

Board of Directors Elections

The terms of four members of the Board of Directors expire in 2017, and an election to fill these positions will be held October 24, 2017. The positions have four-year terms through December 3, 2021. The election will be conducted as an all-mail ballot election and there will be no polling places.

Ballots will be mailed to each District landowner beginning the last week of September 2017.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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Most recently, the educational effort of telling the story of the effects of an unreliable water supply continues with an exciting new film product ready for release. The Chronicles Group will be premiering **a new documentary** on the California drought on September 14th at U.C. Merced, but released a preview of the film earlier this week. Also, long-time Westlands farmer Tony Azevedo is featured in the latest Knorr Foods storyline, illustrating the process for producing food utilizing efficient and sustainable methods.

Stay tuned as we continue to get our facts out and push back against the misrepresentations.

Johnny Amaral
Deputy General Manager of External Affairs
Westlands Water District



We're Hiring!

Westlands Water District is recruiting to fill one Maintenance Planner vacancy in the Field Engineering & Planning Department at our Five Points Field Office. Attached is the Notice of Job Opening for your information. Applications are being accepted beginning Monday, August 7, 2017 through Friday, September 8, 2017. Additional details are available on [our website here](#).

WESTLANDS SUPPORTS RIVER CAMP FIREBAUGH

River Camp Firebaugh serves children and youth from the communities of Firebaugh, Mendota, Tranquility, Kerman, Madera and other nearby rural communities. It takes place in the community of Firebaugh at the Andrew Firebaugh Community Center and Park. All participants receive scholarships to the program—Westlands was pleased to provide a sponsorship this year.

Each year, over 400 local children have the opportunity to take part in this program, which gives children from rural areas a chance to improve their health and well-being through a week of outdoor play and exploration. Campers learn about the river and their local ecosystems while engaging in water play, arts and crafts, games and other activities. Physical fitness is improved through outdoor active play, canoeing and swimming. New friendships are developed and social skills are improved. Skills learned at camp help improve performance in school. River Camp Firebaugh promotes respect for the environment and for one another by offering a unique experience for each participant.

