



Westlands Water District

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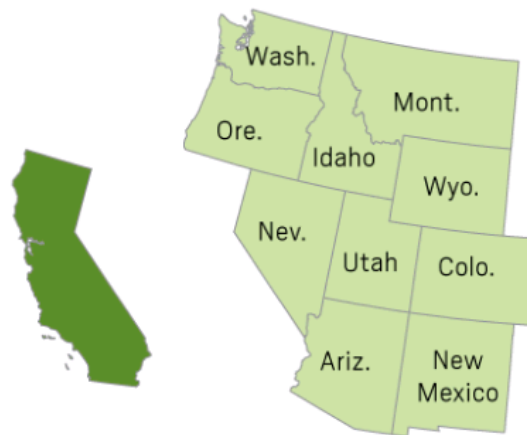
WESTLANDS' FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

THE WEEKLY REPORT ON CALIFORNIA'S BROKEN WATER SYSTEM

August 16, 2017

California leads in food production; let's keep it that way.

A [recent article](#) published in the San Jose Mercury News appropriately categorizes California as a cornucopia of food production, where “77,500 farms produce more than 400 commodities, and two-thirds of the nation’s fruits and nuts. About one-quarter of what California produces is exported around the world.” Among several impressive statistics, the author reported that California alone out-produced ten agricultural states combined.



Sources: United States Department of Agriculture, California Agricultural Statistics Review

While the Central Valley is proudly referred to as the “breadbasket of the world,” it is important to remember how that basket gets filled – farmers, farmworkers, and farm water. Westlands’ farmers and the families they work with play an important role in California’s food production, but can only do so as long as a reliable water supply exists.

To preserve jobs and maintain California’s role in food production, we need to make water supply a top priority. Otherwise, the state will relinquish its role as the nation’s agricultural leader and become an importer of food products from other states and countries.

It's time for honesty in the very worthwhile debate about how YOUR water is being prioritized.