



Water News

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2017

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Drainage Deadline Fast Approaching

In Washington D.C. terms, 2015 marked a rare instance where something positive was accomplished – the United States and Westlands Water District reached a settlement to resolve a decades long dispute over the federal government's failure to provide drainage for lands within the District. The settlement was negotiated by President Obama's Department of the Interior, thoroughly reviewed by the Obama Department of Justice, and then approved by the Obama White House. The Executive Branch support from the Obama Administration carried over into this year, when the Trump Administration began.

The settlement was based on years of analysis by federal agencies, bipartisan Congressional hearings on the drainage issues, the environmental consequences of inaction, and a voluminous amount of information presented to the federal district court assigned to resolve the matter. Prior to the settlement, California Members of Congress from both parties were kept apprised of the settlement negotiations and fully briefed when the settlement was announced.

So, when HR 1769, the legislation authored by Rep. David Valadao to implement the settlement, was proposed for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), there was great hope that the decades old problem would finally be resolved before the January 15, 2018, court-imposed deadline. But those hopes were dashed when Senators Maria Cantwell, the ranking member on the Senate Energy and Resources Committee, Dianne Feinstein, and Kamala Harris announced that they were opposed to including the bill in the defense authorization legislation.

Unfortunately, the failure to include the authorization language in the NDAA bill leaves the settlement in jeopardy.

Despite this setback, Westlands will continue to aggressively pursue a path to success. Westlands will work with Congressman Valadao and other members to look for every possible vehicle to obtain congressional authorization to implement the settlement.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

IN THE NEWS

WESTLANDS FARMERS LINK ARMS TO FEED VALLEY'S HUNGRY AND NEEDY

Fresno Bee: Andy Souza, President and CEO of Community Food Bank, applauds the creation of the Westlands Farmers Charitable Fund.

[READ FULL OPED](#)

HELP CONSUMERS UNDERSTAND AG

California Ag Today: Patrick Cavanuagh says consumers haven't made the connection from farm to fork.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

ANNUAL ALMOND CONFERENCE HAS FULL AGENDA FOR ATTENDEES


AgAlert: The Almond Board of California's annual conference is set for December 5th -7th.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

WORKSHOP EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVED FORECASTING ON WATER MANAGEMENT

ACWA: Forecasting tools have significant impacts on water management decisions.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Like us on
Facebook 

We are now on Twitter!

Follow us [@Westlands_Water](#)
and join the conversation today.



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

DEC
7

Groundwater
Sustainability Plan (GSP)
Water User Technical
Group Meeting

DEC
11

Westlands Farmers
Charitable Fund Launch
(RSVP required)

DEC
19

WWD Board Meeting

JAN
16

WWD Board Meeting

Holiday Office Closures

Westlands Water District will
be closed in the observance
of the following holidays:

Thursday, November 23,
and Friday, November 24, in
observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, December 22, and
Monday, December 25, for
the Christmas holiday

Monday, January 1, for New
Year's Day.



Important Notices

Community Food Bank Celebration

Community Food Bank's 25th Anniversary Silver Celebration was held on Friday, October 27th. The food bank distributed 38,000,000 pounds of food in 2016, serving over 280,000 people each month. Westlands was a proud sponsor at this annual event which helps to end hunger in our community.



Resource Management

Westlands Water District is committed to the responsible management of all entrusted resources, including land and water. The relationship between land and water is a delicate balance that requires constant management to ensure healthy crops, fertile land, water efficiency and maximum crop yields. Through careful management of water allocations, drainage, conservation programs, irrigated crop management, and ongoing research, Westlands is able to provide its growers with advanced information and technology to effectually manage and maintain natural resources.

New regulatory laws and requirements have recently gone into effect. These include Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Regular updates, workshops and seminars are provided to our landowners, water users and interested parties regarding these important programs. Our website contains detailed information regarding **SGMA** and **ILRP**.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Continued from page 1

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the settlement legislation. Be assured that over the next 60 days, we will be working hard to pursue any legislative opportunities toward ratification of the settlement.

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

to the launch of the



Monday, December 11, 2017

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Harris Ranch Ballroom

24505 W. Dorris Ave

Coalinga, CA 93210

A light lunch will be served.

Westlands growers joined forces with the Central Valley Community Foundation to launch the Westlands Farmers Charitable Fund, a philanthropic effort to improve the lives of underserved families in the Central Valley. Learn more about the fund, the partnership with the Central Valley Community Foundation, and benefits for Westlands growers and the Central Valley.

RSVP: Claudia Ruiz-Alvarez at claudia@centralvalleycf.org or 559-825-6182
Or register here <https://westlands.eventbrite.com> **Registration Code:** Westlands

