



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225-0007



IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-55000  
2.2.4.23

Mr. Tom Birmingham  
General Manager  
Westlands Water District  
3130 North Fresno Street  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Subject: Exemption from the Ownership and Full-Cost Pricing Provisions of Federal Reclamation Law

Dear Mr. Birmingham:

This letter serves as official notification that the Westlands Water District (District) is exempt from the ownership and full-cost pricing provisions of Federal reclamation law.<sup>1</sup> The exemption remains in effect until the requirements of Federal reclamation law, including Section 203(a) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA), dictate otherwise.

The Bureau of Reclamation, as mandated by Section 4011 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law No. 114-322; WIIN Act), has acted on the District's request to pre-pay and convert certain of the District's water service contracts. The District paid in full its applicable irrigation construction cost as collectively specified in the following contracts:

Westlands Water District	14-06-200-495A-IR1-P
Westlands Water District - Centinella Assignment	7-07-20-W0055B-IR5-P
Westlands WD and Santa Clara Valley Water District - Mercy Springs Partial Assignment	14-06-200-3365AB-IR5-P
Westlands Water District - Broadview Assignment	14-06-200-8092-IR5-P
Westlands Water District DD1 - Widren Assignment	14-06-200-8018B-IR5-P
Westlands Water District DD2 - Mercy Springs Partial Assignment	14-06-200-3365AC-IR5-P
Westlands WD - Oro Loma Water District Assignment	14-06-200-7823J-LTR1-P

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<sup>1</sup> Section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 and Section 426.16 of the Acreage Limitation Rules and Regulations (43 CFR part 426) provide that land in a district is exempt from the ownership and full-cost pricing provisions of Federal reclamation law when a district has fully repaid its construction cost obligation in accordance with the terms of its repayment contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

All follow-up actions are complete with respect to the January 6 – 10, 2020, final RRA water district review conducted by Reclamation. The RRA forms submittal requirements no longer apply to the District as a result of this exemption. Therefore, upon receipt of this letter, the District may discard all the landholder RRA forms in its files by burning, shredding, or pulping them in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 disposal requirements. This exemption does not relieve the District of any other existing or future obligations to the United States, and other contract provisions that remain relevant (such as water conservation provisions) are still in effect.

Congratulations to the District for completing repayment of its construction cost obligation to the United States and achieving exemption from the ownership and full-cost pricing provisions of Federal reclamation law.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the RRA team member assigned to the California-Great Basin Region, Ms. Angela Munson, at (303) 445-2042.

Sincerely,

**CHRISTOPHE**  
**R BEARDSLEY**

Digitally signed by  
CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY  
Date: 2020.12.09 09:22:34  
-0700

**Christopher J. Beardsley**  
**Director, Policy and Programs**