Westlands Water District is recognized as a world leader in agricultural water conservation and is committed to environmental restoration to protect at-risk species. Westlands has served the farmers, Naval Air Station Lemoore, and rural communities on the west side of Fresno and Kings counties for more than five decades. As stewards of one of California’s most precious natural resources, Westlands continually invests in conservation and encourages farmers to deploy innovative irrigation methods and to utilize the best available technology.

WATER EFFICIENCY

Westlands receives water from the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project, which is operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Westlands generally receives an initial water allocation from Reclamation in February. To help manage the extreme swings in water allocations from year to year, farmers in Westlands implement robust water efficiency measures, utilizing innovative water conservation technology, and change their crops or fallow fields to mitigate the impacts of low water allocation years.

Water Allocation % by Year

Westlands’ water distribution system is comprised of approximately 1,100 miles of buried pipeline and is outfitted with over 3,000 water meters. Westlands continually invests in and updates this sophisticated system, which measures every drop of water and minimizes losses caused by seepage and evaporation. Westlands is among the few, if not the only, agricultural water agencies in the world that distributes water through an entirely enclosed system.

FARMING IN WESTLANDS

Farmers in Westlands rank among the most productive and water efficient in the world, producing approximately 60 different high-quality, nutritious crops for the fresh, dry, canned, and frozen food markets, domestically and abroad. More than $2 billion in crops are grown in Westlands every year, generating more than $6 billion in farm-related economic activity each year, supporting nearly 60,000 jobs and feeding families in the San Joaquin Valley, across the state and around the world.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION: LOWER YOLO RANCH RESTORATION PROJECT

Completed October 2020

- Westlands restored 2,100 acres of cattle grazing land to tidal marsh, riparian, and upland buffer habitat
- Designed to enhance regional food web productivity in support of Delta smelt recovery and provide rearing habitats for out-migrating salmon
- Completed in partnership with the Department of Water Resources as part of California’s EcoRestore initiative
- $9 million to construct
- 13 years to plan and permit

Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703-6056
Phone: 559-224-1523 | pubaffairs@wwd.ca.gov | www.wwd.ca.gov