

Follow the Water Drop: From Snow Melt to Food on a Farm

The farmers and rural communities in Westlands rely on water from the Central Valley Project, which is operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and extends from Redding to Bakersfield.

1 The Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges:

Water used to produce high-quality, nutritious crops in Westlands begins as rain or snowfall that flows into reservoirs including **Shasta Lake**, **Trinity Lake**, and **Folsom Lake**.

2 Lifted at Jones Pumping Plant:

Water flows to the **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta** and is lifted into the **Delta-Mendota Canal** at the **C. W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant**. The nearby **Tracy Fish Collection Facility** operates in conjunction with the plant to protect fish from pump operations.

3 Stored in San Luis Reservoir:

The **San Luis Reservoir** is the largest off-stream reservoir in the country. By storing excess winter and spring flows from the Delta until the water is needed later in the year, it provides additional flexibility to both state and federal water delivery systems.

4 Moved through the San Luis Canal:

Water continues its journey to Westlands through the **San Luis Canal**, which extends approximately 102 miles from the **O'Neill Forebay**, near Los Banos, to **Kettleman City** in Kings County.

5 Entering Through Laterals, Ending on Farms:

Water enters the District's headworks, is pumped into Westlands' distribution system and is delivered to agricultural, municipal and industrial users through **Westlands'** water distribution system, which is comprised entirely of pressurized, buried pipeline (approximately 1,100 miles of pipe) and is outfitted with over 3,000 water meters that measure every drop of water and minimize losses caused by seepage and evaporation. Westlands also encourages farmers to deploy innovative irrigation methods and use the best available technology like microsprayers and drip irrigation to deliver water to crops, helping to maximize every drop.

