

# **WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**

## **POLICY FOR ALLOCATING DISTRICT**

### **GROUNDWATER RECHARGE CREDITS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Westlands Water District (District) will operate groundwater recharge programs to generate Groundwater Credits consistent with District's Regulations for the Groundwater Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater Within the Westside Subbasin (Regulations). The Board of Directors determined that allocating the Groundwater Credits to Groundwater Users is in the best interest of the District's water users and landowners.

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Manage the District's Groundwater Credits for the benefit of Groundwater Users.
2. Minimize Cap and Rescheduling Loss by maximizing groundwater recharge and generating Groundwater Credits.
3. Develop Projects and Management Actions to ensure the Subbasin achieves sustainability by 2040 and avoids exceeding Minimum Thresholds.
4. Maximize conjunctive use.
5. Avoid concentrated pumping in the Westside Subbasin (Subbasin).
6. Enable Groundwater Users without recharge facilities to procure Groundwater Credits.

#### **FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED**

1. Groundwater Credit disposition price.
2. Groundwater conditions and risks of violating the Minimum Thresholds.
3. Central Valley Project allocation.

#### **GROUNDWATER CREDIT ALLOCATION PROCESS**

1. Board of Directors will consider the Groundwater Credit disposition price prior to Proposition 218 Notice and Hearing. See the Groundwater Credit Allocation Process table for the schedule.

2. Staff will allocate Groundwater Credits if the Projected Central Valley Project allocation is twenty five percent (25%) or less and the Subbasin's groundwater levels are not within 15 percent or less of established Minimum Thresholds, unless directed otherwise by the Board. No more than one third of the Groundwater Credit inventory will be disposed in any given year.
3. Staff will allocate the District's Groundwater Credits on or before March 31 to Groundwater Users that submit a timely application for a Groundwater Allocation and request their pro-rata share of the District's Groundwater Credit.
4. Groundwater Users will pay for the District's Groundwater Credit according to "Article 2: District Rules and Regulations and District Terms and Conditions".

**Groundwater Credit Allocation Process table**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>December 15</b>	Groundwater Allocation Applications are mailed with an estimated Groundwater Credit Rate.
<b>January (first week)</b>	Proposition 218 Notice released
<b>January 15</b>	Groundwater Allocation Applications are due.
<b>February Board Meeting</b>	Board considers/approves the Budget, Rates and Charges, Salary Schedule and Estimate of Obligations and Revenues
<b>March 31</b>	District Groundwater Credits are allocated to Groundwater Users that submit a timely application.