



Westlands Water District

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April 23, 2009

This Notice contains important information about the following:

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April 21 Board Report

Principles for 21st Century Water Solutions

General Manager Tom Birmingham presented the Board of Directors with a statement of principles, based upon prior direction provided by the Board, setting forth the District's position on various pieces of legislation intended to address the ecosystem collapse and water project operations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Board unanimously approved the set of principles, which in summary are:

- The time for study is over, and now is the time for action.
- Restoration of the Delta will require a comprehensive program that addresses all factors limiting the abundance of fish species in the Delta.
- The District supports the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force's co-equal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability.
- The construction of a peripheral canal is critically important if the state is going to achieve the water supply reliability goal.
- The costs of constructing a peripheral canal should be borne by the agencies that benefit from its construction and operation.
- It would be inappropriate to impose new fees on export contractors absent a nexus between the fee and operations of the water projects.
- New storage will be required to meet the future demand for water supply in the state.
- Integration of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project would achieve water supply and operational efficiencies.
- Reform of Delta governance should be limited to creation of an appellate body to ensure consistency of actions with the co-equal goals of Delta restoration and water supply reliability.
- The District opposes a legislative imposition of a Natural Communities Conservation Program for the Delta.

CVP Water Supply

On April 21, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that the water supply allocation to south-of-Delta CVP agricultural contractors was being increased to 10 percent, based upon a dry forecast (90 percent exceedance). For informational purposes, Reclamation also prepared a median forecast (50 percent exceedance) that projected a 15 percent allocation. The higher allocation could be realized if the hydrology for the remainder of the season is normal.

The Department of Water Resources and Reclamation are pursuing authorization from the State Water Resources Control Board for Joint Point of Diversion, which would allow CVP water to be pumped at the State Water Project's Banks Pumping Plant. Because the aforementioned forecasts for the current allocation do not reflect this additional pumping capacity, if Joint Point of Diversion is approved the south-of-Delta agricultural contractors could see another increase in allocation during the month of May.

Supplemental Water Update

The District is working to acquire Supplemental Water to meet the approximately 156,000 AF of requests. Currently, 70,000 AF of south-of-Delta water has been acquired, with up to 30,000 AF of additional supplies under negotiation. Of this amount, 7,633 AF will be allocated in April and 7,125 AF is projected for allocation in May (approximately 0.02 AF/acre of requests for each allocation or 0.04 AF/acre in total). Future notices will keep water users informed of progress in acquiring and allocating the additional water.

Water Rates, Charges and Land-Based Charges Adopted

At a hearing on April 21, the Board of Directors adopted water rates, charges and land-based charges, effective March 1, 2009, for water service and various other programs and activities of the District. With the 10 percent CVP water supply announcement occurring on the same day as this hearing, the Board may wish to review further and update, where appropriate, portions of the 2009-10 budget, rates and charges. Accordingly, the billing for the land-based charges will be deferred for this review and is now projected for early in June with the first installment due June 25, 2009, and the remainder due September 25, 2009.

The complete list of rates, charges and credits will be available on the District's website at www.westlandswater.org. From the home page, point to the *Water & Power* tab and click on the *Water Rates* tab.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Drought Assistance

Farmers and ranchers in designated counties (including Fresno and Kings) with extreme or severe drought conditions may apply for assistance from USDA's NRCS until May 8, 2009. During this special sign-up period, NRCS will take applications for \$2 million available for practices designed to protect soil and air quality in areas of fallowed fields, keep orchard trees alive, and protect natural resources on ranch and pasture land. Due to the extraordinary conditions NRCS will pay a higher-than-normal 75 percent cost share rate.

Practices being offered through the program include establishing vegetative cover, soil surface roughening, incorporation of soil-stabilizing organic matter, silt fencing adjacent to highways, irrigation water management, pruning to keep trees alive, livestock water facilities, maintaining standing stubble and more. More information on the drought, conservation practices that may mitigate drought-related problems and payment rates for the current drought initiative are available at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html and program application information is available at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/equip. Interested parties may also contact the local NRCS office, listed in the government section of the phone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Accepting Reservations for Bollibokka Fishing Club

The District is accepting reservations for use of the Bollibokka Fishing Club. The District's March 19, 2009, Notice No. 275 contains the necessary information and reservation form for anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity. The club's season extends from April 22 through November 16, and there are still a number of weeks available at both the Clubhouse and the Way Station. The normal reservation period is Wednesday through Sunday, but reasonable accommodations to this schedule will be made, if possible. Please contact Sam Craig at (530) 639-1102 (office), (530) 701-3970 (cell) or samyubaguide@earthlink.net for additional information.

Customer Service Website

Water users are reminded of the website feature allowing the placement of water orders and access to water order information 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. Website water orders are cost effective because the orders are processed by the District's Water Management Information System and require little District staff interaction.

The website is located at <http://www.westlandswater.org>. Water users may contact their Customer Accounting technician at (559) 241-6250 to set up a secure login, or for assistance in using the various features of the customer section.

Holiday Office Closures & Water Ordering Procedures

District offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2009, in observance of Memorial Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

For Water Use On	Place Water Order By
Saturday or Sunday - May 23 or 24	Friday, May 22, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - May 25 or 26	Friday, May 22, noon

The emergency telephone number for after hours and holidays is (559) 224-1523.