



Westlands Water District

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May 21, 2009

This Notice contains important information about the following:

- **May 19 Board Report**
 - **Hearing on Preliminary Injunction for the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion**
 - **Canal Integration Program – Action May Be Required**
- **CVP Water Supply Update**
- **Supplemental Water Update**
- **Holiday Office Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

May 19 Board Report

Hearing on Preliminary Injunction for the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion

General Manager Tom Birmingham reported that on Friday, May 22, the District's request for a preliminary injunction related to the Biological Opinion for the Delta Smelt will be heard by Judge Wanger in Fresno. In its filing, the District asks that the court find that the BO is arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion; that the court order preparation of a new biological opinion that is consistent with the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Protection Act and other laws; and for injunctive relief directed to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, including pumping restrictions, pending completion of a new BO.

Canal Integration Program – Action May Be Required

The Board of Directors approved moving forward with a proposal for a Canal Integration Program to convey and store non-Project groundwater during 2009. For water users interested in participating in this program, attached to this Notice is a survey which must be completed and returned to the District by June 1, 2009.

CVP Water Supply Update

The Bureau of Reclamation's allocation to south-of-Delta agricultural contractors remains at 10 percent. There is some anticipation that Reclamation could make a water supply announcement in June reflecting a 5% increase in allocation. Deputy General Manager Tom Glover notes, however, that hopes for an increase hinge upon the use of Joint Point of Diversion at the SWP's Banks pumping plant, from now through the end of June.

Earlier this month, Reclamation did, however, notify the District of an increase in the amount of critical needs water for M&I use in the District to 2,049 acre-feet. This M&I quantity remains far short of normal District requirements so conservation is still required.

Supplemental Water Update

Water users have timely requested 155,522 acre-feet of Supplemental water. The District has firm commitments to acquire 115,652 acre-feet and is working to secure additional supply from a variety of sources, although further acquisitions are highly uncertain at this time. Of this amount, approximately 41,537 acre-feet are from sources south-of-Delta, with the balance (74,025 acre-feet) from the north. The timing for the delivery of the north-of-Delta water is subject to conditions in the Delta. For the south-of-Delta supplies, the timing and amounts of expected allocations are shown in the table below.

Allocation Month	AF Amount
April – Actual	7,633
May – Estimated	8,000
June – Estimated	6,686
July – Estimated	2,534
August – Estimated	5,088
Sep/Oct – Estimated	11,646

Based upon current information, with the supply of 115,652 acre-feet and the approximate 339,500 acres represented by timely requests, an average allocation of 0.34 AF/acre will result. Water users who need specific information for their accounts should contact their Customer Accounting Technician at (559) 241-6250.

Holiday Office Closure & 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.

CANAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM SURVEY

The District is making final preparations to implement a **Canal Integration Program (CIP)** for the summer of 2009. Based upon initial survey results, the District has negotiated a program that includes the following components:

1. Limits the amount of groundwater the District pumps-in to 30,000 AF total with monthly limits of 5,000 AF for June and September and 10,000 AF for July and August.
2. The program will begin in mid-June and end on September 30th.
3. Friant contractors will release "blending water" to reduce water quality impacts from the CIP to downstream users.
4. Requires 20-25% of the groundwater pump-in quantity be transferred to State Water Project contractors to mitigate impacts that blending will not address.
5. District will collect charges, including District O&M and Water Delivered Benefit, Department of Water Resources fees (conveyance, facility testing, and administration), and water quality testing, totaling approximately \$85 per acre foot.
6. Have water quality standards similar to last year (listed below).

Constituent	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
Arsenic	10 ppb
Nitrate	45 ppm
Sulfate	600 ppm
Total Dissolved Solids	1100 ppm
Boron	2 ppm
Bromides	TBD

Since the District will be limited on the amount of groundwater that may be pumped under the CIP, staff needs to develop a schedule that will summarize the planned operation for each participating well. If it is determined that interest from water users exceeds 30,000 AF total or the monthly limits, then staff will prorate participation (acre-feet) by the number of acres in the water user's account. For this reason it is imperative that the District receive your response. Please complete the following table with your planned schedule. **If the District receives no response by June 1, 2009, your ability to participate may be forfeited.** Please Fax your response(s) to: Israel Sanchez, Associate Resources Analyst, at (559) 241-6277

Water User Name: _____

Well Location (e.g., SW, SW, Sec. 15, T15S, R15S)	June (AF)	July (AF)	August (AF)	September (AF)