



# Westlands Water District

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April 26, 2010

*This Notice contains important information about the following:*

- **April 20 Board Report**
  - **Rescheduled Water Policy Revised**
- **CVP Water Supply**
- **Supplemental Water Update**
- **Accepting Reservations for Bollibokka Fishing Club**
- **Assessment Equalization Hearing**
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## **April 20 Board Report**

### **Rescheduled Water Policy Revised**

The Board of Directors revised the District's Rescheduled Water Policy, effective immediately, at its meeting in Five Points on Tuesday. In explaining the changes to the policy to water users in attendance at the meeting, General Manager, Tom Birmingham noted that the Board's action was prompted by its desire to provide more flexibility to water users in managing their water supplies and to promote transfers of additional water into the District. The significant revisions pertain to the provisions regarding the quantity of water an individual water user can anticipate rescheduling into the next water year and transfers of water from sources outside the District.

The quantity of water that may be rescheduled is unlimited, absent a limitation imposed by the Bureau of Reclamation or the District. However, the policy provides that the Acreage Based Cap will be 0.5 acre-feet per irrigable acre in a water user's account, excluding District-owned lands, and any remaining rescheduled water in excess of that amount will be the first water lost if a loss scenario occurs under the Bureau of Reclamation's rescheduling guidelines. With respect to transfers of water into the District, the previous provisions of the Rescheduled Water Policy that limited such transfers or made them subject to the highest risk of loss during the Rescheduling Period have been repealed. Accordingly, water users are no longer constrained from bringing water supplies into the District that are necessary for their operations.

A copy of the revised Rescheduled Water Policy is attached.

### **CVP Water Supply**

On April 15, 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation announced an increase in the allocation to south-of-Delta Ag contractors from 25 percent to 30 percent. Reclamation's announcement includes two forecasts, a conservative one (90% exceedance) reflecting a critically dry water year type and upon which the official allocation is based, and a median one (50% exceedance) for a dry

year. If actual hydrology matches the median forecast, it is possible that the official allocation will increase to 35 percent sometime in May.

CVP and SWP combined export pumping has been curtailed, since April 1, to 1,500 cfs as required by the Salmon Biological Opinion (BiOps), and will continue that level until May 31. San Luis storage is declining by about 2,500 acre-feet per day due to low export pumping. The CVP share of storage is currently about 867,000 acre-feet. Shasta storage is at 4,268,000 acre-feet (108% of the 15 year average). Reservoir inflows have been about 23,000 acre-feet per day and releases are scheduled to increase to comply with flood protection requirements.

### **Supplemental Water Update**

The District is working to acquire 2010-2011 Supplemental Water to meet 67,496 acre-feet of timely requests for 139,113 acres. There are also 4,100 acre-feet of late requests. Revised 2010-2011 Agreements to Accept and Purchase Supplemental Water were accepted until close of business on April 23, 2010. Any future increased requests will be filled on a first-come-first served basis.

Currently, 48,000 acre-feet of south-of-Delta water has been acquired, with up to 60,000 acre-feet of additional supplies under negotiation. Of this amount, 7,855 acre-feet (0.0565 acre-feet per acre) will be allocated in April and 7,730 acre-feet (0.0556 acre-feet per acre) are projected for allocation in May. Future notices will keep water users informed of progress in acquiring and allocating the additional water.

The District has allocated 148,346 acre-feet of 2009-2010 Supplemental Water to water users, based upon timely applications totaling 155,522 acre-feet. As explained in recent notices, Reclamation has informed the District that the Supplemental Water remaining to be allocated to water users with timely requests of 7,176 acre-feet has not yet been moved into San Luis Reservoir. The District anticipates this water will be pumped into the reservoir later this year in the summer, and when that occurs the water will be allocated to those water users with timely outstanding 2009-2010 Agreements to Accept and Purchase Supplemental Water. Water users remain financially responsible for this remaining Supplemental Water.

### **Accepting Reservations for Bollibokka Fishing Club**

The District is accepting reservations for use of the Bollibokka Fishing Club. The District's March 18, 2010, Notice No. 301 contains the necessary information and reservation form for anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity. The club's season extends from April 21 through November 15, 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 Michael Caranci of The Fly Shop at (800) 669-3474 (office), (530) 222-3572 (fax), michael@theflyshop (email), or by mail at 4140 Churn Creek Road, Redding CA 96002. For additional information, visit the Club's website: <http://www.theflyshop.com/adventures/bollibokka.htm>.

**Assessment Equalization Hearing**

The Board of Directors will hold an equalization hearing to establish the District's 2010 Repayment Contract Benefit Assessment. The hearing will be on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., prior to the monthly Board meeting at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA. Copies of the 2010 Assessment Book are available for review at the Fresno and Five Points offices. The Assessment Book contains the valuation of all District lands and is based upon the benefit assessment valuation schedule approved by the Board at its February meeting.

Landowners who question their land valuation and wish to petition the Board must submit a written application for a reduction of the land valuation on or before May 13, 2010. Landowners must include the reasons supporting the claim for reduction and an opinion of the proper valuation. For additional information, please contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212.

**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 Closure & Water Ordering Procedures**

District offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2010, in observance of Memorial Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Saturday or Sunday - May 29 or 30	Friday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - May 31 or June 1	Friday, May 28, noon

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

## WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

### RESCHEDULED WATER POLICY

1. The District or a water user may reschedule water, regardless of source, from one contract year to the next. The period of use for Rescheduled Water (Rescheduling Period) shall be the following, unless otherwise restricted by the Bureau of Reclamation:
  - 1) If San Luis Reservoir fills, March 1 to date determined by Reclamation (usually about April 15); or
  - 2) If San Luis Reservoir does not fill, to the end of the current water year.

The use of all contract water supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation, including use of the then current year's allocation, shall be counted toward the use of Rescheduled Water.

2. Unless the District is notified before the end of the water year, all water remaining in a water user's account at the end of the contract year will be rescheduled on its behalf by the District.
3. So long as there is no projected impact to the future year water supply or other water supplies that are available to the District, a water user may reschedule more water than it projects it will use during the Rescheduling Period, but said water user shall bear all associated risks. To provide an equitable manner for the District to apportion water users' use of Rescheduled Water, there is a 0.5 acre-feet per irrigable acre Acreage Based Cap for Rescheduled Water, excluding District-owned lands. Unless limited pursuant to 4. herein, a water user may reschedule water in excess of the Acreage Based Cap, but remaining Rescheduled Water in excess of the Acreage Based Cap shall be the first water lost pursuant to 6. herein.
4. The Bureau of Reclamation or the District may limit the amount of water that may be rescheduled at the end of the contract year (February 28). "Cap Loss" is the term for water remaining at year end in excess of the limit imposed by Reclamation or the District which shall be lost. In addition, loss of water may occur at the end of the Rescheduling Period, called "Rescheduling Loss", due to Reclamation's annual rescheduling guidelines.
5. Both Cap Loss and Rescheduling Loss, in that order, will be applied to a water user's account at the end of the Rescheduling Period, so that the water user has the greatest opportunity to deliver all its water supply. However, if the Rescheduling Period is extended to the end of the current water year, Cap Loss will be applied to water user accounts at the beginning of the Rescheduling Period, after adjusting such accounts for internal transfers of Rescheduled Water received and approved by the District on or before March 10. Any loss by water users will be prorated based upon acre-feet.

6. Losses will be apportioned to and in the following order and manner:
  - 1) Any remaining Rescheduled Water in excess of the Acreage Based Cap.
  - 2) Water rescheduled by the District.
  - 3) Remaining Rescheduled Water.
  - 4) Delivered Rescheduled Water in excess of the Acreage Based Cap.
  - 5) Delivered Rescheduled Water within the Acreage Based Cap.
7. For losses, water users shall pay all water costs that the District incurs, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority O&M rate and any applicable District rates.