

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

COMMITTED TO PROVIDING FARMERS WITH A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Formed in 1952, the Westlands Water District encompasses more than 600,000 acres of farmland in western Fresno and Kings counties. Since its creation, Westlands has pursued its mission of providing District farmers with a reliable and adequate water supply and drainage services. Today the District serves approximately 600 family-owned farms that average 900 acres in size.

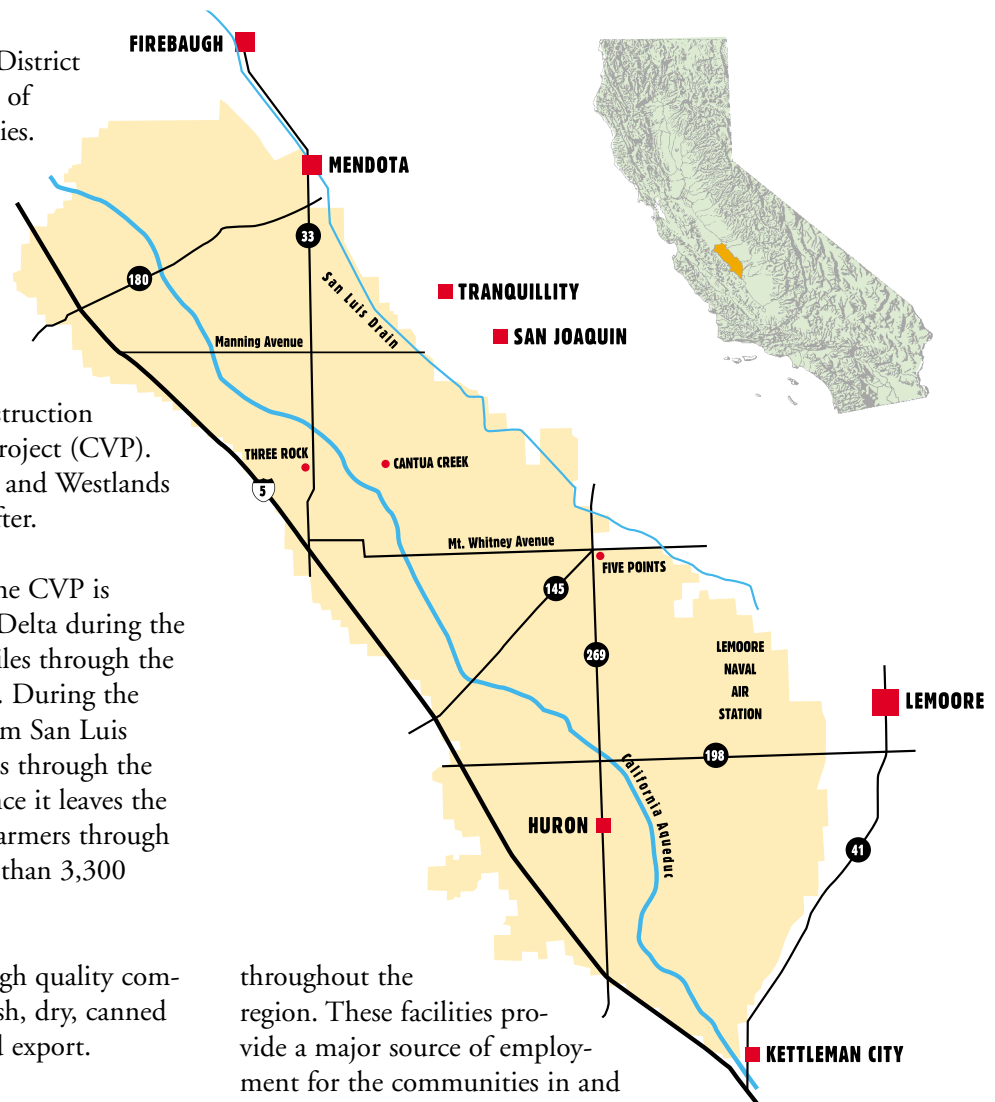
In 1962, the federal government began construction of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The San Luis Canal was completed in 1968 and Westlands began receiving water deliveries soon thereafter.

The water delivered to Westlands through the CVP is pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta during the fall and winter months. It is delivered 70 miles through the Delta-Mendota Canal to San Luis Reservoir. During the spring and summer, the water is released from San Luis Reservoir and delivered to Westlands farmers through the San Luis Canal and the Coalinga Canal. Once it leaves the federal project canals, water is delivered to farmers through 1,034 miles of underground pipe and more than 3,300 water meters.

Westlands farmers produce more than 60 high quality commercial food and fiber crops sold for the fresh, dry, canned and frozen food markets, both domestic and export.

More than 50,000 people live and work in the communities dependent on the District's agricultural economy. In addition to the hundreds of family farms, the District is home to several facilities that package, process and distribute crops grown

throughout the region. These facilities provide a major source of employment for the communities in and near the District's boundaries, including Mendota, Huron, Tranquillity, Firebaugh, Three Rocks, Cantua Creek, Helm and San Joaquin, as well as the communities of Kerman, Lemoore and Coalinga.



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Water Efficiency & Innovation

Water is a precious resource that supports the agricultural economy on the San Joaquin Valley's west side. Westlands' contract with the U.S. calls for the delivery of 1,150,000 acre-feet of water per year. (One acre-foot of water is enough water to cover one acre of land with one foot of water.) As a result of reduced water allocations in recent years, Westlands farmers have become expert at doing more with less.

To grow and process crops that contribute more than \$3.5 billion to the economies of Fresno and Kings counties, Westlands farmers employ the latest irrigation technologies to make each drop count. Over the past 20 years, 83 percent of the water delivered to Westlands farms has been used directly by crops.

Much of this efficiency results from farming practices such as staggered applications, drip irrigation techniques, and the use of global positioning satellites (GPS). These conservation techniques help mitigate water quality problems on land impacted by poor drainage, increase crop yields, improve crop quality, maximize use of limited energy supplies and contribute to reductions in on-farm production costs.

Leaders in Productivity

In a normal water year, Westlands farmers produce:

- Enough cotton to make 827 million cotton t-shirts
- Enough tomatoes to make approximately 4.9 billion bottles of ketchup
- Enough sugar beets to produce more than 70 million pounds of sugar
- More than five million pounds of asparagus
- More than 229 million heads of lettuce
- More than 25 million pounds of almonds

Water Supply

Westlands has experienced dramatic reductions in the amount of CVP water it receives on an annual basis. Westlands has a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the delivery of approximately 1.15 million acre feet of water per year. The full contract amount entitles Westlands to enough water to provide slightly more than two acre-feet of water annually for every acre of irrigated land in the District. Since 1991, the U.S. has provided an average of only slightly more than one half of the District's contract water supply.

Agricultural Water Use

- Average water use by agriculture in California – 3.13 acre-feet per acre
- Average water use in Westlands with 100 percent allocation – 2.02 acre-feet per acre
- Average water use in Westlands with 60 percent allocation – 1.21 acre-feet per acre

Drainage

Approximately one-third of the land in Westlands faces significant drainage problems. As a result, salt present in imported water from the Delta accumulates in the soil. The federal government agreed to provide drainage service to the farmers on the Valley's west side when it authorized the Central Valley Project's San Luis Unit in 1960. The United States has yet to meet its contractual obligation to provide drainage service to the San Luis Unit, including Westlands. As a result, increasing amounts of otherwise productive land have been rendered useless.

In February of 2000, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeal ruled that the United States must fulfill its obligation to provide drainage to farms on the Valley's west side. However, the Court did not identify a specific drainage remedy. Shortly after the decision, federal officials proposed the retirement of up to 200,000 acres of drainage-impacted farmland from irrigated agricultural production as an alternative to providing drainage.

Westlands Water District By The Numbers

General Information

Date District was Organized	September 8, 1952
Gross Area	604,540 acres
CVP Contract Water Supply	1,150,000 acre-feet

District Internal Distribution System

Total Pipeline Length	1,034 miles
Maximum Pipeline Diameter	96 inches
Minimum Pipeline Diameter	10 inches
Ag Deliveries	3,300+ meters
Non-Ag Deliveries	250 meters

How Lands Are Irrigated

Type of System	1990	1997	2000
Surface Systems			
Furrow	38%	32%	27%
Border Strip	5%	2%	2%
Pressurized Systems			
Sprinkler Only	16%	4%	14%
Drip/Micro	3%	8%	13%

Project Facilities

San Luis Canal/California Aqueduct

Length in District	68.67 miles
Maximum Top Width	257 feet
Maximum Bottom Width	110 feet
Maximum Depth	36 feet
Capacity at:	
Panoche Creek	13,000 cfs
Kettleman City	7,000 cfs

Coalinga Canal

Total Length	12.8 miles
Length of Canal	11.5 miles
Maximum Top Width	60 feet
Maximum Bottom Width	12 feet
Maximum Depth	16 feet
Capacity	1,100 cfs

Westlands Farmers Feeding the World

Westlands' crops can be found far beyond the District's boundaries. As the trend toward globalization increases, many of the commodities grown in Westlands are distributed to mature and emerging markets throughout the world.

California's agricultural exports represent more than 20 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports. The state produces six of the top 10 export products in the U.S. – dairy, grapes, beef, cotton, lettuce and almonds. Westlands leads the state in producing many of these top export commodities.

West side farmers cater to the world's needs by ensuring their products reach every corner of the world. Experts estimate west side crops such as almonds and cotton will continue to realize a steady increase in export value due to increased production and expanding world markets.



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