

Westlands Water District

Water User Notice

March 9, 2001

This notice contains important information about the following and may require your response:

- 2001-2002 CVP Water Update
- Rescheduling Update
- Supplemental Water Application
- Water User Workshop March 19

2001-2002 CVP Water Update

On February 15, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released its initial allocation for the 2001-2002 water year, with south-of-Delta water contractors receiving a 15 percent Central Valley Project (CVP) water supply. The initial allocation was based on February 1 conditions. With continued wet weather, we estimate that the allocation could increase to 20%-30% in the March announcement. With normal precipitation during the remainder of the season, the final allocation could reach as high as 40%-50%. Although these projections by the District are being made early in the year, we are cautiously optimistic that we will receive the higher allocation from the Bureau.

Rescheduling Update

The District ended the 2000-2001 water year with approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water supply remaining undelivered and in San Luis Reservoir, which has now been rescheduled for use in 2001-2002. In past years, all rescheduled water remaining unused at the time the Reservoir begins sustained drawdown is lost. Under this scenario this year, it is likely that the District would have approximately 115,000 acre-feet of unused water (55,000 acre-feet delivered in March) on April 1, the projected date of the Reservoir's sustained drawdown, therefore, lost by water users.

This year, however, the District, other contractors, and the Bureau of Reclamation have agreed that an alternative loss criteria based upon "foregone pumping" will be used. As a result, and again assuming sustained drawdown of the Reservoir begins April 1, the District has delivered 55,000 acre-feet, and 115,000 acre-feet remain unused, then approximately 60,000 – 90,000 acre-feet would be lost to foregone pumping, leaving 25,000 – 55,000 acre-feet available for use during the remainder of the 2001-2002 water year.

Further, if State and Federal fish actions are not required and sustained drawdown of the Reservoir does not commence until April 15, then probably all rescheduled water remaining in the Reservoir at that date will be lost. With estimated demand in the District for March through mid-April totaling about 91,000 acre-feet, approximately 79,000 acre-feet would be lost under this scenario (170,000 less 91,000).

Within the District, and in accordance with our existing rules, any loss will be allocated first to late reschedule applications and District cushion amounts rescheduled, then to water remaining at the drawdown date.

The District continues to meet with the Bureau to insure that rescheduled water supplies will be protected to the greatest extent possible and that the loss to the District and water users will be minimized. Questions on CVP rescheduling operations may be directed to Brian Hauss at (559) 241-6218, or Thad Bettner at (559) 241-6215.

Supplemental Water Application

The District will acquire supplemental water from a variety of sources for the 2001-2002 water year. If you need supplemental water, **please complete the enclosed agreement and return it to the Fresno Office by close of business on Wednesday, March 28, 2001.**

All supplemental water acquired will be pooled and a single, blended rate will be determined. We estimate that this water will cost water users between \$110 and \$150 per acre-foot (AF). Based upon the estimated cost, a deposit of between \$35 and \$75 will be required prior to the water being allocated to your account. The District may be able to begin allocating some supplemental water as early as May.

Because of the low, initial State Water Project (SWP) and CVP allocations this year, we expect below-normal water supplies to be available for acquisition for our supplemental water program. As a result, we may not be able to meet all water user requests for supplemental water, in which case, the water that is acquired will be ratably allocated based upon agreements that are timely received. In addition, with lower supply availability, the cost of the water will probably be in the mid-to-higher-end of the range noted above.

Regarding the cost of the water, the attached agreement allows a water user to elect not to receive any supplemental water if the actual initial estimated rate is above a specific amount, as determined and indicated by the water user (see section 2 of the agreement). **Please note that if a dollar amount is entered in the space provided, and the actual estimated rate, as determined by the District, for the water acquired is more than the amount specified, no supplemental water will be allocated to the water user.** You may ignore this provision by leaving the space blank or by drawing a line through it.

The agreement also provides water users with options for the type of water they want to receive - supplemental Project, supplemental non-Project, or both. Accordingly, the water will be allocated to your account as Project or non-Project water, allowing O&M and full-cost rates to be applied as required by Reclamation law. Please indicate your preference, if any, and we will try to accommodate your request.

The agreement must be received in the Fresno office by the March 28 deadline. Faxed agreements are acceptable; original documents are not required. Requests postmarked but not received by the due date are not considered timely. Requests received after the deadline will receive a lower priority for allocations. Please direct questions to your Customer Accounting Technician at (559) 241-6250, or Brian Hauss, Supervisor of Water Resources, at (559) 241-6218.

Annual Water Users' Workshop is March 19

Westlands' Annual Water Users' Workshop will be held Monday, March 19, 2001, at 2 p.m. at the District's Five Points Shop and Field Office, 23050 W. Mt. Whitney Ave. All water users are invited and encouraged to attend.

The workshop will provide up-to-date information on the 2001-2002 CVP water supply, rescheduled water, supplemental water, and 2001-2002 water rates. Dan Nelson, Executive Director of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, has been invited to speak on issues pertaining to south-of-Delta water users. In addition, Amelia Minaberrigarai, an attorney with the law firm of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, will discuss CVP contract renewal matters.

**2001-2002 AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND
PURCHASE SUPPLEMENTAL WATER**

Water User Name _____ Telephone No. _____

WWD Account No. _____ Amount Requested (AF) _____

- I request **only** supplemental non-Project water.
 - I will take **either** supplemental non-Project or supplemental Project water.
 - I will take either supplemental non-Project or supplemental Project water, but prefer to receive supplemental non-Project water first.
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1. I request that the District purchase on my behalf the amount of water indicated above.
2. I understand that the District's estimated rate is approximately \$110 to \$150 per AF and agree to pay the actual delivered cost of such water; provided, however, that if the actual initial estimated rate is greater than \$ _____ per AF, I elect not to receive any supplemental water.
3. I understand that by submitting this agreement, I am **obligated** to purchase the requested quantity of water if the District makes the water available. I understand, however, that I can revoke this agreement by written notice to the District, provided the District has not already agreed with other agencies to acquire water on my behalf.
4. I agree to pay a deposit estimated to be between \$35 and \$75 per AF to be determined by the District.
5. I understand that allocation, use, and payment of this water is subject to Westlands Water District Regulations and the Terms and Conditions for Agricultural Water Service.
6. I agree to all conditions stated above.

Date _____ Print Name _____

Signature _____

Please complete this agreement and return it to the Fresno Office no later than close of business, Wednesday, March 28, 2001. Fax it to the Customer Accounting Department at (559) 241-6276, or (559) 241-6277. You may also mail it to: Westlands Water District, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703. Requests postmarked but not received by the due date are not considered timely.

***Westlands Water District
Annual Water Users' Workshop***

Monday, March 19, 2001

2 p.m.

Westlands' Five Points Shop and Field Office

Program

Welcome

*Al Dingle, President
Board of Directors*

Introductions and Opening Comments

Tom Birmingham, General Manager/General Counsel

**Water Supply Outlook for 2001-2002:
CVP Allocation, Rescheduling & Transfers**

Thad Bettner, Director of Resources

Issues Affecting South-of-Delta Water Users

Tom Birmingham

Dan Nelson, Executive Director

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

CVP Contract Renewal

Amelia Minaberrigarai, Attorney

Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard

**2001-2002 Adopted Budget, Water Rates,
Charges & Assessments**

Dave Ciapponi, Assistant General Manager

Groundwater Conditions

Thad Bettner, Director of Resources

Questions & Answers

Tom Birmingham