

## **WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

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June 26, 2013

Subject: Summary of water conservation efforts by West Stanislaus Irrigation District.

West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID) performed a variety of water conservation efforts during the year of 2012. The majority of the effort focused on Main Canal SCADA and automation and best management practices on the farm level. The following is a list of conservation efforts WSID either directly implemented or promoted to its customers:

August 2012 – A Newsletter was sent to Growers by the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. The Newsletter focused on Program Assistance. The coalition is offering on-farm irrigator training to help farmers understand the importance of proper irrigation drainage management. Funding sources are available to growers in the Westside Coalition to help offset the cost of installing farm practices to protect surface water by minimizing/eliminating tailwater runoff while improving water conservation. The programs include: USDA Agricultural Water Quality Enhancement Program and The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition is offering its members a total of \$30,000 for constructing new tailwater silt ponds or to clean out existing silt ponds.

November 2012- Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition held a workshop that covered the following topics: Review of water and sediment monitoring. Requirements for the new Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Best management Practices for Westside Ag, which included grants for BMP installations and what practices are working best to manage irrigation runoff to increase water conservation and improve water quality.

December 2013- Growers had the opportunity to attend the Ingram Hospital Stakeholder Meeting. Objectives were identified and discussed by the group which included: effectiveness in regards to tailwater and stormwater. Also, to help identify parcels that may need sediment basins. Explore the idea of growing and maintaining vegetation in the bottom of drainage ditches to filter out sediment, pesticides and herbicides and at the same time minimizing these areas from being sources of crop pests and disease.

During 2012, the District made significant progress toward automating its Main Canal including automating deliveries into two distribution laterals that feeds off the Main Canal. Implementation of automation of two pump stations and automation of two lateral radial gates to control flow into the distribution system was implemented. This effort help reduce/eliminate spill from the distribution facility while maintaining accurate reliable service to growers. Additional automation efforts started late in 2012 where eight more radial gates that control flow to the distribution facility was automated. That effort will be implemented during the 2013 irrigation season. Once these efforts are all operating satisfactorily, the District will have better control of operational losses and will have the ability to quantify those losses.