



## WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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**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 2013. 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:

February 2013- The Coalition, RCD and Stakeholders put together a workshop to educate farm staff that directly handles water and pesticides about the water quality regulations and best management practices to keep pesticides, herbicides and sediment on the farm and out of the state water. It is felt that if farm staff knew about the regulations, the purpose of the regulations, about methods to mitigate the runoff of pesticides, herbicides and sediment off the farm and into surface waters, the number of exceedances could be reduced significantly.

March 2013 – A Newsletter was sent to Growers by the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. The Newsletter focused on Long Term Irrigated Lands Program and the key components of the new orders, which included regulation of discharges to groundwater as well as the continuation of current surface water program. The Newsletter also informed farmers and landowners that Coalition Field Representative, Rich Peltzer has been working with farmers to help understand their responsibilities and following up on surveys and management practice efforts of the Westside Coalition. Rich makes weekly visits to the area visiting with farmers and observing discharges.

April 2013- Westside Agricultural Tour: This was a working tour to further develop the stakeholder process on the Westside; broaden knowledge of Westside agricultural operations; and develop understanding and opportunities between Westside stakeholders so conservation issues can be addressed in a more efficient and cohesive fashion. The topics for presentation and discussion at each stop: Orchards, row crops, alfalfa fields; fertilizer management; salinity and soil health; herbicide management and handling; on farm irrigation systems and management; economics of agricultural operations; Best Management Practices-sediment ponds, irrigation return systems, and vegetated ditches.

During 2013, the District made significant advancement in automating its Main Canal. In previous years, efforts were expended integrating SCADA/automation into all six of the District's pumping plants. This effort greatly improved accurate and reliable water supply service to District customers by automatically maintaining a constant water surface elevation over a wide range of demand. In 2012, the headworks of two laterals were automated which proved to provide increased reliable water service to growers and reduce operational spill from the end of laterals. Since it was a success at these two sites, headworks at the remaining laterals were automated in 2013.

The most significant water conservation improvement made in 2013 was construction of Phase I of the Main Canal Modernization Project. This project replaced two pumping plants with one new pumping and replaced roughly 4,400 ft. of open concrete lined canal with a 96 inch reinforced concrete pipeline. This increase water service reliability to growers while greatly improving river diversions to more accurately meet demand. Construction of Phase II will begin in 2014.