

# ***WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2017***

**P.O. Box 944  
Hermiston, OR 97838**

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Westland patrons,

Fall weather is here and the irrigation season is winding down. The longer water season is a welcome change from the previous two years when the reservoir did not fill and water ran out in August.

Here is some news and information since the spring newsletter...

## **WATER – HOW LONG WILL WATER RUN THIS FALL?**

Current projections show water being available until approximately October 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. For updated information, please check the District's website, [www.westlandirrigation.com](http://www.westlandirrigation.com) ; Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WestlandIrrigationDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/WestlandIrrigationDistrict) ; or feel free to phone the District office at 541-667-2030. Please remember it is each water user's responsibility to keep track of the amount of their water use; if additional water is needed to avoid an overage charge, it must be obtained prior to stored McKay water no longer being in the Westland canal. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this water season successful.

## **LITIGATION: ELH LLC et al vs. WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

To recap, a complaint was filed in June 2016 in federal court against the District by two entities and seven individual Westland Irrigation District water users alleging that the District has not been following Oregon water law in the distribution of irrigation water to its patrons. The entities and individuals who filed the complaint were:

- ELH LLC, owned by Patrick and Dixie Echeverria;
- Oregon Hereford Ranch LLC, owned by Doug and Don Bennett;
- Paul Gelissen;
- Frank Mueller;
- Maurice and Lucy Ziemer;
- Craig and Cynthia Parks; and
- Richard and Kristine Carpenter.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon heard oral arguments on this complaint October 18 in Portland. Judge Simon issued his ruling on March 20 of this year, dismissing the plaintiffs' complaint.

The week following the October 18 federal court hearing, plaintiffs filed a similar complaint against the District in state court in Umatilla County. Depositions are being taken and document production is currently underway as this complaint winds its way toward a future trial date. The District continues to strongly disagree with the claims filed against it and looks forward to the allegations made in the complaint being resolved.

Most recently, on September 20 a hearing was held in Umatilla County Circuit Court on the plaintiffs' case against the Oregon Water Resources Department. The presiding Judge indicated he was going to dismiss the case for lack of any meritorious claims, and allowed the plaintiffs to withdraw their claims instead. Plaintiffs conceded and filed a notice of withdrawal of all of their claims against the Department.

In addition, Plaintiff Frank Mueller has filed notice in the same Circuit Court dismissing all claims he asserted against Westland Irrigation District.

Information and updates will continue to be made available as the legal process grinds forward.

## **OPENING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITION**

Westland Irrigation District Board of Directors has one position that will expire on December 31, 2017. The position for director of division 4 (currently held by Jack Bellinger) will be open. This is a three-year term beginning January 2018. Nominating petitions for candidates are available at the district office located at 77096 Highway 207, Echo. Petitions must be filed at the district office no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 10, 2017.

## **DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office (physical address): 77096 Highway 207, Echo, OR 97826

Office (mailing address): P.O. Box 944, Hermiston, OR 97838

Telephone: 541-667-2030; Fax: 541-667-2031

Office Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

## **PERSONNEL**

District Manager, Mike Wick	541-571-1200
Office Manager, Tami Sherer	541-667-2030
Field Supervisor, Bobby Bailey	541-571-1202
Ditch Rider, Alex Troppman	541-571-1201
Maintenance, Steven Cleveland	541-571-1203

## **DIRECTORS**

Bob Levy, Chair	Division 1
Jack Bellinger, Vice Chair	Division 4
Jordan Bennett	Division 2
Cindy Parks	Division 3
Justin Terry	Division 5