Office: 286 W. Cromwell Ave. | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5199, Fresno, CA 93711
Phone: 559-241-6233 | pubaffairs@wwd.ca.gov | wwd.ca.gov

Westlands Water District

The Valley Clean Infrastructure Plan



The Valley Clean Infrastructure Plan (VCIP) is a forward-looking initiative designed to repurpose up to 136,000 acres of drainage-impaired and water-limited lands in Westlands Water District (Westlands) for solar generation, energy storage, and transmission. The VCIP includes Westlands' owned and privately held acreage. This transition is essential due to persistent water scarcity and the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which have made farming untenable on many acres.

The VCIP consists of two main elements: an "Energy Resource Plan" and an "Infrastructure Plan". The Energy Resource Plan consists of solar power generating facilities and battery storage systems. The Infrastructure Plan details the conveyance of the solar power to the grid.

California Assembly Bill 2661 (Soria 2024) authorizes Westlands to construct, operate, own, and maintain solar generation resources, battery electric storage systems, and electric transmission facilities. The bill also directs Westlands to develop a community benefits plan with input from local communities as part of the VCIP, a commitment that has been reaffirmed by the Westlands Board.

The VCIP offers a productive, sustainable alternative to empty fields, transforming water constrained acreage into assets that benefit California's energy future, local economies, and the environment.



Water Management

Supports SGMA goals by reducing groundwater demand and mitigating subsidence risk, and reducing uncertainty by concentrating and maximizing available water supplies on the remaining irrigated acreage.



Economic Development & Job Creation

The plan is projected to create approximately 6,000 construction jobs over a decade and 800 permanent jobs, diversifying Fresno County's economy and supporting local communities.



Environmental Stewardship

VCIP prioritizes development on disturbed lands, minimizing impacts on wildlife habitat while clean energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions.



Agricultural Resilience

VCIP provides landowners with new revenue streams, preserves generational family farms through long-term leases, and ensures continued agricultural activity.



Supports State Clean Energy Goals

VCIP would generate up to 21 GW of renewable energy, helping California meet its 100% clean energy mandate by 2045 and powering the equivalent of nine million homes. At full build-out, VCIP could provide up to one-sixth of California's electricity needs in 2035 and one-tenth by 2050.