Addendum to Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR

1 Introduction

This is an Addendum to the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR (Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority 2015).

1.1 Background

The California Environmental Quality Act [(CEQA); codified as Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.)] requires public agencies to analyze and consider the environmental consequences of their decisions to approve development projects over which they exercise discretion. CEQA achieves this objective by requiring agencies to prepare Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for projects with the potential to cause significant impacts on the physical environment. EIRs are public documents that assess environmental effects related to the planning, construction, and operation of a project, and indicate ways to reduce or avoid possible environmental damage. An EIR also discloses growth-inducing impacts, effects found not to be significant, significant cumulative impacts, and significant impacts that cannot be avoided, if any. The purpose of an EIR is to inform. EIRs are not policy documents that recommend project approval or denial.

In 2015, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (State Clearinghouse # 2011011010) on long-term water transfers in compliance with CEQA and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq., as amended) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR evaluated the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of transferring water from willing sellers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys to the SLDMWA, Contra Costa Water District (WD), or East Bay Municipal Utility District (MUD). Cordua Irrigation District (ID) and Butte WD are listed as potential sellers in this EIS/EIR, and would function as Responsible Agencies under CEQA related to water transfers from their districts. After completion of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR, Cordua ID and Butte WD identified that they may want to consider water transfers to other buyers that were not included in the EIS/EIR,

including State Water Project (SWP) contractors in the Central Valley or southern California.

1.2 CEQA Requirements

Section 21166 of CEQA (the statute) sets forth the requirements for how a lead agency is to consider changes to a proposed project or the availability of new information that occurs after an EIR for the project has been completed, and Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines reiterates those requirements, along with additional guidance. Section 21166 of CEQA states:

When an environmental impact report has been prepared for a project pursuant to this division, no subsequent or supplemental environmental impact report shall be required by the lead agency or by any responsible agency, unless one or more of the following events occurs:

(a) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the environmental impact report.

(b) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions in environmental impact report.

(c) New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete, becomes available.

Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that:

(a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR … due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR … due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete … shows any of the following:

(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;

(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that an Addendum to an EIR should be prepared "if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred." The decision-making body will consider the Addendum in concert with the Final EIR prior to making a decision on the Project.

2 Project Background and Project Description

The Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR was certified and adopted by the SLDWMA in April 2015. Chapter 2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR included a description of the alternatives. The Proposed Project included transfers from 28 sellers on the Sacramento, American, Yuba, Feather, and Merced river systems or in the Delta (see Section 2.3.2.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR). The water would be transferred to East Bay MUD (through its Freeport Diversion Facility on the Sacramento River), Contra Costa WD (through its Delta diversion facilities), or SLDWMA (through the CVP or SWP Delta diversion facilities) (see Section 1.2.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR). Cordua ID and Butte WD were both included as potential sellers. There is a current lawsuit challenging the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR pending in federal district court; however, responsible agencies such as Butte WD and Cordua ID must assume that the document fully meets the requirements of CEQA and is permitted to approve or disapprove the project. (Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21167.3; State CEQA Guidelines § 15233.)

2.1 Potential Water Transfer Methods

A water transfer temporarily moves water from a willing seller to a willing buyer. To make water available, the seller must take an action to reduce consumptive use or use water in storage. The EIS/EIR analyzed water made

available through four mechanisms: groundwater substitution, cropland idling/crop shifting, stored reservoir release, and conservation (see Section 2.3.2.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR). Cordua ID and Butte WD could transfer water using two methods:

- Groundwater substitution: groundwater substitution transfers occur when sellers choose to pump groundwater in lieu of diverting surface water supplies, thereby making the surface water available for transfer.

- Cropland idling/crop shifting: cropland idling makes water available for transfer that would have been used for agricultural production. For crop shifting transfers, water is made available when farmers shift from growing a higher water use crop to a lower water use crop.

The EIS/EIR analyzed transfers from Cordua ID of up to 12,000 acre-feet of transfer water through groundwater substitution, and Butte WD of up to 5,500 acre-feet of transfer water through groundwater substitution and 11,500 acre-feet of transfer water through cropland idling/crop shifting. The refinements to the Proposed Project considered in this Addendum do not include any changes to the way that water is made available for transfer, including the transfer quantity, transfer mechanisms, timing of transfer availability, or how the transfer is moved through the river systems and the Delta. The refinements only involve adding potential buyers for Cordua ID and Butte WD, as further described in Section 3 below.

2.2 Water Transfer Buyers

The Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR analyzes transfers to ten participating members of the SLDWMA, Contra Costa WD, and East Bay MUD. Cordua ID and Butte WD would like to also consider temporarily transferring water to SWP contractors in the Central Valley or southern California. These SWP contractors were not included as potential buyers in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Figure 1 shows Cordua ID, Butte WD, and the potential SWP contractors that could buy the transfer water. Potential SWP buyers include:

- San Joaquin Valley
    - County of Kings
    - Dudley Ridge WD
    - Empire West Side ID
    - Kern County Water Agency
    - Oak Flat WD
    - Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
- Southern California
    - Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
    - Castaic Lake Water Agency
    - Coachella Valley WD

- Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
- Desert Water Agency
- Littlerock Creek ID
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Mojave Water Agency
- Palmdale WD
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD
- San Gabriel Valley Municipal WD
- San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District

These SWP contractors have not committed to buying transfer water, and each agency (or all agencies) may not be interested in participating in transfers. This list includes all SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California in case they determine they may be interested in participating.

These buyers receive SWP water supplies that are diverted from the Delta at the SWP's Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (Banks Pumping Plant). Water transfers would also be moved through the Delta using the Banks Pumping Plant into the California Aqueduct. This delivery mechanism is analyzed in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR because water transfers to SLDMWA could be delivered through CVP or SWP facilities in the Delta.

After diversion from the Delta, the transfer water would move through the California Aqueduct and potentially be stored in San Luis Reservoir, as described in the Long-Term Water Transfer EIS/EIR. South of San Luis Reservoir, however, the transfer water would follow a different path for delivery to SWP contractors. Transfers to San Joaquin Valley contractors would travel through the San Luis Canal to their respective diversion points. For southern California users, the water would pass through the San Luis Canal to a series of pumping plants to move water south in the valley and over the Tehachapi Mountains (Buena Vista Pumping Plant, Teerink Pumping Plant, Chrisman Pumping Plant, and Edmonston Pumping Plant). Depending on the delivery location in southern California, the water may be pumped through additional pumping plants or temporarily stored in local storage facilities before delivery.

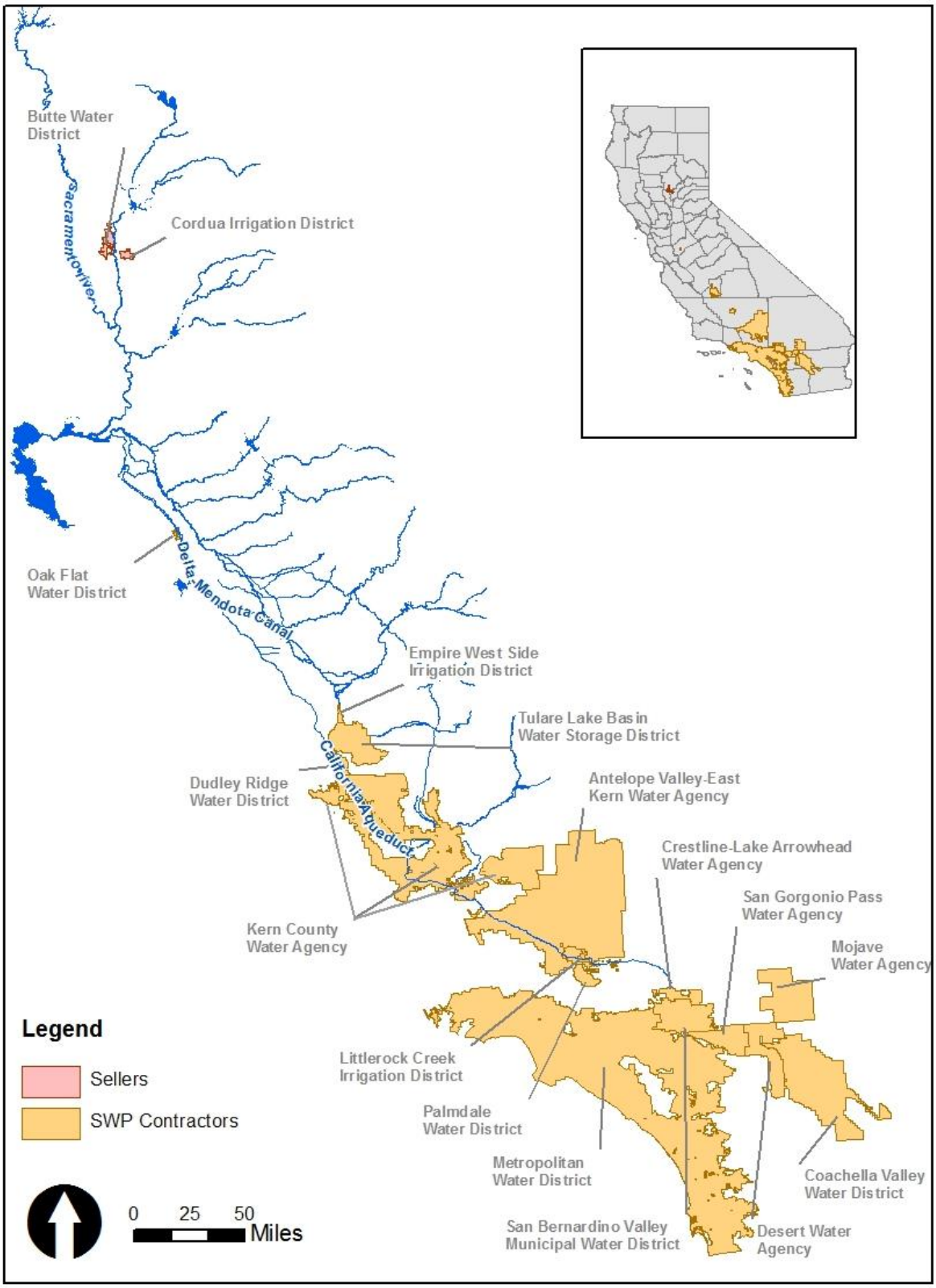

Figure 1. Potential Water Transfer Buyers and Sellers

3 Environmental Review of the Project

Most of the potential environmental impacts assessed in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR were related to actions taken to make water available for transfer (such as idling croplands or pumping groundwater in lieu of surface water deliveries) or moving the water from the seller downstream and through the Delta. Adding potential buyers for Cordua ID and Butte WD does not change the analysis of these impacts. The potential impacts and benefits associated with the refinements to the Proposed Project are focused on adding new buyers to the Buyer Service Area.

The Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR analyzed the impacts from transferring the maximum amount of water that was available from willing sellers and could be moved through the Delta. This amount may be more than the buyers' demands and in many cases more than the applicable sellers wish to make available, but the maximum transfer amount was analyzed to be conservative. Adding new buyers would not increase the total amount of water that could be transferred compared to what was analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Additional buyers would only have the potential to affect some environmental resources, and these resources are described below in more detail.

3.1 Water Supply

3.1.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.1.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for water supplies in the area of analysis at the time EIR/EIS was prepared. The setting includes a description of the water supply source for each of the sellers and buyers. Since certification of the EIS/EIR, the water supply sources (including water rights and/or water contracts) have not changed. This Addendum is adding SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California as potential buyers. Water transfers would be augmenting SWP supplies for these contractors. Five SWP contractors (primarily in the San Joaquin Valley) use SWP supplies for agricultural uses; the remaining contractors use SWP supplies for municipal and industrial uses (California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2016). Total SWP deliveries have been up to about 4 million acre-feet in wet years (DWR 2016), but deliveries have been constrained because of dry hydrologic conditions in the past several years and limitations on the ability to move water through the Delta as a result of Biological Opinions. SWP allocations were 5 percent in 2014 (DWR 2014) and 20 percent in 2015 (DWR 2015a), which has contributed to a demand for temporary transfer supplies for SWP contractors.

3.1.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.1.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded water transfers under the Proposed Project would have a beneficial effect to water users in the Buyer Service Area. The Proposed Project would deliver additional water supply to water users subject to reductions in their water supply due to dry hydrologic conditions. The transfer water would help provide supplemental water to agricultural lands or municipal users that are experiencing substantial shortages. The Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded that water transfers would not have a significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impact on water supply in the Buyer Service Area and no mitigation was necessary.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water transfers that are outside of the defined Buyer Service Area. The additional buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California would also engage in transfers to address water supply shortages associated with dry hydrologic conditions.

The project changes addressed in this Addendum add new entities to the Buyer Service Area (see list in Section 2.2). Water transfers to SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California would have similar effects to water supply as described in Section 3.1.2 of the EIS/EIR.

3.1.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to water supply. No substantial changes in the water supply environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant water supply impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified water supply impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley or southern California. Therefore, impacts to water supply as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

3.2 Groundwater Resources

3.2.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.3.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for groundwater resources in the area of analysis at the time EIS/EIR was prepared. The setting includes a description, including geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology, of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin that extends from San Joaquin County into Kern County. The southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin extends from the Fresno-Madera County line through Kings and Tulare counties into Kern County. The setting also describes groundwater production, levels, and storage in the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. Figure 3.3-19 in the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR shows groundwater elevation contours in the basin. As stated in Section 3.3.1.3.3, groundwater storage has been in steady decline in the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin since the 1940s. Since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, the environmental setting for groundwater has remained primarily the same for the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin.

3.2.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.3.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR concluded water transfers under the Proposed Project would have a minor beneficial effect to groundwater levels in the Buyer Service Area. The Proposed Project may result in a reduced use of groundwater resources during periods of shortage by supplementing local water supply with transferred water. This potential decrease in the use of local groundwater resources may result in a slowing of groundwater level decline or potentially cause an increase in groundwater levels. A slowed rate of decline or an increase in groundwater levels would help to slow the rate of subsidence in these areas.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water transfers that are outside of the originally defined Buyer Service Area. The additional buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California also use local groundwater as a water supply and having additional supplemental water, as afforded through the subject refinement to the Proposed Project, would similarly reduce demands on local surface water and groundwater supplies during water shortages.

The project changes addressed in this Addendum add new districts to the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers to SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California would have similar effects to groundwater as described in Section 3.3.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR. Water transfers

may temporarily reduce groundwater pumping, which would slow groundwater level declines and improve groundwater storage.

3.2.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to groundwater resources. No substantial changes in the water supply environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant water supply impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified groundwater impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to SWP contractors in the San Joaquin Valley or southern California. Therefore, impacts to groundwater as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

3.3 Air Quality

3.3.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.5.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for air quality in the area of analysis at the time EIR/EIS was prepared. The Buyer Service Area includes water districts in the North Central Coast Air Basin, San Francisco Bay Air Basin, and San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Since certification of the EIS/EIR, the environmental setting for air quality has remained primarily the same in the Buyer Service Area.

3.3.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.5.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded water transfers under the Proposed Project would have a beneficial but minor impact to air quality in the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers for agricultural uses would reduce fugitive dust emissions that occurs from wind blowing over bare fields. The conclusion of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR is that water transfers would not have a project-specific or cumulative significant impact on air quality in the Buyer Service Area and no mitigation was necessary.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water transfers that are outside of the originally defined Buyer Service Area for air quality. The new buying entities are in the South Central Coast Air Basin, South Coast Air Basin, Mohave Desert Air Basin, Salton Sea Air Basin, and San Diego Air Basin.

There are also additional water districts in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which was included in Section 3.5 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Tables 1 and 2 show Federal and State attainment status by county and air basin for water districts added to the Buyer Service Area. Section 3.5 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR includes the regulatory air quality standards that have not changed since certification of the Final EIS/EIR.

Table 1. Federal Attainment Status

Air Basin	County	O_3	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
San Joaquin Valley	Kern	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
	Tulare	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
South Coast	Los Angeles	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
	Orange	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
	Riverside	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
	San Bernardino	N (Extreme)	M (Serious)	N (Moderate)
South Central	Ventura	N (Serious)	A	A
San Diego	San Diego	N (Marginal)	M	A
Salton Sea	Imperial	N (Marginal)	N (Serious)	N (Moderate)
	Riverside	N (Severe)	N (Serious)	A
Mohave Desert	Los Angeles	N (Severe)	A	A
	San Bernardino	N (Severe)	N (Moderate)	A

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2015

Key:

O_3 = ozone; PM_{10} = inhalable particulate matter; $PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter; N = nonattainment; A = attainment; M = maintenance

Table 2. State Attainment Status

Air Basin	County	O_3[1]	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
San Joaquin Valley	Kern	N	N	N
	Tulare	N	N	N
South Coast	Los Angeles	N	N	N
	Orange	N	N	N
	Riverside	N	N	N
	San Bernardino	N	N	N
South Central	Ventura	N	N	A
San Diego	San Diego	N	N	N
Salton Sea	Imperial	N	N	A[2]
	Riverside	N	N	A
Mohave Desert	Los Angeles	N	N	Unclassified
	San Bernardino	N	N	N

Source: California Air Resources Board 2015

Key:

O_3 = ozone; PM_{10} = inhalable particulate matter; $PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter; N = nonattainment; A = attainment; M = maintenance

[1] There are two State standards for ozone, a 1-hour average of 0.09 parts per million and an 8-hour average of 0.070 parts per million, both not to be exceeded

[2] For area excluding City of Calexico

The project changes addressed in this Addendum add new entities to the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers to additional entities within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin would have the same effects to air quality as described in Section 3.5.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Water transfers for agricultural irrigation would reduce fugitive dust emissions that occurs from wind blowing over bare fields. This would be a minor benefit to air quality in the Kern and Tulare counties in the San Joaquin Air Basin. Water transfers to entities in the South Central Coast Air Basin, South Coast Air Basin, Mohave Desert Air Basin, and Salton Sea Air Basin would primarily be used for urban uses. There would be no changes in operations of the entities receiving transfer water that would increase air pollutant emissions.

3.3.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to air quality. No substantial changes in the air quality affected environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant air quality impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified air quality impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to new buyers. Therefore, impacts to air quality as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

3.4 Climate Change

3.4.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.6.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for climate change at the time EIR/EIS was prepared. The discussion in Section 3.6.1 addresses climate change for all of California. Since certification of the EIS/EIR, the environmental setting for climate change has not changed.

3.4.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.6.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to water transfers in the Buyer Service Area would not likely change relative to existing conditions and the impact to climate change would be less than significant. Water transfers to agricultural areas could temporarily reduce the amount of land idled. This would increase use of farm equipment, which would increase vehicle exhaust emissions. Farmers may also pump less groundwater for irrigation, which would reduce emissions from use of diesel pumps.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water made available by transfers that are outside of the originally defined Buyer Service Area for air quality. There are new buying entities for agricultural water uses in the San Joaquin Valley and for urban water uses in southern California.

The project changes addressed in this Addendum add new entities to the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers to additional districts within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin would have the same effects to climate change as described in Section 3.6.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Water transfers for agricultural irrigation would increase vehicle exhaust emissions and could decrease emissions from use of diesel pumps. These changes in greenhouse gas emissions would be a minor and less than significant impact to climate change. Water transfers to districts southern California would require additional pumping to deliver water.

Pumping plants require electricity to pump water into the conveyance facilities, and several other facilities require power to deliver water to southern California. No localized air quality impacts from water delivery would occur, but emissions

at the power plants servicing the electric grids could increase as a result of additional pumping of water transfers. Any combustion equipment operating at the power plants must be permitted by the local air districts and emissions would be accounted for in the emissions budgets included in the State Implementation Plan. Effects to climate change as a result of increased pumping are consistent with the conclusions in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR and impacts would remain less than significant. There would be no changes in operations of the entities receiving water transfers that would increase GHG emissions.

3.4.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to climate change. No substantial changes in the climate change affected environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant climate change impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified climate change impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to new buyers. Therefore, impacts to climate change as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

3.5 Agricultural Land Use

3.5.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.9.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for agricultural land use in the area of analysis at the time EIR/EIS was prepared. For agricultural land use, the Buyer Service Area included agricultural water districts' service areas in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, San Benito, Fresno and Kings counties that identified interest in purchasing water from transfers. Since certification of the EIS/EIR, the environmental setting has remained primarily the same in the Buyer Service Area, except that there has been more cropland idling in response to drought induced water shortages in 2015.

3.5.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.9.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded water transfers under the Proposed Project would have a beneficial but minor impact to agricultural land use in the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers would temporarily provide irrigation for crops that may have an insufficient irrigation supply due to water shortages. The conclusion of the Long-Term Water

Transfers EIS/EIR is that water transfers would not have a project-specific or cumulative significant impact on agricultural land use in the Buyer Service Area and no mitigation was necessary.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water transfers that are outside of the originally defined Buyer Service Area for agricultural land use. The new agricultural entities that are potential buyers are in Kern and Tulare counties. Similar to the buyers in existing Buyer Service Area, water transferred to the new agricultural entities would be used for agricultural irrigation.

The project changes addressed in this Addendum add new entities to the Buyer Service Area. Water transfers to Kern and Tulare counties would have similar effects to agricultural land use as described in Section 3.9.2 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Water transfers to the new entities would be used for irrigation and would maintain agricultural land uses in the San Joaquin Valley. There would be reduced cropland idling in Kern and Tulare counties with increased irrigation supply from transfers.

3.5.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to agricultural land use. No substantial changes in the agricultural land use environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant agricultural land use impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified agricultural land use impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to Kern and Tulare Counties for irrigation purposes. Therefore, impacts to agricultural land use as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

3.6 Power

3.6.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Section 3.16.1 of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR provides a summary of the environmental setting for power in the area of analysis at the time EIR/EIS was prepared. Power includes hydroelectric power generation at CVP/SWP facilities and pumping plants to move water to the Buyer Service Area. For power resources, the Buyer Service Area included the CVP's Jones Pumping Plant and the SWP's Banks Pumping Plant to deliver water to SLDMWA member agencies, Freeport Pumping Plant to deliver water to East Bay MUD, and pumps operated by Contra Costa WD in the Delta. The Buyer

Service Area also included the Gianelli and O'Neill pump generation plants that pump water to O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir and also generate power. Since certification of the EIS/EIR, the environmental setting has remained the same in the Buyer Service Area.

3.6.2 Evaluation of Impacts

Section 3.16.2 in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR concluded water transfers under the Proposed Project would have a minor effect to power resources. Energy required to pump water made available by transfers would be a small increase relative to existing energy use of the CVP and SWP and would not affect long-term power supplies. The conclusion of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR is that water transfers would have a less than significant project-specific or cumulative impact on power resources and no mitigation was necessary.

Subsequent to the certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR, sellers have identified potential new buyers of water transfers that are outside of the originally defined Buyer Service Area for power resources. Similar to the existing Buyer Service Area, water transfers would require use of Jones and/or Banks Pumping Plants and O'Neill and Gianelli pump generation facilities. There would be no changes in energy use at these facilities as a result of the new buying entities. The maximum amount of water transferred and delivered south of the Delta has not changed from what was evaluated under the Proposed Project in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR.

The project changes addressed in this Addendum expand the Buyer Service Area to water entities in Kern and Tulare counties and southern California. In addition to the power facilities listed above, transfers to the new buyers would require use of pumping plants to move water south through the California Aqueduct (Buena Vista Pumping Plant, Teerink Pumping Plant, and Chrisman Pumping Plant) and over the Tehachapi Mountains (Edmonston Pumping Plant). The use of these facilities were not assumed in the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Table 3 shows pumping plant characteristics for the facilities needed to deliver water to the new buyers and total energy used at pumping plants in 2012 and 2013.

Table 3. Pumping Plant Characteristics

Pumping Plant	Number of Units	Normal Static Head (feet)	Total Flow at Design Head (cfs)	Total Motor Rating (hp)	Total Energy Use in 2012 (MW)	Total Energy Use in 2013 (MW)
Buena Vista	10	205	5,405	144,500	427,278	332,642
Teerink	9	233	5,445	150,000	435,184	343,012
Chrisman	9	518	4,995	330,00	962,985	748,627
Edmonston	14	1926	4,480	1,120,000	3,509,882	2,720,105

Source: DWR 2015b, DWR 2015c

Water transfers to these new entities would require additional power to deliver water to buyers further south in the San Joaquin Valley and to southern California. Up to 29,000 acre-feet could be delivered from Cordua ID and Butte WD to these new buyers over a 3-month transfer period (July through September). Edmonston Pumping Plant conveyed 1,570,507 acre-feet in 2012 and 1,216,034 acre-feet in 2013 to Southern California (DWR 2015b; DWR 2015c). An additional up to 29,000 acre-feet (assuming these southern California entities were the only new buyers) would be about a 2 percent increase over the amount of water pumped in 2013 and the total would be even less for 2012. The SWP contractors are purchasing transfer water because SWP Table A allocations are less than 100 percent. With the proposed water transfer of 29,000 acre-feet, SWP deliveries would continue to be less than 100 percent of Table A allocations. Therefore, the total amount of SWP water supply in 2016 and proposed transfer water pumped at Edmonston Pumping Plant would be less than if the contractors received 100 percent of their Table A allocation. The increase in energy use due delivering water to the new buyers would be comparatively minor and within historic ranges of energy use for these facilities. The impacts to power supply would be less than significant.

3.6.3 Findings

There are no substantial changes to the circumstances under with the Long-Term Water Transfers would be undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance that has become available relative to power resources. No substantial changes in the power resources affected environment have occurred since certification of the Long-Term Water Transfers Final EIS/EIR.

Based on the above, no new significant power impacts or a substantial increase in previously identified power impacts would occur as a result of transferring water to new buyers. Therefore, impacts to power as a result of the proposed new buyers do not meet the standards for subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162.

4 Conclusion

Based on substantial evidence provided herein, the proposed addition of buyers of Long-Term Water Transfers is adequately addressed by the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR, and none of the conditions warranting preparation of a supplemental or subsequent EIR implementation, as set forth in CEQA Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 exist. Pursuant to Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, preparation of an Addendum to the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR is appropriate to meet CEQA review requirements for the project.

5 References

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