



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898



IN REPLY REFER TO:

CGB-400
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Electronic Mail Only

Mr. Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director of Water Rights
Attention: Arvin Chi
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Subject: Notice of Pending Reclamation Central Valley Project Transfer between Yuba County Water Agency and the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

Reclamation is informing you of a pending transfer between Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) and San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA). Consistent with provision 1.d.ii of the Temporary Urgent Change Order, issued June 1, 2021, granting Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) temporary changes to license and permit terms and conditions requiring compliance with delta water quality objectives in response to drought conditions. The Provision requires that the Petitioners provide a detailed accounting of transfers to the State Water Board at least 5 working days prior to conducting transfers. The provision states that this accounting will include; 1) the volume of water being transferred; 2) when, and between which parties; 3) how water is being made available for transfer; and 4) information to support that the transfers will not cause injury to other legal users of water or unreasonable impacts to fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses, including through reductions in carryover storage in Project Reservoirs or stream depletions due to groundwater substitution transfers. The information requested is provided below

1) The Volume of water being Transferred

An estimated 58,070 Acre-Feet of water is to be transferred to the SLDMWA. With a 30% carriage loss, the estimated quantity of transfer available for pumping is 40,650 Acre-feet. It is anticipated that the transfer pumping at Jones Pumping Plant **may** begin **as early as** July 15, 2021 and continue through September. The volume is estimated to be 14,000 AF per month.

2) When and between which parties will the transfer occur

The buyer is the SLDMWA, which consists of 27 member agencies representing water service contractors and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors. The SLDMWA service

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* PARTIAL

area consists primarily of agricultural lands on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. The SLDMWA does not directly supply water, but it assists its participating members to secure transfers when needed and in scheduling and managing the transferred water. The seller is the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA). The transfer water will be pumped through the Jones pumping plant and will be delivered via the Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Canal and/or stored in the San Luis Reservoir. The estimated volume of water to be allocated, after an estimated 30% carriage water loss, is as follows:

SLDMWA Member Agency	Acre-feet	Acre – Feet Minus Carriage loss (30%)
Byron – Bethany Irrigation District	719	505
Broadview Water District	943	660
Del Puerto Water District	4,895	3,428
Eagle Field Water District	159	111
Mercy Springs Water District	99	69
Pachego Water District	352	246
Panoche Water District	3,282	2,298
San Benito County Water District	1,240	870
San Luis Water District	4,368	3,057
Santa Clara County Water District Valley Water	1,211	847
Westlands Water District	40,801	28,559
Total	58,070	40,650

3) How is the water being made available for Transfer

The YCWA is providing this water under the “Agreement For The Long-Term Purchase of Water From Yuba County Water Agency By the Department of Water Resources effective December 4, 2007” and the “Agreement For the Supply and Conveyance of Water By the Department of Water Resources of the State of California To The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Under the Dry Year Water Purchase Program SWPAO-NO.08-803 dated December 21, 2007”. These agreements were entered into as part of the Yuba River Accord to resolve issues associated with operation of the Yuba River Project in a way that protects lower Yuba River fisheries and local water supply reliability, while providing revenues for local flood control projects, water to use for protection and restoration of Delta fisheries and improvements in State-wide water supply management. The 2021 Yuba water transfer is all surface water releases from Bullard Bar Reservoir. The water will be provided for reasonable and beneficial use within the SLDMWA member service area for irrigation and M&I use.

4) Injury and Impacts

The YCWA and Reclamation, as lead agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) respectively, jointly completed a Final Yuba Accord Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) during October of 2007. This water transfer will not cause injury or legal harm and will be conducted as a normal and anticipated action within the limits of the EIR/EIS.

Impacts to Fish - Results from the quantitative analysis within the EIR/EIS of effects related to water transfers indicated that direct project-related fisheries and aquatic resources impacts would be less than significant. In addition to the EIR/EIS, various separate agreements were developed to minimize fisheries impacts through the Yuba Accord. The activities involved in the proposed water transfers would be within the scope described in the EIS/EIR and the Yuba Accord agreements completed with the various state agencies, federal agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (including the California Department of Fish and Game, the South Yuba River Citizens League, Friends of the River, Trout Unlimited, and the Bay Institute). Therefore, no significant impacts related to this water transfer would be anticipated.

Impacts to wildlife - Results from the quantitative analysis within the EIR/EIS of effects related to water transfers indicated that direct project-related wildlife resource impacts would be less than significant. The activities involved in the proposed water transfers would be within the scope described in the EIS/EIR, therefore no significant impacts related to this transfer would be anticipated.

Impacts to instream beneficial uses - This water transfer would be conducted in accordance with the terms of the EIR/EIS. In addition, the transfer water will be pumped within the transfer pumping window in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Biological Opinions for the 2019 Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Therefore, no significant impacts to instream beneficial uses would be anticipated.

This water will be used to irrigate farmlands and provide M&I water to the California Central Valley and Santa Benito and Santa Clara County. The water will serve public and safety needs for municipalities and provide irrigation for underserved farmland communities.

Please note that this notification letter is intended to notify the State Water Board of Reclamation's transfer of Yuba water operating under the Central Valley Project. DWR will be sending the State Water Board notification of their transfer of Yuba water under operation of the State Water Project. If you have any further questions, please contact Adam Nickels at 916-978-5201 or anickels@usbr.gov

Sincerely,

Adam M. Nickels
Regional Resources Manager

cc: Michael Jackson (SCCAO 100)
Jeffery Payne (CGB 100)
Russel Callejo (CGB 100)
Kristen White (CVO 100)
David Mooney (BDO 100)

Diane Riddle (California State Water Resources Control Board -
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