

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

ORDER WR 2008-0040-DWR

**IN THE MATTER OF PERMITS 13856 & 13858 (APPLICATIONS 18085 & 18087)
PETITION FOR TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE
INVOLVING THE TRANSFER OF UP TO 20,000 ACRE-FEET OF WATER
FROM THE PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
TO THE WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**

**ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE IN PLACE OF USE,
PURPOSE OF USE, AND POINTS OF REDIVERSION**

BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WATER RIGHTS:

1.0 SUBSTANCE OF PETITION

On August 18, 2008,

Placer County Water Agency
c/o Hanspeter Walter
Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard
400 Capitol Mall, 27th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division), a petition for Temporary Urgency Change pursuant to Water Code section 1435 et seq. Pursuant to the petition, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) seeks to transfer up to 20,000 acre-feet (af) of water to the Westlands Water District (WWD). The petition states that WWD is suffering an urgent need for additional water to meet the water needs of existing agricultural crops during this statewide drought.

1.1 Current Dry Conditions: On June 4, 2008, citing two straight years of below-average rainfall and significant restrictions on diversions from the Delta due to various factors, including federal court actions to protect fish species, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought and issued Executive Order S-06-08 (Executive Order). On June 12, 2008, after assessing the full impact that the severe water shortages have had on San Joaquin Valley agriculture, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a Proclamation, proclaiming a state of emergency within the counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern. The Governor's Proclamation also directed the State Water Board to expedite the processing and consideration of water rights urgency change petitions filed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other agencies to facilitate water transfers to the San Joaquin Valley. The State Water Board has received several petitions for temporary urgency change to facilitate the transfer of water to the San Joaquin Valley. The information contained in these other petitions is relevant to the current circumstances in WWD and explains the urgent need for the proposed temporary urgency change. Information currently on file with the State Water Board under Application 17512 contains the following statement: