

California Environmental Protection Agency

State Water Resources Control Board

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Info: (916) 341-5300, FAX: (916) 341-5400, Web: <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov>

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
FOR PETITIONS**

Petition for Change

Petition for Extension of Time

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can approve a petition to change your water right permit or a petition for extension of time to complete use, the SWRCB must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED

For a petition to change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

DWR is petitioning the SWRCB to change the authorized place of use of one of DWR's water rights permits. The changes will allow the delivery of a portion of the State Water Project Table A water allocated to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Empire West Side Irrigation District to be delivered to land within Westlands Water District annually for a period of 15 years. The water covered by this petition, up to 8,000 AF of SWP water currently allocated to two farming interests in TLBWSD, Hansen Ranches/Vista Verde Farms (Hansen) and Newton Farms (Newton), and up to 2,000 AF of SWP water currently allocated to two farming interests in EWSID, Newton and Brooks Farms (Brooks) will be delivered to lands owned by the same farming interests in WWD (in total 10,000 af; up to 6,000 AF for Hansen, up to 3,000 AF for Newton, and up to 1,000 AF for Brooks). The lands farmed by these landowners in TLBWSD and EWSID are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton, small grains, safflower, and alfalfa. The quantity of water associated with this transfer has been made available through the use of alternate local supplies to farm the lands within TLBWSD and EWSID. Depending on the availability of these local supplies, Hansen, Newton, and Brooks will either fallow, crop shift, or continue with normal farming operations within TLBWSD and EWSID. The lands owned by these landowners in WWD are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as alfalfa, cotton tomatoes and wheat, and permanent plantings of almonds and pistachios. The conversion of field crops to high dollar permanent plantings requires a more reliable water supply. In the absence of surface water, growers would likely pump groundwater to keep the trees from reaching their permanent wilting point. The water resulting from this transfer will be used to supplement supplies and to reduce the need for groundwater pumping.

See Attachment No. ____

2. COUNTY PERMITS

N/A

- a. Contact your county planning or public works department and provide the following information:

Person contacted: _____ Date of contact: _____

Department: _____ Telephone: () _____

County Zoning Designation: _____

Are any county permits required for your project? YES NO If YES, check appropriate box below:

- Grading permit Use permit Watercourse Obstruction permit Change of zoning
 General plan change Other (explain): _____

- b. Have you obtained any of the required permits described above? YES NO

If YES, provide a complete copy of each permit obtained.

See Attachment No. _____

3. STATE/FEDERAL PERMITS AND REQUIREMENTS N/A

- a. Check any additional state or federal permits required for your project:

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission U.S. Forest Service Bureau of Land Management
 Soil Conservation Service Dept. of Water Resources (Div. of Safety of Dams) Reclamation Board
 Coastal Commission State Lands Commission Other (specify) _____

- b. For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

AGENCY	PERMIT TYPE	PERSON(S) CONTACTED	CONTACT DATE	TELEPHONE NO.

See Attachment No. _____

- c. Does your proposed project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed or bank of any stream or lake? YES NO

If YES, explain: _____

The action covered by the petition is limited to the approval by the SWRCB of a Petition for Change in authorized place of use filed by DWR to change its authorized place of use to allow the transfer of a portion of the SWP supply allocated to TLBWSD and EWSID to be delivered to lands within WWD owned by the same farming interests. The lands to receive the water are currently in agricultural production.

See Attachment No. _____

- d. Have you contacted the California Department of Fish and Game concerning your project? YES NO

If YES, name and telephone number of contact: Copies of the Petition for Change are being submitted to the relevant regional office of DFG.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

- a. Has any California public agency prepared an environmental document for your project? YES NO
If YES, submit a copy of the latest environmental document(s) prepared, including a copy of the notice of determination adopted by the California public agency. Public agency: TLBWSD
- b. If NO, check the appropriate box and explain below, if necessary:
- The petitioner is a California public agency and will be preparing the environmental document.*
 - I expect that the SWRCB will be preparing the environmental document.**
 - I expect that a California public agency other than the State Water Resources Control Board will be preparing the environmental document.* Public agency: _____

TLBWSD completed an initial study and proposed Negative Declaration. The documents were filed with the Office of Planning and Research on December 29, 2009 (2009121084). TLBWSD adopted the Negative Declaration on 2/2/10. DWR will file a NOD with OPR following completion of any required agreements to affect the proposed transfer.

See Attachment No. _____

* Note: When completed, submit a copy of the final environmental document (including notice of determination) or notice of exemption to the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights. Processing of your petition cannot proceed until these documents are submitted.

** Note: CEQA requires that the SWRCB, as Lead Agency, prepare the environmental document. The information contained in the environmental document must be developed by the petitioner and at the petitioner's expense under the direction of the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights.

5. WASTE/WASTEWATER **N/A**

- a. Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation?
 YES NO
If YES, or you are unsure of your answer, explain below and contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board for the following information (See instruction booklet for address and telephone no.):

See Attachment No. _____

- b. Will a waste discharge permit be required for your project? YES NO
Person contacted: _____ Date of contact: _____
- c. What method of treatment and disposal will be used? _____

See Attachment No. _____

6. ARCHEOLOGY **N/A**

- a. Have any archeological reports been prepared on this project? YES NO
- b. Will you be preparing an archeological report to satisfy another public agency? YES NO
- c. Do you know of any archeological or historic sites located within the general project area? YES NO
If YES, explain: _____

See Attachment No. _____

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Attach **three complete sets of color photographs**, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the below-listed three locations. For time extension petitions, the photographs should document only those areas of the project that will be impacted during the requested extension period.

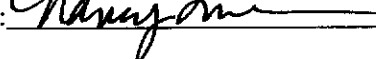
- Along the stream channel immediately downstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
- Along the stream channel immediately upstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
- At the place(s) where the water is to be used.

There will be no change in DWR facilities and no construction required as part of the requested change.

8. CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements I have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: February 4, 2009

Signature: 

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

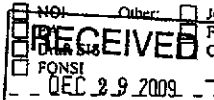
Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # **2009121084**

Project Title: Long Term Change in Place of Use - SWP Table A Water from TLBWSID & EWSID to WWD
 Lead Agency: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Contact Person: Mark Gilkey
 Mailing Address: 1001 Chase Ave Phone: (558) 992-4127
 City: Corcoran Zip: 93212 County: Kings

Project Location: County: Kings and Fresno City/Nearest Community: _____
 Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ " N / _____ " W Total Acres: _____
 Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:
 CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____



Local Action Type:
 General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone STATE CLEARING HOUSE Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: _____

Development Type:
 Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: Using existing facilities

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
 Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:
Agricultural
 Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*
 Two landowners in Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSID) and two landowners in Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) also own lands in Westlands Water District (WWD) are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 10,000 acre-feet of their State Water Project (SWP) Table A allotment to WWD, which is outside of the SWP Place of Use, over the next 15-year period. The request is consolidated because of the proximity of the districts, the commonality of the landowners, and to address any potential cumulative impacts.

State Clearinghouse Contact: SM
 (916) 445-0613

State Review Began: 12-29-2009

SCH COMPLIANCE 1-27-2010

Please note State Clearinghouse Number (SCH#) on all Comments

2009121084

SCH#: _____
 Please forward late comments directly to the Lead Agency

AQMD/APCD 12/7

(Resources: 1/2)

Project Sent to the following State Agencies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources | State/Consumer Svcs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways | General Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Comm | Cal EPA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Rvr Bd | <input type="checkbox"/> ARB - Airport Projects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> ARB - Transportation Projects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game # <u>4</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> ARB - Major Industrial Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Comm | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Mgmt Bd |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cal Fire | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Div. Financial Assist. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Wtr Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Rec | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Wtr Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central/Valley Flood Prot. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg. WQCB # <u>SF</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Cons & Dev Comm | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Sub Ctrl-CTC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWR | <input type="checkbox"/> Yth/Adlt Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OES (Emergency Svcs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Transp Hou | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAHC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans # <u>6</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Com Dev | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Rgl Plan Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Services | |
| | Conservancy |
| | Other: _____ |

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
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SCH # **2009121084**

Project Title: Long Term Change in Place of Use - SWP Table A Water from TLBWS& EWSID to WWD

Lead Agency: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Contact Person: Mark Gilkey
 Mailing Address: 1001 Chase Ave Phone: (559) 992-4127
 City: Corcoran Zip: 93212 County: Kings

Project Location: County: Kings and Fresno City/Nearest Community:

Cross Streets: Zip Code:

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): " N / " W Total Acres:

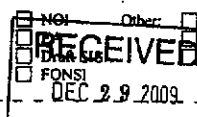
Assessor's Parcel No.: Section: Twp.: Range: Base:

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Waterways:

Airports: Railways: Schools:

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR Supplement/Subsequent EIR
 Early Cons Neg Dec Mit Neg Dec
 NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document Final Document Other:



Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other:

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: Using existing facilities

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Agricultural

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Two landowners in Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWS&D) and two landowners in Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) also own lands in Westlands Water District (WWD) are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 10,000 acre-feet of their State Water Project (SWP) Table A allotment to WWD, which is outside of the SWP Place of Use, over the next 15-year period. The request is consolidated because of the proximity of the districts, the commonality of the landowners, and to address any potential cumulative impacts.

State Clearinghouse Contact: EM
 (916) 445-0613

State Review Began: 12-29 - 2009

SCH COMPLIANCE 1-27 2010

Please note State Clearinghouse Number (SCH#) on all Comments

2009121084

SCH#: _____
 Please forward late comments directly to the Lead Agency

AQMD/APCD 12/7

(Resources: 1/2)

Project Sent to the following State Agencies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources | State/Consumer Svcs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways | General Services |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Rvr Bd | ARB - Airport Projects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | ARB - Transportation Projects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game # <u>4</u> | ARB - Major Industrial Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Comm | Integrated Waste Mgmt Bd |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cal Fire | SWRCB: Div. Financial Assist. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Wtr Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Rec | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Wtr Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Prot. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg. WQCB # <u>SF</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Cons & Dev Comm | Toxic Sub Ctrl-CTC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWR | Yth/Adlt Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OES (Emergency Svcs) | Corrections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Transp Hous | Independent Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aeronautics | Energy Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAHC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans # <u>6</u> | Public Utilities Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trans Planning | State Lands Comm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Com Dev | Tahoe Rgl Plan Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Services | |
| | Conservancy |
| | Other: _____ |

2009121084

TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
LONG TERM CHANGE IN PLACE OF USE—SWP TABLE A WATER FROM
TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT AND EMPIRE WEST SIDE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT TO WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Section 15072 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, that the Board of Directors of Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District will on the second (2nd) day of February, 2010 at 9:30 a.m., consider the hereinafter described project and the adopting of a Negative Declaration respecting the same, which project is described and located as follows:

The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) is an agricultural water purveyor with a water supply contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for surface water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP). The Westlands Water District (WWD) is an agricultural water purveyor with a water supply contract with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for surface water supplies from the Central Valley Project (CVP). Two landowners in TLBWSD who also own lands in WWD are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of their SWP Table A allotment to WWD, which is outside of the SWP Place of Use, over the next 15-year period.

The Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) is an agricultural water purveyor that also has a water supply contract with DWR for surface water supplies from the SWP. Two landowners in EWSID (including one which is also transferring water from TLBWSD) also own lands in WWD and are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 2,000 AF of their SWP Table A allotment to WWD over the next 15-year period.

These two actions are analyzed together to address potential cumulative impacts as a result of the proximity of the districts and commonality of the landowners.

The project details and the proposed Negative Declaration are more thoroughly covered in the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist on file at the offices of Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District located at 1001 Chase Ave., Corcoran, CA 93212 and the Westlands Water District at 3130 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA 93703-6056.

Any person desiring more information about said project may telephone the office of Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District at (559) 992-4127 and ask for Mark Gilkey, General Manager.

Said Negative Declaration finds that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Report is therefore not required under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 as amended (CEQA). Attached to said Negative Declaration is the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist documenting reasons to support such finding.

Notice is further given that any person who desires to object to the adoption of such Negative Declaration should deliver written objections to the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District at the address stated above prior to 9:30 a.m. on February 2, 2010.

DATED: December 23, 2009

TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

BY: _____


Mark Gilkey, General Manager

INITIAL STUDY

LONG TERM CHANGE IN PLACE OF USE—SWP TABLE A WATER FROM TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT AND EMPIRE WEST SIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

December 2009

General

The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) is an agricultural water purveyor with a long-term water supply contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for surface water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP). The Westlands Water District (WWD) is an agricultural water purveyor with a water supply contract with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for surface water supplies from the Central Valley Project (CVP). Two landowners in TLBWSD who also own lands in WWD are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of their SWP Table A allotment to WWD, which is outside of the SWP Place of Use, over the next 15-year period.

The Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) is an agricultural water purveyor that also has a water supply contract with DWR for surface water supplies from the SWP. Two landowners in EWSID (including one which is also transferring water from TLBWSD) also own lands in WWD and are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 2,000 AF of their SWP Table A allotment to WWD over the next 15-year period.

Impacts to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

TLBWSD is comprised of approximately 184,909 acres and is located in southeastern Kings County and southwestern Tulare County, between the city of Corcoran and the northern Kern County line. TLBWSD is located southeast of WWD as shown on the attached map.

TLBWSD allocates its SWP Table A water to the landowners within TLBWSD for their proportionate share of SWP water based on acreage owned within TLBWSD. Each landowner contracts directly with TLBWSD for up to 0.64 AF per acre of the SWP water. Hansen Ranches (Hansen) farms 9,176 acres within TLBWSD which have a contracted Table A supply for up to 5,889 AF per year, and Newton Farms (Newton) farms 3,093 acres within TLBWSD which have a contracted Table A supply for up to 1,985 AF per year. Hansen and Newton have historically acquired additional SWP Table A supplies from other landowners within TLBWSD, and are requesting the flexibility to annually transfer up to a total of 8,000 AF of their TLBWSD supplies to WWD.

The lands farmed by these landowners in TLBWSD are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton, small grains, safflower, and alfalfa. The land within TLBWSD would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other TLBWSD surface water sources, dry farming, and land fallowing. Other surface water supplies, when available, include Kings River water, flood water, SWP Article 21 water, SWP turn-back water, and potential purchases of other surface supplies.

In the absence of the transfer, the water would be used within TLBWSD service area. The water to be transferred is annually diverted at the Banks Pumping Plant and stored in San Luis Reservoir and/or approved for delivery to TLBWSD in accordance with the terms of DWR's permits. Therefore, the transfer will not result in an increase in diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Impacts to Empire West Side Irrigation District

EWSID is comprised of approximately 7,780 acres and is located in western Kings County, west of the city of Stratford. EWSID is located southeast of WWD as shown on the attached map.

EWSID allocates its SWP Table A water to the landowners within EWSID for their proportionate share of SWP water based on acreage owned within EWSID. Each landowner contracts directly with EWSID for up to 0.39 AF per acre of the SWP water. Newton farms 1,483 acres within EWSID which have a contracted Table A supply for up to 572 AF per year, and Brooks Farms (Brooks) farms 1,437 acres within EWSID which have a contracted Table A supply for up to 554 AF per year. Newton and Brooks have historically acquired additional SWP Table A supplies from other landowners within EWSID, and are requesting the flexibility to annually transfer up to a total of 2,000 AF of their EWSID supplies to WWD.

The lands owned by these landowners in EWSID are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton, small grains, safflower, and alfalfa. The land within EWSID would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other EWSID surface water sources, dry farming, and land fallowing. Other surface water supplies, when available, include Kings River water, flood water, SWP Article 21 water, SWP turn-back water, and potential purchases of other surface supplies.

In a similar manner as TLBWSD in the absence of the transfer, the water would be used within EWSID service area. The water to be transferred is annually diverted at the Banks Pumping Plant and stored in San Luis Reservoir and/or approved for delivery to EWSID in accordance with the terms of DWR's permits. Therefore, the transfer will not result in an increase in diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Impacts to Westlands Water District

WWD is comprised of approximately 604,000 acres and is located in western Fresno County and northwestern Kings County between the cities of Firebaugh and Kettleman City. WWD is located northwest of TLBWSD and EWSID as shown on the attached map.

WWD allocates its CVP water to the landowners within WWD for their proportionate share of CVP water based on acreage owned within WWD. Each landowner contracts directly with WWD for up to 2.60 AF per acre of the CVP water. Hansen farms 3,461 acres within WWD which have a contracted CVP supply for up to 8,999 AF per year, Newton farms 875 acres within WWD which have a contracted CVP supply for up to 2,275 AF per year, and Brooks farms 1,319 acres within WWD which have a contracted CVP supply for up to 3,429 AF per year. CVP allocations are currently estimated at 0 to 10% percent of contract amounts. Even if water supply conditions improve significantly in the coming months, CVP allocations are not expected to exceed a 55% allocation due to recent court decisions. Therefore growers in WWD are not expecting to receive adequate surface water supplies this year.

The lands owned by these landowners in WWD are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as alfalfa, cotton tomatoes and wheat, and permanent plantings of almonds and pistachios. The conversion of field crops to high dollar permanent plantings requires a more reliable water supply. In the absence of surface water, growers would likely pump groundwater to keep the trees from reaching their permanent wilting point. The water resulting from this transfer will be used to supplement supplies and to reduce the need for groundwater pumping.

Historical Transfers

Since 2004, SWRCB has approved temporary transfers to these landowners from TLBWSD. Similarly in 2009, SWRCB approved a temporary transfer to Brooks Farms from EWSID. These approvals and actual amounts transferred are shown in the table below.

Summary of Transfers to WWD

	Hansen Approved up to Amount Acre-Feet	Hansen Actual Transferred Acre-Feet	Newton Approved up to Amount Acre-Feet	Newton Actual Transferred Acre-Feet	Brooks Approved up to Amount Acre-Feet	Brooks Actual Transferred Acre-Feet	Total Approved up to Amount Acre-Feet	Total Actual Transferred Acre-Feet
2009	6,000	2,000	2,000	1,590	1,000	870	9,000	4,460
2008	6,000	1,932	2,000	753			8,000	2,685
2007	6,000	3,110	2,000	1,230			8,000	4,340
2006	6,000	3,000	2,000	-			8,000	3,000
2005	6,000	1,000	2,000	850			8,000	1,850
2004	6,000	3,500	2,000	2,000			8,000	5,500
Total	36,000	14,542	12,000	6,423	1,000	870	49,000	21,835
Average	6,000	2,424	2,000	1,071	1,000	870	8,167	3,639

2009 actuals through September 30.

Although the SWRCB orders approving the transfers authorized the transfer of up to a total of 49,000 AF over the six year period, the actual amount transferred is significantly less, totaling 21,835 AF over the period. The actual quantities diverted are dependent on crop water demand and the total quantity ultimately available in WWD. TLBWSD and EWSID must make estimates early in the season as to what ultimately might be required and conditions may change from what was anticipated as the irrigation season progresses. Water is not applied in excess of crop water demands and no water is diverted for use within WWD outside these specific farming operations. The following table illustrates the maximum combined water supply per acre at various CVP and SWP allocations. Note that these tables assume maximum SWP and CVP allocations at 60%--it is anticipated that transfer amounts would reduce proportionally should the allocation increase above this amount.

Summary of Water Available to Lands in WWD Receiving Water From Transfer

Hansen/Vista Verde Farms	3,461 Acres
Maximum CVP Allotment	8,999 AF
Maximum SWP Allotment	6,000 AF

AF/Acre at Various Allocations

CVP Allocation	SWP Allocation						
	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%
0%	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0
10%	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3
20%	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6
30%	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8
40%	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1
50%	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3
60%	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6

Newton Farms 875 Acres
 Maximum CVP Allotment 2,275 AF
 Maximum SWP Allotment, TLBWSID 2,000 AF
 Maximum SWP Allotment, EWSID 1,000 AF

AF/Acre at Various Allocations

CVP Allocation	SWP Allocation						
	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%
0%	0.0	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.1
10%	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.3
20%	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.6
30%	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.8
40%	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.1
50%	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.7	3.0	3.4
60%	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.6

Brooks Farms 1,319 Acres
 Maximum CVP Allotment 3,429 AF
 Maximum SWP Allotment 1,000 AF

AF/Acre at Various Allocations

CVP Allocation	SWP Allocation						
	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%
0%	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
10%	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
20%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
30%	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2
40%	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5
50%	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8
60%	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0

In general, land in WWD has complete tailwater control within each field. Water planned for transfer to WWD will be delivered to 3,461 acres (Hansen) and 1,319 acres (Brooks) in the western half of the District and 875 acres (Newton) in the southern half of the District. Lands within WWD area having selenium and other drainage problems are located in the low lying areas in the northern quarter of the District. However, all lands in WWD to receive the transferred water are located west of the California Aqueduct (except portions of Sections 10, 15, and 16, T19S, R18E) and no further north or west than T16S, R14E.

WWD has acquired and retired the water supply from approximately 94,000 acres of land within the eastern third of the District that is known to be susceptible to shallow groundwater conditions. Most of the retired land is situated in that area of the District that would be most likely to contribute to subsurface return flows back to the San Joaquin River (refer to the attached WWD map Generalized Depth of Shallow Groundwater, April 2009 for locations of those retired lands with monitoring wells and representative hydrographs). Continued irrigation of upslope (more westerly) lands has not been shown to be contributing water to the San Joaquin River through subsurface return flows, as the District's shallow groundwater monitoring program has identified that the shallow water table has steadily declined since the District acquisitions.

All lands have depths to groundwater of greater than 15 feet of the ground surface as identified on the attached WWD map Generalized Depth of Shallow Groundwater, April 2009. Total quantities of water delivered to the drainage problem area will not be affected by this transfer. Lands to receive increased water deliveries due to this transfer have not been shown to have

drainage or selenium problems. None of WWD's drainage is discharged to the San Joaquin River system. In addition, WWD has an aggressive program to deal with water conservation and drainage reduction in their district.

FINDING

The attached environmental checklist was prepared for the proposed project and it was determined that no significant environmental effects would be expected as a result of the proposed water transfer. No construction or modification of existing facilities will be required. It has been determined that there will be no biological impacts and no adverse impact to any listed species will occur as a result of the transfer of SWP Table A water from TLBWSD and EWSID to WWD.

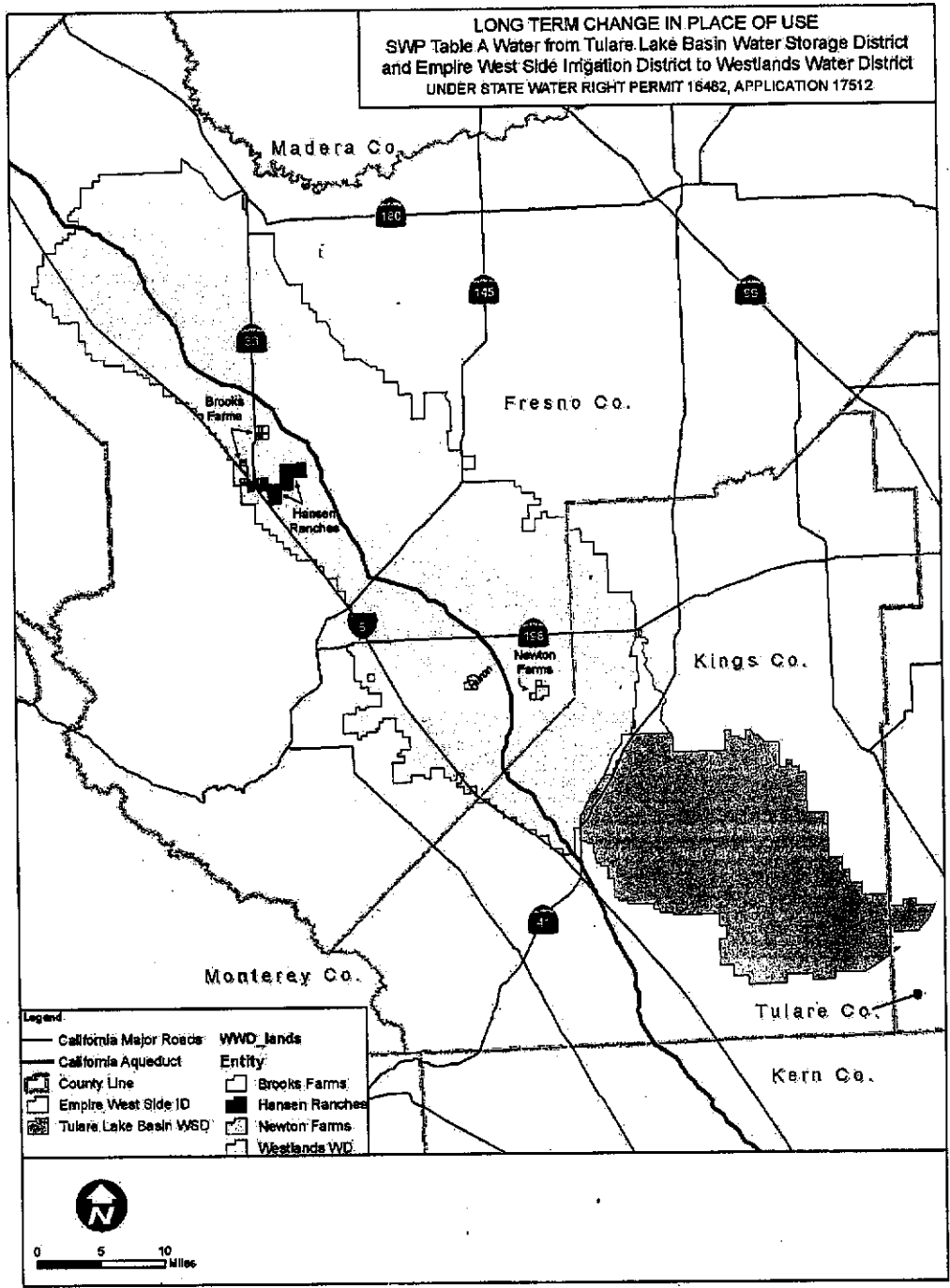
Although non-physical projects may contribute directly or indirectly toward a cumulative impact on the physical environment, no significant incremental effects have been identified by this action (project) toward such a cumulative effect.

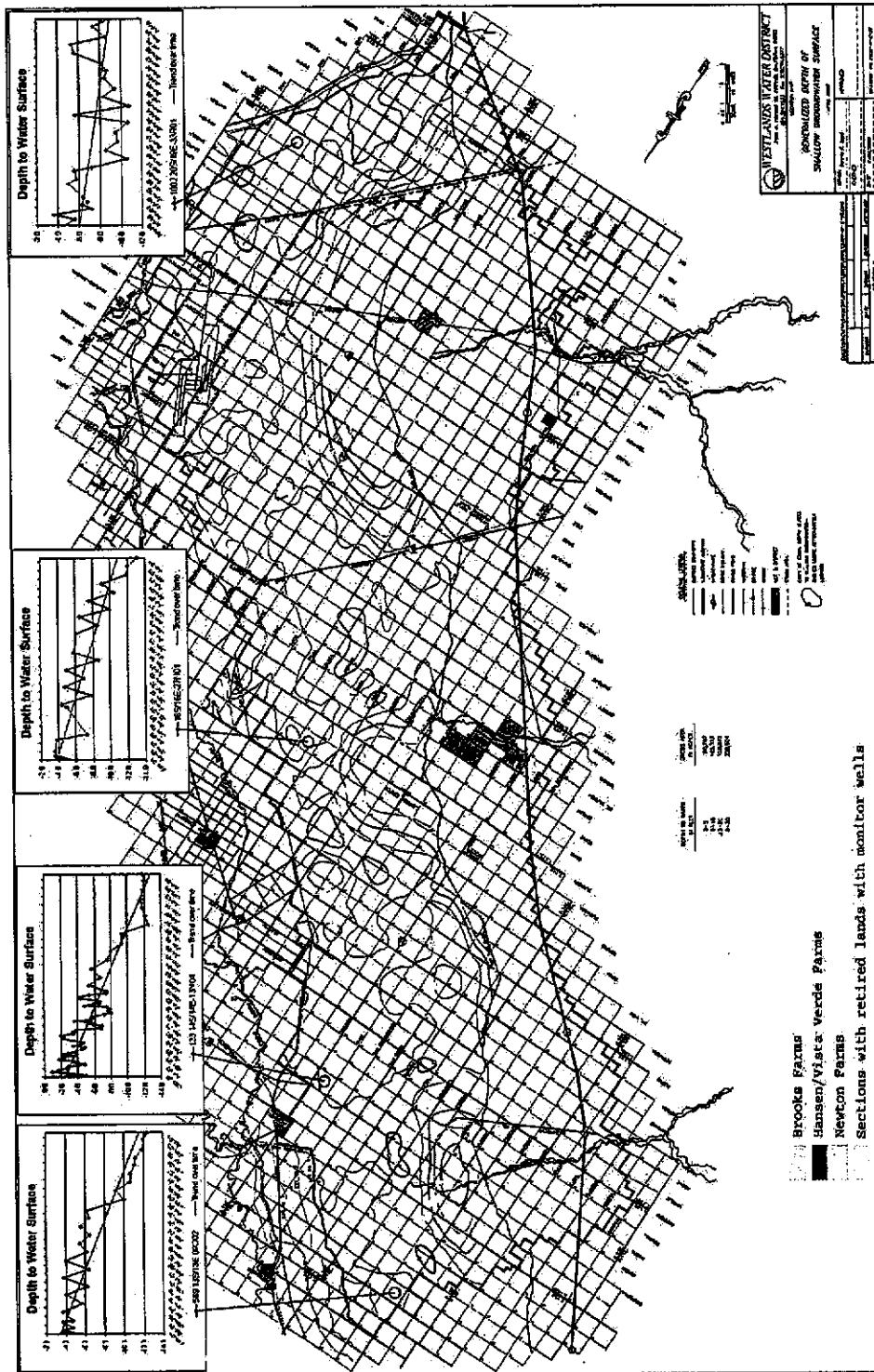
After a through review of the project, it has been determined that no significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the proposed project, and therefore, it is recommended that a Negative Declaration be proposed.

Respectively submitted,



Mark Gilkey, General Manager, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
(Lead Agency)
Attachments





ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

- 1. Project Title:** Long Term Change in Place of Use—SWP Table A Water from Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Empire West Side Irrigation District to Westlands Water District
- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
1001 Chase Ave
Corcoran, CA 93212
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** Mark Gilkey, General Manager
(559) 992-4127
- 4. Project Location:** Transferor – Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) is comprised of approximately 184,909 acres and is located in southeastern Kings County and southwestern Tulare County, between the city of Corcoran and the northern Kern County line. Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) is comprised of approximately 7,780 acres and is located in western Kings County, west of the city of Stratford.
- Transferee – Westlands Water District (WWD) is comprised of approximately 604,000 acres and is located in western Fresno and Kings Counties.
- 5. Project Sponsors Name & Address:
(Responsible Agency)** Westlands Water District
PO Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703-6056
Contact: Tom Glover, Resources Division
(559) 224-1523
- Empire West Side Irrigation District
PO Box 1149
Hanford, CA 93232
Contact: John Howe, Manager
(559) 947-3027
- 6. General Plan Designation:** N.A.
- 7. Zoning** Agricultural
- 8. Description of Project:** Two landowners in TLBWSD who also own lands in WWD are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 7,874 acre-feet (AF) of their State Water Project (SWP) Table A allotment to WWD, which is outside of the SWP Place of Use, over the next 15-year period.

EWSID is an agricultural water purveyor that also has a water supply contract with DWR for surface water supplies from the SWP. Two landowners in EWSID, including one which is also transferring water from TLBWSD, also own lands in WWD and are requesting approval to annually deliver up to 2,000 AF of their SWP Table A allotment to WWD over the next 15-year period.

These two actions are analyzed together to address potential cumulative impacts as a result of the proximity of the districts and commonality of the landowners.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: The lands within TLBWSD, EWSID and WWD are almost entirely in agricultural production, consisting of: (a) in TLBWSD and EWSID, open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton, small grains, safflower, and alfalfa, and lands that are planted with pomegranates, and (b) in WWD, open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton and tomatoes, and lands that are now planted with permanent crops such as almonds and pistachios.

10. Other agencies whose approval is required: The proposed long-term change in place of use requires approval from TLBWSD, EWSID, WWD, the California Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/ Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

Note that none of these factors represent a "Potentially Significant Impact"

Determination (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been

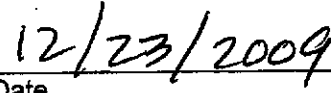
avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

Mark Gilkey

Printed Name



Date

General Manager

Title

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses", may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state whether they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated", describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats, however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a transfer of a supplemental water supply between neighboring agricultural water districts and would have no effect on aesthetics. The lands within the transferring districts would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other surface water sources, dry farming, and land fallowing.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a transfer of a supplemental water supply between neighboring agricultural water districts and would have no effect on agricultural resources. The lands within the transferring districts would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other surface water sources, dry farming, and land fallowing; no conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use is anticipated. The lands receiving the transferred water will benefit from having a more stable, year-to-year minimum supply with which to operate with.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a transfer of a supplemental water supply between neighboring agricultural water districts and would have no effect on air quality. The lands within the transferring districts would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other surface water sources, dry farming, and land fallowing.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, or any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The project would not have any adverse impacts on biological resources. A review of the California Natural Diversity Database indicates that the following Federal and State threatened or endangered species have been found within the boundaries of the participating districts:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Listing	California Listing
<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i>	Nelson's antelope squirrel	None	Threatened
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened
<i>Caulanthus californicus</i>	California jewel-flower	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	western snowy plover	Threatened	None
<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>	giant kangaroo rat	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dipodomys nitratoides exilis</i>	Fresno kangaroo rat	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i>	Tipton kangaroo rat	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Gambelia sila</i>	blunt-nosed leopard lizard	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Monolopia congdonii</i>	San Joaquin woollythreads	Endangered	None
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	giant garter snake	Threatened	Threatened
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	San Joaquin kit fox	Endangered	Threatened

The lands associated with this project are currently farmed and are not suitable habitat for any of these species. The project would not require nor induce any construction that might affect vegetation or wildlife habitat. The lands within the transferring districts would continue to be farmed after the transfer, utilizing a combination of other surface water sources or dry farming.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a water transfer between neighboring agricultural water districts that would not require nor induce any construction; thus cultural resources would not be affected.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOIL. Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a water transfer between neighboring agricultural water districts that would not require nor induce any construction; thus there would be no adverse impacts on geology and soils as a result of the project.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The project will not result in any hazards or hazardous materials impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: In general, land in WWD has complete tailwater control within each field. Water planned for transfer to WWD will be delivered to 3,461 acres (Hansen) and 1,319 acres

(Brooks) in the western half of the District and 875 acres (Newton) in the southern half of the District. Lands within WWD area having selenium and other drainage problems are located in the low lying areas in the northern quarter of the District. However, all lands in WWD to receive the transferred water are located west of the California Aqueduct (except portions of Sections 10, 15, and 16, T19S, R18E) and no further north or west than T16S, R14E.

All lands have depths to groundwater of greater than 15 feet of the ground surface as identified on WWD map Generalized, Depth of Shallow Groundwater, April 2009. Total quantities of water delivered to the drainage problem area will not be affected by this transfer. Lands to receive increased water deliveries due to this transfer have not been shown to have drainage or selenium problems. None of WWD's drainage is discharged to the San Joaquin River system. In addition, WWD has an aggressive program to deal with water conservation and drainage reduction in their district. The project would not impact any groundwater resources, drainage patterns, or flooding as a result of the proposed project.

In the transfer absence, the water would be used within TLBWSD and EWSID service areas. The water to be transferred is annually diverted at the Banks Pumping Plant and stored in San Luis Reservoir and/or approved for delivery to TLBWSD and EWSID in accordance with the terms of DWR's permits. Therefore, the transfer will not result in an increase in diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The conversion of field crops to higher dollar permanent plantings requires a more reliable water supply. In the absence of surface water, growers would likely pump groundwater to keep the trees from reaching their permanent wilting point. The water resulting from this transfer will be used to supplement surface water supplies and to reduce the need for groundwater pumping.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: No land use changes would occur as a result of the project. The project is a water transfer between neighboring agricultural water districts that would not require nor induce any impact on land use and planning.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project would not have any impact on mineral resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport and public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: No additional noise would be created by the project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: project would not induce any additional development. The project would not have any impact on population and housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a water transfer between two neighboring agricultural water districts and the proposed water transfer would not affect public services.

XIV. RECREATION.

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: There are no recreation facilities in the project vicinity; no recreation facilities would be impacted by the project and the project would not provide any recreation facilities.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: There would not be any increase in vehicular traffic as a result of the project.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The project is a water transfer between two neighboring agricultural water districts. No new or expanded entitlements would be needed. The project would not have any adverse impact on utilities and service systems.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The results of this environmental assessment indicate that there are no potential environmental impacts as a result of the project.