

TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
ADOPTION OF TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT-
KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
(SCH #2021010064)

APPLICANT: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

_____ State of California
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

_____ County Clerk, County of Kings
Kings County Government Center
1400 E. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

_____ County Clerk, County of Kern
1115 Truxton Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code

PROJECT TITLE: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District-Kern County Water Agency Water Transfer Program

CONTACT PERSON: Jacob J. Westra, General Manager, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District; phone (559) 992-4127.

PROJECT LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project is located within the service areas of the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) in Kings and Tulare County and the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) in Kern County. The points of delivery for water transfers would be in Reaches 8 through 16 of the California Aqueduct and Reach 31A of the Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct. The KCWA Member Units expected to be involved in the water transfers with TLBWSD are located on the San Joaquin Valley floor portion of Kern County.

The Project is a long-term water transfer program between TLBWSD and KCWA to allow for annual transfers of up to 67,000 acre-feet per year (AF/y) of State Water Project (SWP) water from common landowners (JG Boswell up to 66,000 AF/y and Westlake Farms up to 1,000 AF/y) with landholdings in each of the member units. The purpose of the Project is to improve water management opportunities within TLBWSD and KCWA by creating a program that would accelerate the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approval process for the kinds of surface water transfers that have successfully occurred in the past between TLBWSD and KCWA. The Project would allow for timely water transfers that would utilize the water supplies and existing facilities in a more beneficial manner for the growers, thereby improving water management practices within the agencies. Although water transfers could occur both from TLBWSD to KCWA and from KCWA to TLBWSD, it is anticipated that most of the SWP water transfers would be from landowners in TLBWSD to districts in KCWA where the same landowners also own and manage

agricultural operations. Transfers from districts in KCWA to TLBWSD would only occur if both the specific district in KCWA and KCWA approve the specific transfer when and if it is requested by the landowner.

For common landowner transfers, the following KCWA Member Units could be involved:

- Belridge Water Storage District
- Berrenda Mesa Water District
- Buena Vista Water Storage District
- Henry Miller Water District
- Kern Delta Water District
- Lost Hills Water District
- Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

No construction, nor any operational or maintenance changes will occur as a result of the Project.

FINDINGS:

1. This is to advise that the Lead Agency, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, has approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.
2. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
3. An Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared for this project, posted, and filed in the offices of the California Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and the California Public Resources Code prior to the District taking action to adopt the Program.
4. This Notice of Determination has been filed to document the action by the District of Adopting the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District-Kern County Water Agency Water Transfer Program. No further CEQA compliance is required.
5. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the project.

A statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.

Date Approved by Lead Agency: 3/9/2021



Jacob J. Westra, General Manager
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District