

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

prepared for the

Sutter Extension Water District 2021 Water Transfer Program

The Sutter Extension Water District (SEWD) has conducted an environmental review for a proposed water transfer program in Sutter County, California. The project, its location, and probable environmental effects were described in a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (SCH#2021020186) which was circulated for public review between February 9, 2021 and March 10, 2021.

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared by SEWD to ensure that the mitigation measures and project revisions identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are implemented, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15097.

Biological Resources

MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Measure Bio-1: The maximum percentage of land idled for this project would be limited to 20% of SEWD's irrigable acreage. At least 80% of SEWD's irrigable acreage would remain unaffected. Lands taken out of production would be dispersed throughout the SEWD's jurisdiction such that the contiguity of idled lands would be minimized allowing for a mosaic of lands that could be utilized by the Giant Garter Snake (GGS) throughout SEWD's jurisdiction.

Mitigation Measure Bio-4: Lands with known important GGS populations will not be permitted to participate in the proposed land idling transfer. These areas include lands immediately adjacent to or directly abutting Gilsizer Slough and the land side of the Toe Drain along the Sutter Bypass.

Party Responsible for Implementing

Mitigation: Sutter Extension Water District

Implementation

Phase: Prior to commencing water transfer activities.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Monitoring Activity: SEWD to submit map to Department of Water Resources (DWR) indicating the areas of known important GGS habitat with a high likelihood of GGS occurrence

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and all lands proposed to be fallowed as part of the water transfer program. SEWD will coordinate with DWR to access the idled land to verify water is being made available for transfer and to verify that the actions to protect the GGS are being implemented.

Monitoring Period: Prior to commencing water transfer activities.

Frequency: Once at the beginning of the water transfer program.

Party responsible for

Monitoring Activity: Sutter Extension Water District and DWR

Outside Agency

Coordination: Yes

Agency Names: Department of Water Resources

MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Measure Bio-2: SEWD will ensure a depth of water is maintained in its major irrigation and drainage canals that is similar to depths during years when a crop idling transfer does not occur, or where information on existing water depths is limited, a depth of at least two feet will be maintained to provide movement corridors for GGS.

Mitigation Measure Bio-4: The following measure will be implemented by SEWD for the proposed land idling transfer:

- Where land idling for participation in the proposed transfer occurs within areas of known important GGS populations, SEWD will coordinate with DWR to document that adequate water is maintained in its smaller irrigation and drainage canals. Documentation may include flow records, photographic documentation, or other means agreed to by DWR.

**Party Responsible
for Implementing**

Mitigation: Sutter Extension Water District

Implementation

Phase: During water transfer program (May through September).

MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Monitoring Activity: SEWD will provide photographic documentation to DWR three times

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during the water transfer program (May, July, September) as proof that adequate water is maintained in its irrigation and drainage canals. SEWD will coordinate with DWR to access the idled land to verify that the actions to protect the GGS are being implemented.

Monitoring Period: May through September

Frequency: Three times during the water transfer program in May, July, and September

Party responsible for Monitoring Activity: Sutter Extension Water District and DWR

Outside Agency Coordination: Yes.

Agency Names: Department of Water Resources

MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Measure Bio-3: SEWD will perform GGS best management practices (BMPs), including educating maintenance personnel to recognize and avoid contact with GGS, clean only one side of a major conveyance and drainage channel per year, and raise flail mower blades to at least six inches above the canal operation and maintenance road surfaces.

Party Responsible for Implementing Mitigation: Sutter Extension Water District

Implementation Phase: During water transfer program activities and all routine operations and maintenance activities.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Monitoring Activity: SEWD will maintain a description of how BMPs are incorporated into its operations and maintenance activities.

Monitoring Period: During water transfer program activities and all routine operations and maintenance activities.

Frequency: Ongoing.

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**Party responsible for
Monitoring Activity:** Sutter Extension Water District

**Outside Agency
Coordination:** No.

Agency Names: N/A