Dunnigan Water District

Dunnigan Water District Water Transfer Project

Administrative Draft Initial Study / Negative Declaration

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Prepared for:
Dunnigan Water District

Prepared by:
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
130 North Garden Street
Visalia, CA 93291

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PROVOST& PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
An Employee Owned Company

Report Prepared for:

Dunnigan Water District

3817 1st Street
P.O. Box 84
Dunnigan, CA 95937

Contact:
William Vanderwaal, PE, General Manager

(530) 724-3271

Report Prepared by:

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Dawn E. Marple, Environmental Project Manager
Dena, Giacomini, Senior Planner, Biologist, Quality Assurance/Quality Control
Lizbeth Avitia, Assistant Planner, Writer
Wyatt Czeshinski, Assistant Planner, Writer
Mallory Serrao, GIS, Figures
Jackie Lancaster Project Administrator, Writer

Contact:
Dawn E. Marple, Environmental Project Manager
(559) 636-1166

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
AF	Acre Feet (Foot)
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AQMIS2	Air Quality Meteorological Information
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agecny
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH_4	Methane
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CVP	Central Valley Project
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOD	Department of Defense
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
DWD	Dunnigan Water District
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Initial Study
IS/ND	Initial Study/Negative Declaration
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
N_2O	Nitrous Oxide
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
ND	Negative Declaration
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide

NOA ..... Natural Occuring Asbestos
NPDES ..... National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O_3 ..... Ozone
PG&E ..... Pacific Gas and Electric
PM_{10} ..... Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$ ..... Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PPB ..... Parts per Billion
PPM ..... Parts per Million
PRC ..... Public Resource Code
Project ..... Dunnigan Water District Water Transfer
RD 108 ..... Reclamation District 108
SB ..... Senate Bill
SGMA ..... Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SLIC ..... Spills-Leaks-Investigation Cleanup
SO_2 ..... Sulfur Dioxide
SWRCB ..... State Water Resources Control Board
TAC ..... Toxic Air Contamininants
USEPA ..... United States Environmental Protection Agency
YSAQMD ..... Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District

Chapter 1 Introduction

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard) has prepared this Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) on behalf of the Dunnigan Water District (DWD or District) to address the environmental effects of the proposed Dunnigan Water Transfer Project (Project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq*. The DWD is the CEQA lead agency for this Project.

The site and the Project are described in detail in the **Chapter 2 Project Description**.

1.1 Regulatory Information

An Initial Study (IS) is a document prepared by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14 (Chapter 3, Section 15000, *et seq*.)-- also known as the CEQA Guidelines-- Section 15064 (a)(1) states that an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed project under review may have a significant effect on the environment and should be further analyzed to determine mitigation measures or project alternatives that might avoid or reduce project impacts to less than significant levels. A negative declaration (ND) may be prepared instead if the lead agency finds that there is ***no*** substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. An ND is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project, not otherwise exempt from CEQA, would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a ND or *mitigated* ND shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

a. The IS shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed Project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

b. The IS identified potentially significant effects, but:

    1. Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed ND and IS is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur is prepared, and

    2. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed Project *as revised* may have a significant effect on the environment.

1.2 Document Format

This IS/ND contains three chapters. **Chapter 1 Introduction**, provides an overview of the Project and the CEQA process. **Chapter 2 Project Description**, provides a detailed description of Project components and objectives**. Chapter 3 Impact Analysis** presents the CEQA checklist and environmental analysis for all impact areas, mandatory findings of significance, and feasible mitigation measures. If the Project does not have the potential to significantly impact a given issue area, the relevant section provides a brief discussion of the reasons why no impacts are expected.

Chapter 2 Project Description

2.1 Project Background and Objectives

2.1.1 Project Title

Dunnigan Water District Water Transfer Project

2.1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Dunnigan Water District
3817 1st Street
P.O. Box 84
Dunnigan, CA 95937

2.1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Lead Agency Contact
William Vanderwaal, PE, General Manager
(530) 724-3271

CEQA Consultant
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Dawn E. Marple, Environmental Project Manager
(559) 636-1166

2.1.4 Project Location

The Project is located in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties in California, northwest of Sacramento. The Project would transfer water purchased from nine entities (See **Figure 2-1** and **Figure 2-2**) in these three counties and convey it to DWD.

2.1.5 Description of Project

2.1.5.1 Project Background and Purpose

DWD is an independent special district formed in 1956 by landowners in the Dunnigan area to access the Central Valley Project (CVP) water through the soon to be built Tehama-Colusa Canal. The DWD was formed in 1956 to provide a means of bringing Central Valley Project water from the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Dunnigan area. The District provides non-potable water for irrigation purposes through a gravity-fed system. Its service area encompasses approximately 11,000 acres.[1]

The DWD provides irrigation water and some landscaping water to its Dunnigan customers. The District maintains its 26 miles of underground pipeline and delivery outlets at property owners and the canal turnouts. The District's water source comes from Shasta Dam at the Red Bluff Diversion. The District has a service contract with the Department of Interior for 19,000 acre-feet. The District receives an annual notification water allocation based on Shasta Dam levels and environmental requirements.[2] Water purchased by DWD to be transferred in this Project would be used for agricultural beneficial use, offsetting water that would otherwise be pumped groundwater. Water would be transferred from nine entities located within Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties to DWD through existing conveyance facilities.

[1] Reclamation District 108. https://www.rd108.org/dunnigan-water-district/ Site accessed May 3, 2021.
[2] Ibid.

2.1.5.2 Project Description

The DWD seeks to enter into an agreement with the following nine (the two separate transactions with John A. & Claire M. Driver will be considered separate entities) entities:

Table 2-1. Entities from which Water may be purchased for Water Transfer.

Member	Amount (AF)	Contract
Carter Mutual Water Company	up to 500 AF	# 14-06-200-2401A-R-1
Gregory Driver	up to 14 AF	# 14-06-200-939A-2-R-1
John A. & Clare M. Driver (1314)	up to 10 AF	# 14-06-200-2398A-R-1
John A. & Clare M. Driver (2398)	up to 10 AF	# 14-06-200-2398A-R-1
William A Driver	up to 106 AF	# 14-06-200-939A-1-R-1
Green Valley Corporation	up to 210 AF	# 14-06-200-5210A-R-1
Swenson Farms	up to 325 AF	# 14-06-200-5211A-R-1
Meridian Farms	up to 1000 AF	# 14-06-200-838A-R-1
River Garden Farms	up to 500 AF of water	# 14-06-200-878A-R-1

The water transfer agreements would allow yearly transfers, commencing on April 1 through October 31, each year and can be extended for up to four (4) years until 2025. The water transferred is all "Project Water" (Article 3E) from their Settlement Contract and would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no construction activities would be required as a result of the Project. Additionally, there would be no operational or maintenance changes as a result of the Project.

2.1.6 Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project site is located within Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties in Northern California. Land surrounding the majority of the Project site is dominated by agriculture. The Project can also be found in the urban areas of Dunnigan and Meridian. To the west of the Project site, is Interstate 5 and the mountain ranges that characterize the coastal portion of the state. Water conveyance facilities used for this Project would mainly run through fields used for crop production.

2.1.7 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

- State Water Resources Control Board
- United States Bureau of Reclamation

2.1.8 Consultation with California Native American Tribes

Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, *et seq. (codification of Assembly Bill 52(AB 52), 2013-14)* requires that a lead agency, within 14 days of determining that it will undertake a project, must notify in writing any California Native American Tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project if that Tribe has previously requested notification about projects in that geographic area. The notice must briefly describe the project and inquire whether the Tribe wishes to initiate request formal consultation. Tribes have 30 days from receipt of notification to request formal consultation. The lead agency then has 30 days to initiate the consultation, which then continues until the parties come to an agreement regarding necessary mitigation or agree that no mitigation is needed, or one or both parties determine that negotiation occurred in good faith, but no agreement will be made.

DWD has not received any written correspondence from a Tribe pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 requesting notification of the Project.

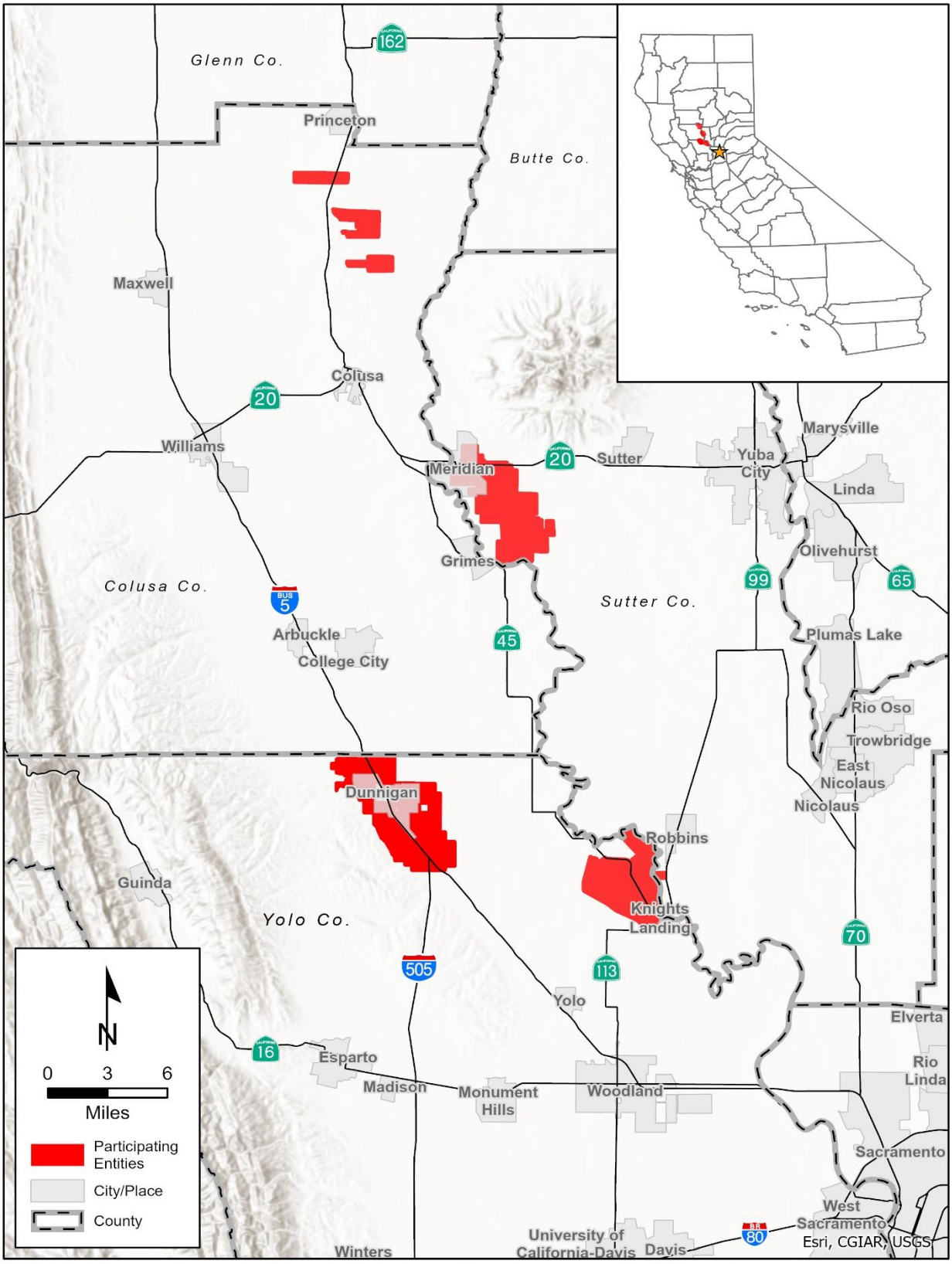

Figure 2-1. Regional Location Map

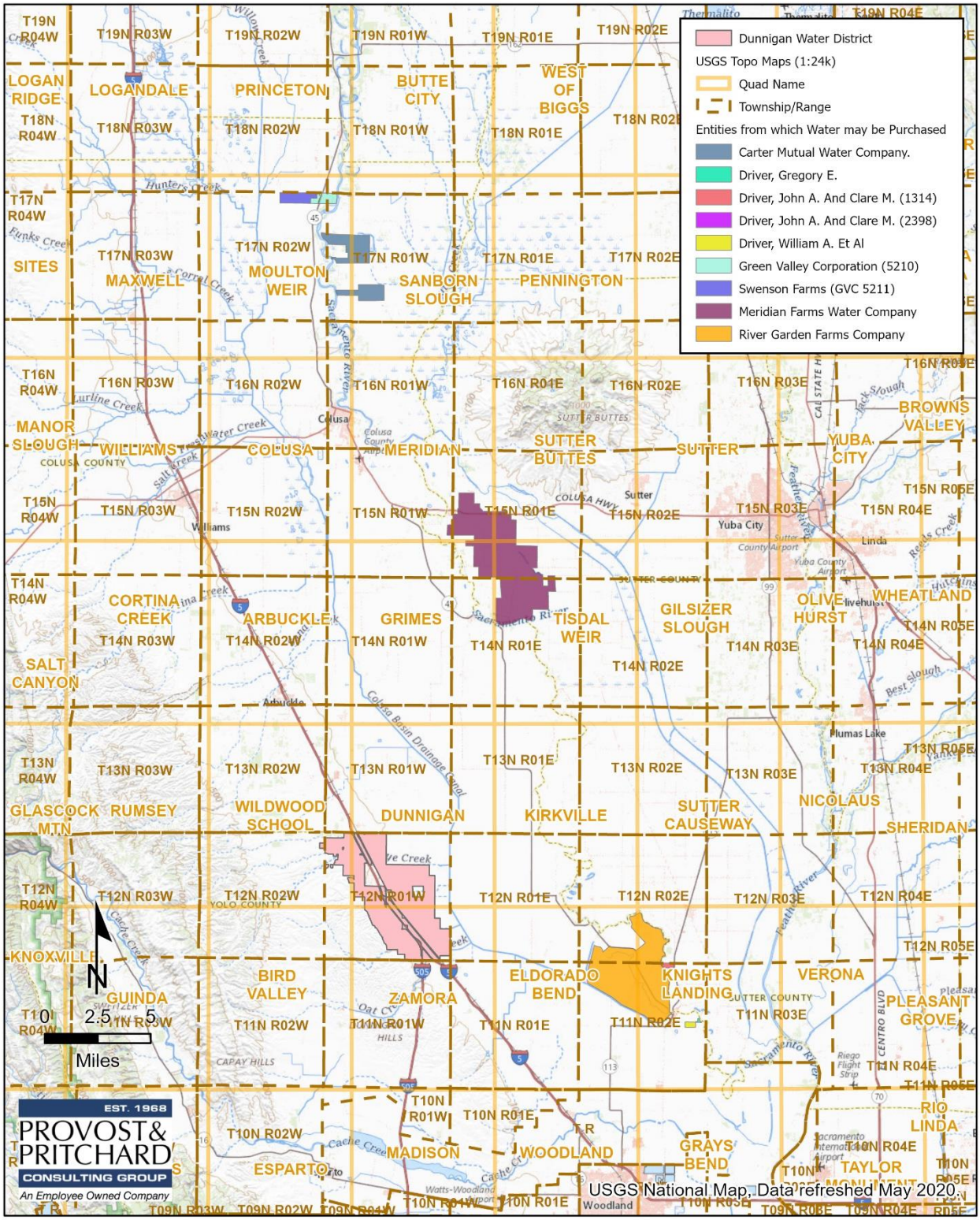

Figure 2-2. Topographic Quadrangle Map

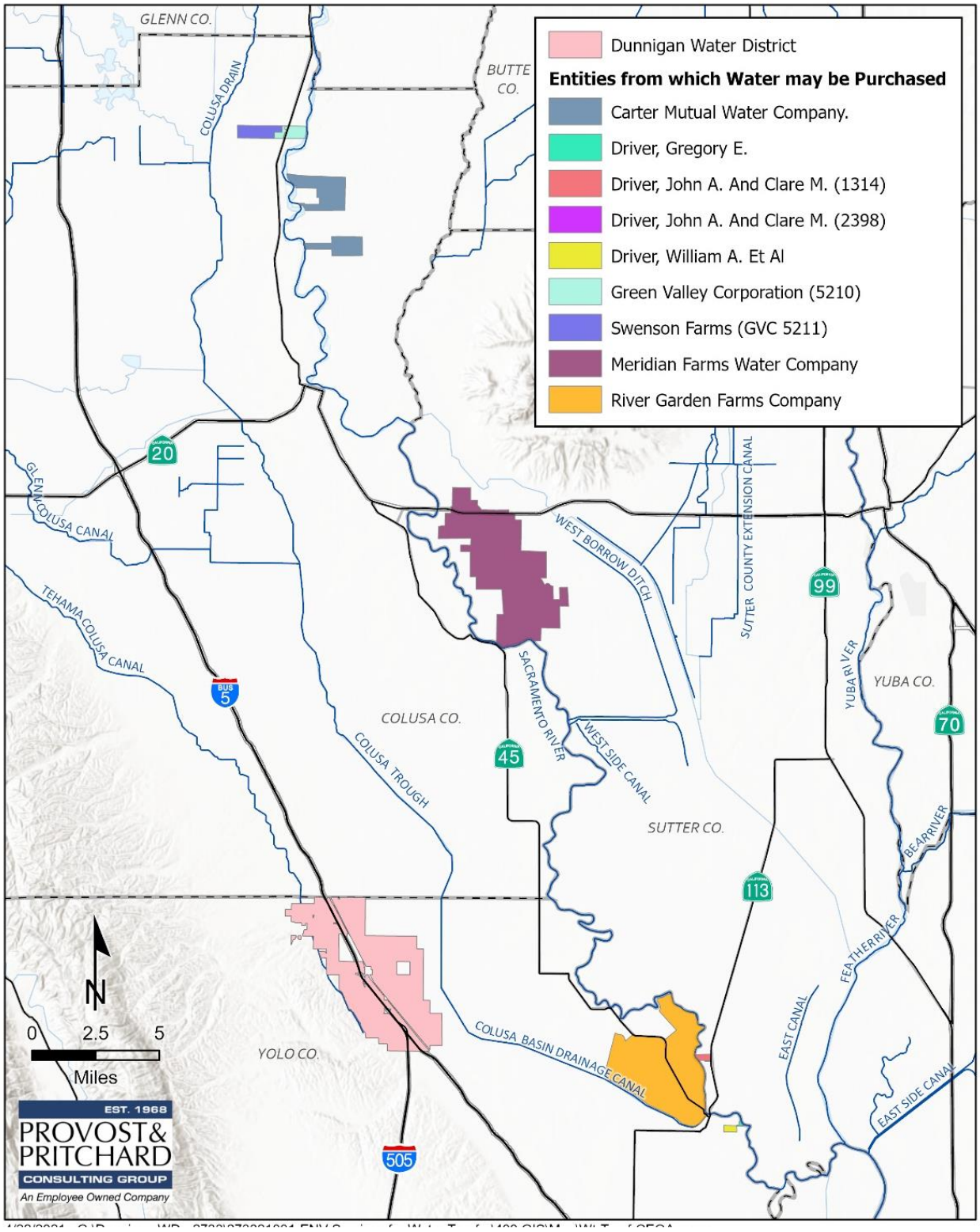

Figure 2-3. Water Transfer Map

Chapter 3 Impact Analysis

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

As indicated by the discussions of existing and baseline conditions, and impact analyses that follow in this Chapter, environmental factors not checked below would have no impacts or less than significant impacts resulting from the project. Environmental factors that are. checked below would have potentially significant impacts resulting from the project. Mitigation measures are recommended for each of the potentially significant impacts that would reduce the impact to less than significant.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

The analyses of environmental impacts here in **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis** are separated into the following categories:

Potentially Significant Impact. This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant, and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce an effect from a "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure(s), and briefly explain how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

Less Than Significant Impact. This category is identified when the proposed project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. "No Impact" answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (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 would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis)

3.2 Aesthetics

Table 3-1. Aesthetics Impacts

Aesthetics Impacts				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.2.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties. Lands in the Project vicinity consist of relatively flat, irrigated farmland. Agricultural practices in the vicinity consist of row crop, field crop, and orchard cultivation. Additionally, the immediate vicinity contains rural roadways, canals, water retention basins and other infrastructure typical of rural agricultural areas along the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor in the Sacramento Valley. The Project would result in the agreement of the DWD to purchase and convey a maximum of 2,665-acre feet (AF) of water from nine entities for a term of April through October, with the option to extend annually through the year 2025. John A & Claire M. Driver would convey two separate transfers and each transfer will be considered a separate entity. Water would be conveyed through existing infrastructure.

3.2.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. A scenic vista is generally defined as a public vantage point with an expansive view of a significant landscape feature. This Project consists of moving water through existing water conveyance systems. There would be no temporary or permanent physical changes associated with the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. The Project would not result in any construction or need for any changes or alterations to the physical environment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?(Public view are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. As discussed above, water would be moved through existing conveyances from one district to another district based on each water transfer agreement. The Project would not result in any construction or change in the physical environment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The Project would not result in any new introduction of substantial light or glare to the area which would adversely affect day or nighttime views. The Project does not require any construction or altering of the environment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.3 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Table 3-2. Agriculture and Forest Impacts

Agriculture and Forest Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is located in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties. The Project would transfer purchased water to the DWD from the nine entities listed previously above. Water purchased by DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) designates the town of Dunnigan, California, where Reclamation District 108 (RD 108) is located, as Urban and Built-Up Land, as the most common use. Agriculture is the most extensive land use in Yolo[3], Sutter[4], and Colusa[5] Counties. A wide range of commodities are grown in these Counties, with major production of almonds, tomatoes, grapes/wines, rice, and organic production.

[3] Glenn County 2018 Annual Agriculture Report. Website: https://yoloagenda.yolocounty.org/docs/2019/BOS. Accessed April 2021.
[4] Sutter County Crop Report. Sutter County. Website: https://www.suttercounty.org/assets/pdf/ag/CropReports/2019_Crop_Report. Accessed April 2021.
[5] Colusa County Crop Report, 2019. Colusa County. Website: https://www.countyofcolusa.org/DocumentCenter/View/12901/2019-Crop-Report?bidId=. Accessed April 2021.

3.3.2 Regulatory Setting

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP): The FMMP produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts to California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance.

The California Department of Conservation's (DOC)2012 FMMP is a non-regulatory program that produces "Important Farmland" maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. The Important Farmland maps identify eight land use categories, five of which are agriculture related: prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and grazing land – rated according to soil quality and irrigation status. Each is summarized below[6]:

• PRIME FARMLAND (P): Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S): Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• UNIQUE FARMLAND (U): Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non- irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

• FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L): Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

• GRAZING LAND (G): Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.

• URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D): Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

• OTHER LAND (X): Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

•WATER (W): Perennial water bodies with an extent of at least 40 acres.

[6] California Department of Conservation. FMMP – Report and Statistics. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Important-Farmland-Categories.aspx. Accessed April 2021.

Based on the FMMP farmland designations Dunnigan, California is an Urban and Built-Up Land Use surrounded by Prime Farmland.

a) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project does not involve any change of land use or any physical changes to the land itself. There would be no potential for farmland conversion or any potential conflict with convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as there would be no change to the existing land uses. All the water to be transferred from the entities to DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. There would be no impacts.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The Project does not involve any change of land use or any physical changes to the land itself. There would be no potential for farmland conversion or any potential conflict with an existing Williamson Act contract as there would be no change to the existing land uses. All the water from the entities to DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. There would be no impacts.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. The movement of water would not result in the loss of forest land, as the Project would not change the existing land uses or remove any vegetation. Additionally, there are no forest resources in the Project vicinity. There would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Project does not involve any conversion of forest land to non-forest use. All the water to be transferred from the entities to DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. There would be no impacts.

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Project would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. As mentioned above, the Project would not result in any construction or change in the environment. The Project would transfer water to the DWD through existing water conveyance infrastructure. The Project would not result in the conversion of any type of farmland or forest land in order to complete the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.4 Air Quality

Table 3-3. Air Quality Impacts

Air Quality Impacts					
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located within Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties, and within the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD). Air quality is influenced by a variety of factors, including topography, local, and regional meteorology. Air Quality and Meteorological Information (AQMIS2[7]) is also available to retrieve hourly ozone (O_3) levels and the YSAQMD monitors ambient air quality on a real-time basis throughout the counties.

3.4.1.1 Regulatory Attainment Designations

Under the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is required to designate areas of the State as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified with respect to applicable standards. An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the applicable standard in that area. A "nonattainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the applicable standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. Depending on the frequency and severity of pollutants exceeding applicable standards, the nonattainment designation can be further classified as serious nonattainment, severe nonattainment, or extreme nonattainment, with extreme nonattainment being the most severe of the classifications. An "unclassified" designation signifies that the data does not support either an attainment or nonattainment designation. The CCAA divides districts into moderate, serious, and severe air pollution categories, with increasingly stringent control requirements mandated for each category.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designates areas for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) as "does not meet the primary standards," "cannot be classified," or "better than national standards." For sulfur dioxide (SO_2), areas are designated as "does not meet the primary

[7] Air Quality Data (PST) Query Tool. California Air Resources Board. Website: https://www.arb.ca.gov/aqmis2/aqdselect.php. Accessed April 2021.

standards," "does not meet the secondary standards," "cannot be classified," or "better than national standards." However, the CARB terminology of attainment, nonattainment, and unclassified is more frequently used. The USEPA uses the same sub-categories for nonattainment status: serious, severe, and extreme. In 1991, the USEPA assigned new nonattainment designations to areas that had previously been classified as Group I, II, or III for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}) based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM_{10} standards. All other areas are designated "unclassified."

Table 3-4 Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards and Attainment Designation

Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Designation					
Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards*		National Standards*	
		Concentration*	Attainment Status	Primary	Attainment Status
Ozone (O_3)	1-hour	0.09 ppm	Nonattainment/ Severe	–	No Federal Standard
	8-hour	0.070 ppm	Attainment	0.075 ppm	Attainment/ Unclassified
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	AAM	20 µg/m^3	Nonattainment	–	Unclassified
	24-hour	50 µg/m^3		150 µg/m^3	
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	AAM	12 µg/m^3	Attainment	12 µg/m^3	Attainment/ Unclassified
	24-hour	No Standard		35 µg/m^3	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-hour	20 ppm	Unclassified	35 ppm	Attainment/ Unclassified
	8-hour	9 ppm		9 ppm	
	8-hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm		–	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	AAM	0.030 ppm	Attainment	53 ppb	Attainment/ Unclassified
	1-hour	0.18 ppm		100 ppb	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	AAM	–	Attainment	--	Attainment/ Unclassified
	24-hour	0.04 ppm		--	
	3-hour	–		0.5 ppm	
	1-hour	0.25 ppm		75 ppb	
Lead (Pb)	30-day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Attainment	–	No Designation/ Classification
	Calendar Quarter	–		--	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	–		0.15 µg/m^3	
Sulfates (SO_4)	24-hour	25 µg/m^3	Attainment	No Federal Standards	
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	1-hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Unclassified		
Vinyl Chloride (C_2H_3Cl)	24-hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Attainment		

Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Designation					
Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards*		National Standards*	
		Concentration*	Attainment Status	Primary	Attainment Status
Visibility-Reducing Particle Matter	8-hour	Extinction coefficient: 0.23/km-visibility of 10 miles or more due to particles when the relative humidity is less than 70%.	Unclassified		

** For more information on standards visit: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf*
Source: CARB 2015

3.4.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the air quality management standards. Standards set by the YSAQMD, and regulatory agencies relating to the Project would continue to apply. The water transferred from the entities to DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project activities do not include construction or the need for new equipment. There would be no potential for an increase in air emissions associated with this Project. There would be no impact.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No Impact. Considering the lack of construction or additional air emissions, the Project would not be a source of odors, toxic air contaminants (TAC), naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) or fugitive dust; therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The Project consists of water to be transferred from the entities to DWD using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. No construction nor operational changes are proposed with the Project. There would be no impact.

3.5 Biological Resources

Table 3-5. Biological Resources Impacts

Biological Resources Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties contain a variety of biological communities and wildlife habitats that provide recreational opportunities and contribute to the overall functionality of valley and foothill ecosystems. The Project does not involve any new construction or earthmoving activities, and all water would be moved through existing infrastructure.

Table 3-6. List of Special Status Animal with Potential to Occur Onsite and/or in the Vicinity.

Quads	*Species*	*Status*	*Habitat*
Moulton Weir	bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*	CE, CFP	Resides in old growth forests as well as lower montane coniferous forests. Nests are generally found in large, old-growth trees within a mile of water. Nests and winters along ocean shores, lake margins, and rivers.
Knights Landing, Eldorado Bend, Tisdale Weir, Grimes, Colusa, Meridian, Moulton Weir	bank swallow *(Riparia riparia)*	CT	These aerial insectivores nest colonially in burrows constructed along vertical banks and bluffs near waterbodies. This disturbance tolerant species is also known to nest in man-made sites, such as quarries, mounds of gravel or dirt, and road cuts.
Wildwood School, Zamora	burrowing owl *(Athene cunicularia)*	CSC	Resides in open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands with low growing vegetation. Nests underground in existing burrows created by mammals, most often ground squirrels.
Meridian, Grimes, Sanborn Slough, Tisdale Weir	cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose (*Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*)	CWL	Inhabits areas with standing water, including lakes, reservoirs, and ponds, while foraging on natural pasture and cultivated grain fields. Winters on lakes and inland prairies.
Sanborn Slough	California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*)	CT	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.
Dunnigan, Wildwood School, Zamora	California tiger salamander *(Ambystoma californiense)*	FT, CT, CWL	Requires vernal pools or seasonal ponds for breeding and small mammal burrows for aestivation. Generally found in grassland and oak savannah plant communities in central California from sea level to 1500 feet in elevation.
Knights Landing	chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 11)	FT, CT	Found in fast flowing waters of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River. Adult numbers depend on pool depth and volume, amount of cover, and proximity to gravel. Water temps >27 C are lethal to adults. Federal listing refers to populations spawning in Sacramento River and tributaries.
Dunnigan, Grimes, Tisdale Weir	Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*)	CCE	Occurs throughout coastal California, as well as east to the Sierra-Cascade crest, and south in to Mexico. Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia*, and *Eriogonum*.
Knights Landing	eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)	FT	Found in the Klamath River, Mad River, Redwood Creek, and in small numbers in Smith River and Humboldt Bay tributaries. Spawn in lower reaches of coastal rivers with moderate water velocities and bottom of pea-sized gravel, sand, and woody debris.

Quads	*Species*	*Status*	*Habitat*
Sutter Buttes	foothill yellow-legged frog *(Rana boylii)*	CCT, CSC	Frequents rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate and open, sunny banks in forests, chaparral, and woodlands. Occasionally found in isolated pools, vegetated backwaters, and deep, shaded, spring-fed pools.
Moulton Weir, Sanborn Slough, Eldorado Bend, Zamora, Knights Landing, Dunnigan, Grimes, Tisdale Weir, Meridian,	giant gartersnake *(Thamnophis gigas)*	FT, CT	Occurs in marshes, sloughs, drainage canals, irrigation ditches, rice fields, and adjacent uplands. Prefers locations with emergent vegetation for cover and open areas for basking. This species uses small mammal burrows adjacent to aquatic habitats for hibernation in the winter and to escape from excessive heat in the summer.
Meridian, Sutter Buttes	greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*)	FP, CT	Nests in wetland habitats in northeastern California; winters in the Central Valley. Prefers grain fields within 4 miles of a shallow body of water used as a communal roost site; irrigated pasture used as loafing sites.
Knights Landing	longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*)	CT	Found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column. Prefer salinities of 15-30 ppt, but can be found in completely freshwater to almost pure seawater. Euryhaline, nektonic & anadromous.
Sutter Buttes	Marysville California kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys californicus eximius*)	CSC	Endemic to the Sutter Buttes area. Requires friable soils in grass-forb stages of chaparral habitat.
Eldorado Bend, Zamora, Knights Landing, Dunnigan,	mountain plover *(Charadrius montanus)*	CSC	Breeds on open plains at moderate elevations. Winters in short-grass plains and fields, plowed or fallow fields, and sandy deserts. Prefers flat, bare ground with burrowing rodents.
Sanborn Slough	northern harrier *(Circus hudsonius)*	CSC	Nests and forges in various grasslands, including salt grass in desert sinks, riparian scrub, and wetland edges. Nests constructed on the ground from sticks in wet areas, usually on the edge of marshes.
Moulton Weir	osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)	CWL	Found along ocean shores, bays, freshwater lakes, and larger streams throughout California and across the globe. Large nests are built in tree-tops within 15 miles of a good fish-producing bodies of water.
Sutter Buttes	pallid bat *(Antrozous pallidus)*	CSC	Found in grasslands, chaparral, and woodlands, where it feeds on ground- and vegetation-dwelling arthropods, and occasionally takes insects in flight. Prefers to roost in rock crevices, but may also use tree cavities, caves, bridges, and other man-made structures.

Quads	*Species*	*Status*	*Habitat*
Eldorado Bend, Knights Landing	Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*)	CSC	Endemic to the lakes and rivers of the Central Valley, but now confined to the Delta, Suisun Bay and associated marshes. Occupies slow moving river sections, dead end sloughs. Requires flooded vegetation for spawning and foraging for young.
Meridian, Sanborn Slough, Colusa	song sparrow ("Modesto" population) (Melospiza melodia)	CSC	This population is endemic to the north-central portion of the Central valley of California. This species has an affinity for emergent freshwater marshes and is associated with Scirpus *spp.* and *Typha spp*. Known to nest in riparian oak forests. (Gardali, 2008)
Knights Landing, Colusa, Meridian, Moulton Weir, Sanborn Slough, Tisdale Weir, Grimes, El Dorado bend	Steelhead – Central Valley DPS *(Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop.11)*	FT	This winter-run fish begins migration to fresh water during peak flows during December and February. Spawning season is typically from February to April. After hatching, fry move to deeper, mid-channel habitats in late summer and fall. In general, both juveniles and adults prefer complex habitat boulders, submerged clay and undercut banks, and large woody debris.
Knights Landing, Colusa, Meridian, Moulton Weir, Sanborn Slough, Tisdale Weir, Grimes, Eldorado Bend, Wildwood School, Zamora, Dunnigan, Sutter Buttes	Swainson's hawk *(Buteo swainsoni)*	CT	Nests in large trees in open areas adjacent to grasslands, grain or alfalfa fields, or livestock pastures suitable for supporting rodent populations.
Moulton Weir, Sanborn Slough, Grimes, Meridian, Dunnigan, Knights Landing, Eldorado Bend, Colusa, Moulton Weir, Zamora, Wildwood School, Sutter Buttes	tricolored blackbird *(Agelaius tricolor)*	CT, CSC	Nests colonially near fresh water in dense cattails or tules, or in thickets of riparian shrubs. Forages in grassland and cropland. Large colonies are often found on dairy farm forage fields.
Knights Landing, Grimes, Meridian, Moulton Weir	valley elderberry longhorn beetle *(Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)*	FT	Lives in mature elderberry shrubs of the Central Valley and foothills. Adults are active March to June.
Meridian	vernal pool fairy shrimp Branchinecta lynchi	FT	Occupies vernal pools, clear to tea-colored water, in grass or mud-bottomed swales, and basalt depression pools.
Meridian, Moulton Weir	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE	Occurs in vernal pools, clear to tea-colored water, in grass or mud-bottomed swales, and basalt depression pools.

Quads	Species	Status	Habitat
	(Lepidurus packardi)		
Sanborn Slough, Knights Landing	western pond turtle *(Emys marmorata)*	CSC	An aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, slow-moving rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with riparian vegetation. Requires adequate basking sites and sandy banks or grassy open fields to deposit eggs.
Colusa, Meridian, Knights landing	western red bat *(Lasiurus blossevillii)*	CSC	Roosts primarily in trees, 2–40 ft above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.
Wildwood School	western spadefoot *(Spea hammondii)*	CSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Vernal pools or temporary wetlands, lasting a minimum of three weeks, which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.
Moulton Weir, Sanborn Slough, Meridian, Colusa, Knights Landing	western yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus occidentalis)*	FT, CE	Suitable nesting habitat in California includes dense riparian willow-cottonwood and mesquite habitats along a perennial river. Once a common breeding species in riparian habitats of lowland California, this species currently breeds consistently in only two locations in the State: along the Sacramento and South Fork Kern Rivers.
Moulton Weir	white-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)	CWL	Found in shallow freshwater marshes, using tule thickets for nesting and nearby areas of shallow water for foraging.

Table 3-7. List of Special Status Plants with Potential to Occur Onsite and/or in the Vicinity.

Quads	Species	Status	Habitat
Moulton Weir	brittlescale *(Atriplex depressa)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley in alkaline or clay soils, typically in meadows or annual grassland in at elevations below 1050 feet. Sometimes associated with vernal pools. Blooms June–October.
Dunnigan, Grimes, Wildwood School, Sutter Buttes	Baker's navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala ssp. bakeri*)	CNPS 1B	Found throughout central and coastal northern California. Grows in vernal pools and swales; adobe or alkaline soils at elevations below 5,575 feet. Blooms April – July.
Sanborn Slough	bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*)	CNPS 1B	Found throughout the coastal ranges of California from the central coast to the high north coast in cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub habitats. Grows at elevations between 10 – 2,625 feet. Blooms March – June.

Quads	*Species*	*Status*	*Habitat*
Eldorado Bend	California alkali grass *(Puccinellia simplex)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and other parts of California in saline flats and mineral springs within valley grassland and wetland-riparian communities at elevations below 3000 feet. Blooms March–May.
Sutter Buttes, Dunnigan, Grimes, Wildwood School	Colusa layia (*Layia septentrionalis*)	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sacramento Valley as well as the inner North Coast Ranges in chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland habitats. Grows in Scattered colonies in fields and grassy slopes in sandy or serpentine soil at elevations between 50 – 3600 feet. Blooms April – June.
Dunnigan, Wildwood School	Coulter's goldfields *(Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri)*	CNPS 1B	Found on alkaline or saline soils in vernal pools and playas in grassland at elevations below 4500 feet. Blooms April–May.
Dunnigan, Wildwood School, Grimes	Ferris' milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener var. ferrisiae*)	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sacramento Valley in meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland habitats. Grows in subalkaline flats on overflow land at elevations below 260 feet. Blooms March – June.
Meridian	heartscale *(Atriplex cordulata var. cordulata)*	CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley in saline or alkaline soils within shadescale scrub, valley grassland, and wetland-riparian communities at elevations below 230 feet. Blooms June–July.
Eldorado Bend, Zamora	Heckard's pepper-grass (*Lepidium latipes var. heckardii*)	CNPS 1B	Facultative wetland plant species which grows at elevations below 2297 feet. Found in alkaline soils in valley and foothill grasslands as well as vernal pools. Blooms March – June.
Dunnigan, Grimes, Wildwood School, Moulton Weir	palmate-bracted bird's beak *(Chloropyron palmatum)*	FE, CE, CNPS 1B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley in alkaline soils (usually Pescadero silty clay) in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland at elevations below 500 feet. Blooms June–August.
Sanborn Slough	Peruvian dodder (*Cuscuta obtusiflora var. glandulosa*)	CNPS 2B	Found in the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley, and along the South Coast of California in freshwater marshes and swamps. Grows at elevations below 1,640 feet. Blooms July – October.
Dunnigan, Wildwood School	San Joaquin spearscale (*Extriplex joaquinana*)	CNPS 1B	Found in alkali wetlands, sinks, and scrublands in the San Joaquin Valley and Delta-Bay region of California. Associated with Distichlis spicata, Frankenia, and other scrub species at elevations below 1,150 feet. Blooms April – September.

Quads	*Species*	*Status*	*Habitat*
Knights Landing	Suisun Marsh aster (*Symphyotrichum lentum*)	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sacramento Valley, Central Coast, and San Francisco Bay Area in brackish as well as freshwater marshes and swamps. Most often seen along sloughs with Phragmites, Scirpus, blackberry, Typha, etc., at elevations below 985 feet. Blooms May – November.
Sanborn Slough	water star-grass (*Heteranthera dubia*)	CNPS 2B	Found in the Sacramento Valley, North Coast, Warner Mountains, and Modoc Plateau in marshes and swamps. Grows in alkaline, still or slow-moving water at elevations below 4,920 feet. Blooms July – August.
Sanborn Slough	watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*)	CNPS 2B	Found throughout northern California as well as the high Sierra Nevada. Grows freshwater marshes and swamps at elevations below 7,215 feet. Blooms April – October.
Meridian, Sanborn Slough, Tisdale Weir, Sutter Buttes, Knights Landing	woolly rose-mallow (*Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. occidentalis*)	CNPS 1B	Found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, as well as the Cascade Range foothills in freshwater marshes and swamps, Grows in moist, freshwater-soaked river banks & low peat islands in sloughs at elevations below 500 feet. Blooms July – November.
Dunnigan, Grimes, Tisdale Weir	Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii var. wrightii*)	CNPS 2B	Found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, as well as the south coast of California in marshes and swamps, riparian forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools. Grows in the mud flats of vernal lakes, drying river beds, alkali meadows at elevations below 1,640 feet. Blooms May – September.

3.5.2 Impact Assessment

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The Project involves the transfer of water from nine entities to DWD through existing facilities. No anticipated construction or land alterations are involved.

In addition, most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act do not occur in the Project area due to the agricultural dominated land use. The Project also would not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do have some value to listed species. Any encountered biological resources are likely to be those associated with actively cultivated land. Because no increased natural stream course or additional surface water pumping would occur there would be no effects on listed fish species.

As there would be no alteration to existing land uses, no vegetation removal and no construction activities, the Project would have no applicable impact or any effect on any listed or proposed threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. As such, the Project would have no impact on biological resources.

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. Riparian habitats typically occur adjacent to waterways. The Project site contains numerous waterways; however, there is no new construction or ground disturbance associated with the Project and no proposed change in land uses. The Project would not conflict with the Yolo County Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) 2019 agreement[8], nor would it be in conflict with the Colusa County Conservation Element found in the County General Plan[9], or the Yuba-Sutter Regional Conservation Plan[10] As such there would be no impact to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

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?

No Impact. No construction or earthmoving activities would take place as a part of the Project; as such, there would be no impacts to federally protected wetlands.

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?

No Impact. The Project would not involve any grading or expansion of the existing water conveyance facilities. No construction or earthmoving activities would take place as a part of the Project that would impede migratory wildlife. As such, there would be no impacts that would interfere with the movement of any wildlife species or the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The Project does not involve tree removal, grading or expansion of the existing facilities and would not conflict with any existing or proposed preservation policies or ordinances. As such, there would be no impacts to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

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?

No Impact. No construction or earthmoving activities would take place as a part of the Project that would interfere or conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. As such, there would be no impacts to any conservation plans.

[8] Yolo County NCCP. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Website: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/Yolo. Accessed April 2021.
[9] Conservation Element. County of Colusa. Website: https://countyofcolusa.org/DocumentCenter/View/2722. Accessed April 2021.
[10] Yuba Sutter Regional Conservation Plan. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Website: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/Yuba-Sutter. Accessed April 2021.

3.6 Cultural Resources

Table 3-8. Cultural Resources Impacts

Cultural Resources Impacts					
Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.6.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The prehistoric populations of Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties include the territories of the Maidu Indians, Coru Indian Tribe, and the Patwin Indian Tribe. The Project would transfer water from various locations to DWD in an existing conveyance system during potential water lean years for agricultural uses. A Sacred Lands review and Cultural Resources Records Search was not prepared for this Project, due to the fact that there would be no ground disturbance, construction activities, or removal of buildings or facilities associated with the water transfer over the five (5) year agreement period. There would also be no changes in land use and no alterations to the surrounding areas.

3.6.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?

No Impact. The Project would not require nor induce any new surface disturbing activities such as construction. Farming operations such as plowing, planting, and harvesting would continue to take place on land where surface disturbing activities have continuously occurred for many years, and no new or expanded uses would occur as a result of the water transfer. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical or archeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines in Section15064.5. As such there would be no impacts to historical or archaeological resources.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact. The Project does not involve any new construction or earthmoving activities. As such there would be no impacts to archaeological resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

No Impact. The Project does not involve any construction or earthmoving activities. The annual water agreement between DWD and the participating entities would not require any construction activities or the need to use temporary or permanent equipment to complete the transfer. Therefore, no ground disturbance would be required. As such, there would be no impact to any human remains.

3.7 Energy

Table 3-9. Energy Impacts

Energy Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.7.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas to the Project areas, as well as most of northern California. All energy used during the Project would be utilized by existing infrastructure in order to convey the water purchased by the DWD. There would not be any material increases in fossil fuel use resulting from this Project.

3.7.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

No Impact. The Project would not result in potentially significant environmental, impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during the water transfer. As discussed in prior sections, the Project does not involve any construction or earth moving activities. The water districts currently use energy through operation of automated gates, screens, and various pumps. No new pumps or energy operated equipment would be added as part of this Project. The districts would not be utilizing more energy as a result of the transferred water than they would have if full SWP allocations were being provided. Therefore, the Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during construction or operation. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The Project would be passive in nature and does not involve any construction or earth moving activities. The Project would not exceed any thresholds set by the YSAQMD. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.8 Geology and Soils

Table 3-10. Geology and Soils Impacts

Geology and Soils Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.8.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The participating entities are in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties. Although most of these Counties are situated within an area of relatively low seismic activity by comparison to other areas of the State, the faults and fault systems that lie along the eastern and western boundaries of Yolo County, as well as other regional faults, have the potential to produce high-magnitude earthquakes throughout the County. The principal earthquake hazard is ground shaking. Older buildings constructed before building codes were established and newer buildings constructed before earthquake-resistant provisions were included in the building codes are the most likely to be damaged during an earthquake.

3.8.1.1 Liquefaction

The potential for liquefaction, which is the loss of soil strength due to seismic forces, is dependent on soil types and density, depth to groundwater, and the duration and intensity of ground shaking. No specific liquefaction hazard areas have been identified in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties according to the California Geologic Survey[11]. No structures would be constructed as part of this Project. Liquefaction hazards would be negligible.

3.8.1.2 Soil Subsidence

Subsidence occurs when a large land area settles due to over-saturation or extensive withdrawal of ground water, oil, or natural gas. These areas are typically composed of open-textured soils, high in silt or clay content, that become saturated.

3.8.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

a-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.

a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

a-iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

a-iv) Landslides?

No Impact. The nearest fault zones are Lakes Pillsburg and Bangor, approximately 40 and 47 miles to the southwest and southeast, respectively. The DWD areas are located in a Low Landslide Susceptibility area[12]. Due to the nature of the Project, and the absence of construction and ground disturbance, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. As the Project does not propose construction, nor the disturbance of any soil, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project 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?

No Impact. As described in the Project description it does not propose construction or any ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be no impact.

[11] Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. California Geologic Survey. Website: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/. Accessed April 2021.
[12] 2018 Yolo Operational Area MultiJurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Yolo County. Website: https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=55805. Accessed April 2021.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. As the Project does not propose construction or any ground disturbance, there would be no impact to any expansive soils.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. As the Project does not propose to use septic tanks, nor generate any waste water. Due to the nature of the Project, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The Project does not propose any construction or ground disturbance. Therefore, there is no impact.

3.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Table 3-11. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.9.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

According to the Office of Planning and Research's June 2014 Draft California Climate Change Research Plan:

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time. California has long been a global leader in addressing climate-related issues through cutting-edge research and innovative climate policies. Governor Brown recently joined more than 500 world-renowned researchers and scientists in releasing a groundbreaking call to action on climate change and other global threats to humanity. The 20-page consensus statement was produced at Governor Brown's request and has been signed by scientists from over 40 countries. The consensus statement connects key scientific findings from different fields into a clear warning and a call for immediate, substantial, and sustained action to preserve humanity's life support systems. The science in the consensus statement is confirmed in the October 2013 report of scientific findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC report states that "[h]uman influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes." The IPCC further concludes that "human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century" (IPCC 2013).

As shown in the report Indicators of Climate Change in California (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2013[13]), observations over the last several decades reveal clear signals of climate change and its effects in California. The growing body of scientific research shows unequivocally that this change is associated with the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) resulting from burning fossil fuels as well as other human activities. Using sophisticated computer models, climate research projects an unprecedented rate of rise in temperature with shifting patterns of precipitation and more extreme weather events in the future. Climate change and the efforts of the State to confront it will touch nearly every aspect of the state's planning and investment for the future. Over the next few decades, significant reductions in GHG emissions will be necessary to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. At the same time, California must escalate and accelerate its efforts to safeguard the State from the already-observable climate change as well as the larger changes that will be unavoidable in the future. Scientific research sponsored by the State of California has provided new knowledge that has enabled California to respond with science-based

[13]California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. (2013, August 8). *OEHHA 2013 Report: Indicators of Climate Change in California.* https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/report/2013-report-indicators-climate-change-california. Accessed 4/9/21.

policies. New, carefully targeted research is necessary to inform future policy development and implementation[14].

GHGs are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere[15]. There are no "attainment" concentration standards established by the Federal or State government for greenhouse gases. In fact, GHGs are not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because greenhouse gases, and their impacts, are global in nature, while air pollutants affect the health of people and other living things at ground level, in the general region of their release to the atmosphere. Some greenhouse gases occur naturally and are emitted into the atmosphere through both natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal greenhouse gases that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are CO_2, methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and fluorinated carbons[16].

3.9.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? and,

No Impact. The Project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The Project does not include construction, earthmoving activities, or a change in land use. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The Project does not include construction, earthmoving activities, or a change in land use. Therefore, there would be no impact.

[14]California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2013. Accessed 4/9/21.
[15] San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. (2015, February 19). *Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts.* Retrieved from Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts: https://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI-2015/FINAL-DRAFT-GAMAQI.PDF. Accessed 4/9/21.
[16]San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2015. Accessed 4/9/21.

3.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Table 3-12. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts					
Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires,?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.10.1 Environmental Setting

3.10.1.1 Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to develop at least annually an updated Cortese List. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. DTSC's EnviroStor database provides DTSCs component of Cortese List data (DTSC, 2010). In addition to the EnviroStor database, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Geotracker

database provides information on regulated hazardous waste facilities in California, including underground storage tank (UST) cases and non-UST cleanup programs, including Spills-Leaks-Investigations-Cleanups (SLIC) sites, Department of Defense (DOD) sites, and Land Disposal program. A search of the DTSC EnviroStor database and the SWRCB Geotracker performed on April 20, 2021 determined that there are no known active hazardous waste generators or hazardous material spill sites within the Project sites or immediate surrounding vicinity.

3.10.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

No Impact. There would be no transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. There would be no impact.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment as the Project would not discharge hazardous materials into the environment. There would be no impact.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. The Project involves no new construction and would not emit hazardous emissions, involve hazardous materials, or create a hazard to schools. There would be no impact.

d) Would the project 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?

No Impact. On April 20, 2021 an EnviroStor search was done in the Project area. According to that search the Project does not involve land that is listed as an active hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the DTSC. There would be no impact.

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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?; and,

No Impact. The Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area as it would not result in any additional people residing or working in the Project area since the Project does not involve any construction. There would be no impact.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The Project would use existing conveyance systems to transfer water and would not interfere with the emergency response and evacuation procedures outlined in the Yolo County, CA Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2018 Yolo Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Sutter County Emergency Operations Plan, and the procedures set by the Colusa County Office of Emergency Services.. These plans and procedures establish the Standardized Emergency Management System required by State law, and includes information on mutual aid agreements, hierarchies of command, and different levels of response in emergency situations. There would be no impact.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, the Project site is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Therefore, the Project would not be exposed to risks from wildland fires. There would be no impact.

3.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

Table 3-13. Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts

Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts					
Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iii) 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; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				☒
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Environmental Setting/Affected Environment

Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties share the mild climate of its San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley neighbors. Temperatures range from lows, around 39 °F in January, to summer month highs, around 97 °F. The Counties receive an average annual rainfall of 22 inches. These counties typically experiences little to no rainfall for the entire duration of summer. The amount of rain received in the winter, however, can be vary between the valley and foothills of Sutter County. The annual rainfall ranges from 15.9 inches in rainfall to up to 82.1 inches of snowfall. Sutter County receives an average of 22 inches of rain per year. Temperatures are somewhat more consistent throughout the summer than winter. The hottest summers are in the lower end of the foothills, where the average high in July is 96.4° F.[17]

[17] Sutter County Climate and Weather. Sutter County. https://www.suttercounty.org/doc/visiting/profile/ap_climate. Accessed April 26, 2021

The Project involves the transfer of water from participating entities under agreed upon terms in the signed contract and transfer to DWD through existing facilities and does not include transfer of any groundwater. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. There is less surface water applied to DWD water purveyors as a result of conservation efforts, use of reclaimed water, and a pre-existing reduction in irrigated acres.

3.11.2 Regulatory Setting

3.11.2.1 Federal

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (33 CFR 1251). The regulations implementing the CWA protect Waters of the United States including streams and wetlands (33 CFR 328.3). The CWA requires states to set standards to protect, maintain, and restore water quality by regulating point source and some non-point source discharges. Under Section 402 of the CWA, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process was established to regulate these discharges. The CWA also provides an exemption from the NPDES permitting process for agricultural return flows, which are to be regulated by the State. Such flows are regulated under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. Both types of permits--NPDES and those for exempt flows under the CWA--are issued by the State of California.

The National Flood Insurance Act (1968) makes available federally subsidized flood insurance to owners of flood-prone properties. To facilitate identifying areas with flood potential, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that can be used for planning purposes.

3.11.2.2 State

State Water Resources Control Board

The SWRCB, located in Sacramento, is the agency with jurisdiction over water quality issues in the State of California. The SWRCB is governed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code), which establishes the legal framework for water quality control activities by the SWRCB. The intent of the Porter-Cologne Act is to regulate factors which may affect the quality of waters of the State to attain the highest quality which is reasonable, considering a full range of demands and values. The State implements water quality by establishing Basin Plans, which determine the protected beneficial uses and required water quality objectives in different designated basins. The implementation of Basin Planning and the issuing of permits is delegated by the SWRCB to its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). The Project site is regulated by the Central Valley RWQCB Region 5.

California Department of Water Resources

In 2014, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as directed by a three-bill legislative package composed of AB 1739, Senate Bill (SB) 1168 and 1319 and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. SGMA requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, these basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically over-drafted basins, that would be 2040. For the remaining high and medium priority basins, 2042 is the deadline. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability

Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)[18] for crucial groundwater basins in California.

3.11.2.3 Local

The Project is located in the groundwater subbasins 5-021.52 San Sacramento Valley – Colusa County, 5-021.62 Sacramento Valley – Sutter County and 5-021367 Sacramento Valley – Yolo County.[19] The GSPs for these basins were developed in order to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability in the various Subbasins. Hydrology and Water Quality resources are protected by Yolo, Sutter and Colusa County regulations and are found in Yolo, Sutter and Colusa County General Plans. In addition, regulations and standards have been set through Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Yolo Subbasin, the Sutter Subbasins, and the Colusa Groundwater Authority. These Plans aid in water conservation and overall water availability for the area. The Project would benefit various regions with needed water during a low water year, reducing recovery from groundwater basins.

3.11.3 Impact Assessment

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

No Impact. The Project consists of moving water through existing conveyance systems and does not involve any new construction, earthmoving activities or change in land use. The transfer of surface water from various entities to DWD does not include the transfer of any groundwater. The Project would not violate any water or groundwater quality standards nor would it impact waste discharge requirements. As such, there would be no impact.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. The Project consists of moving water through existing conveyance systems. The Project would not result in the need to pump more groundwater and would result in less groundwater pumping. Therefore, there would be no additional impact to groundwater supplies or interfere with substantially with groundwater recharge.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;

(iii) 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; or

(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. Grading or construction activities are not part of the Project. Roads, staging areas, or other ground disturbing activities that cause erosion and siltation are also not part of the Project. Therefore, drainage patterns

[18]California Department of Water Resources. SGMA Groundwater Management. SGMA Groundwater Management (ca.gov). Accessed May 2021.
[19]State of California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Basin Boundary Assessment Tool. https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/bbat/. Accessed on April 26, 2021.

would not be altered and there would be no surface runoff adding sources of pollutants or impediments of water flows as a result of transferring water through existing waterways. As such, there would be no impact.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. The Project would use existing water conveyance systems with no additional structures to be constructed and would not add or release any pollutants to the waterway. The Project would not involve the construction of structures. The transfer would use existing water conveyance infrastructure, which was constructed to standard engineering design practices to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. The Project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or impede or redirect flood flows. The Project would not expose people, structures, or associated facilities to inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. As such, there would be no impacts due to flood hazards, tsunamis or seiche zones.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties currently have several GSPs for different regions and authored and implemented by different local agencies. This Project would convey "Project Water" (Article 3E of Settlement Contract) surface water from nine Sacramento River Settlement Contract entities to the DWD and would reduce groundwater pumping. As such, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plans and there would be no impacts.

3.12 Land Use and Planning

Table 3-14. Land Use and Planning Impacts

Land Use and Planning Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.12.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in Yolo[20], Sutter[21], and Colusa[22] Counties. Land surrounding the Project site is primarily planned and zoned for agricultural use. The Project would not conflict with any land use plan for any of the counties it is involved in. The Project would result in the DWD purchasing and conveying water from eight entities using existing infrastructure. The Project would not result in any construction activities.

3.12.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project would not physically divide an established community. The Project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and is not proposing the construction of any new facilities. The Project would not conflict with any land use planning practices or General Plans. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The Project would not cause a significant environmental conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and is not proposing the construction of any new facilities. The Project would conflict not with any land use planning practices or General Plans. Therefore, there would be no impact.

[20] Yolo County General Plan. Yolo County. Website: https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=68781. Accessed 4/9/21.
[21] Sutter County General Plan. Sutter County. Website: https://suttercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=d0590c528e2c46f991c0912161a913dc. Accessed 4/23/21.
[22] Colusa County General Plan. Colusa County. Website: http://www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org/sites/default/files/ColusaCo_LUAlt4_CLUMA_11May05.pdf. Accessed 4/23/21.

3.13 Mineral Resources

Table 3-16. Mineral Resources Impacts

Mineral Resources Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.13.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Yolo County has two primary mineral resources, mined aggregate and natural gas. These resources are located throughout the County. There are six aggregate mines and 25 natural gas fields currently in operation in Yolo County.[23]

Sutter County is not known to be a large producer of mineral resources, but has produced minerals such as gold, silver, quicksilver, limestone and stone in the past. These minerals have been found in the northern part of the county near the Butte mountains.[24] In addition, according to the Sutter County Draft Environmental Impact Report, the County produces aggregate materials and clays[25].

Colusa County has several General Plan Policies in place but has not designated an area within the Project site as being a mineral resource area on the General Plan Land Use Map.[26]

3.13.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project would not result in significant impacts associated with the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. Considering there would be no construction or earthmoving activities associated with implementation, there would be no impact.

[23] Yolo County General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element. 2009. Page CO-43. https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=14464. Accessed April 2021.
[24] Sutter County (quarriesandbeyond.org). Accessed January2021.
[25] Sutter County Draft EIR. Sutter County. Website: https://www.suttercounty.org/assets/pdf/cs/ps/gp/documents/deir/06.08%20Geo%20Seismic%20and%20Mineral.pdf. Accessed April 2021.
[26] Colusa County General Plan Land Use Map. Colusa County. Website: 2030 General Plan | Colusa County, CA - Official Website (countyofcolusa.org). Accessed April 2021.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project seeks to have water transferred from the entities to DWD using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. The subject properties are not located on any adopted land use plan that designates those areas as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. The Project does not propose to excavate the subject properties, nor does it preclude the future recovery of any mineral resources. Therefore, there is no impact.

3.14 Noise

Table 3-15. Noise Impacts

Noise Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.14.1 Environmental Setting

Ambient noise levels in Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties vary widely and mainly come from noise generators such as major roads, agricultural equipment, airports, and rail lines.

3.14.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project result in Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

No Impact. The Project involves the movement of water through existing conveyance facilities. No construction or earthmoving activities are a part of the Project and accordingly, there would be no impact resulting from noise or vibration.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

No Impact. The Project involves the movement of water through existing conveyance facilities. No construction or earthmoving activities are a part of the Project and accordingly, there would be no impact resulting from the generation or exposure from ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. There would be no impact.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The Project would use existing water conveyance facilities and does not involve the building of habitable structures. Therefore, the Project would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to an increase in noise levels. There would be no impact.

3.15 Population and Housing

Table 3-16. Population and Housing Impacts

Population and Housing Impacts					
Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Induce substantial unplanned 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is located within Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa Counties. Yolo County has a population of 221,264 people, Sutter County has a population of 98,217 people, andColusa County has a population of 21,805 people according to the United States Census Bureau[27] [28] [29] [30]. The Project would convey water to the DWD and would not result in any construction that would alter the population size.

3.15.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project 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)?

No Impact. The Project would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. The Project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and does not propose any new construction or earthmoving activities. Transferred water would be utilized for existing agricultural uses. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Project would utilize existing water conveyance facilities and does not propose any new construction or earthmoving activities. No housing or people would be displaced as a result of this Project and no new housing would be created. Therefore, there would be no impact.

[27] Sutter County General Plan. Sutter County. Website: https://suttercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=d0590c528e2c46f991c0912161a913dc. Accessed 4/23/21.
[28] Yolo County General Plan. Yolo County. Website: https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=68781. Accessed 4/9/21.
[29] Colusa County General Plan. Colusa County. Website: (countyofcolusageneralplan.org). Accessed 4/23/21.
[30] Colusa County, California Population 2021. World Population Review. Website: Colusa County, California Population 2021 (worldpopulationreview.com). Accessed 4/23/21.

3.16 Public Services

Table 3-17. Public Services Impacts

Public Services Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.16.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project would transfer water from nine entities to the DWD. Completion of the Project would not require construction, change to the environment, increase in population, or deterioration of government facilities in any of the three counties that the Project would be located within.

3.16.2 Impact Assessment

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:

No Impact. The Project does not propose the construction of any structures or ground disturbance and will not induce population growth. Water will be conveyed through existing conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact to public services.

3.17 Recreation

Table 3-18. Recreation Impacts

Recreation Impacts					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.17.1 Environmental Setting

Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties offer a variety of recreational opportunities through their Parks and Recreation Departments and nearby State and federal lands. The Project consists of existing water conveyance to provide water to DWD from various entities to assist with agriculture irrigation. There may be recreational areas for the public to utilize near the DWD existing structures such as parks, camping and hiking trails, but the majority of the Project area is surrounded by agricultural lands and private property.

3.17.2 Impact Assessment

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?

No Impact. The Project would not result in either an influx of population (e.g., by creation of housing or creation of jobs) or relocation of persons from elsewhere into the Project area. As such, there would be no impact.

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?

No Impact. The Project does not include recreational facilities. As there is no population growth resulting directly or indirectly from Project implementation, construction or expansion of nearby recreational facilities would not be necessary. There would be no impact.

3.18 Transportation

Table 3-19. Transportation Impacts

Transportation Impacts					
Would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Conflict with an program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)??	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.18.1 Environmental Settings and Baseline Conditions

The Project site is located in Yolo Sutter, and Colusa Counties. The major transportation routes serving these counties include: Interstates 5, 80, and 505 as well as Highways 16, 20, 45, 70, 84, and 113. The Project does not propose any construction that would alter a transportation route.

3.18.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 Subdivision (b)?

No Impact. The Project would not conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, nor would it conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3 Subdivision (b). There is no population growth associated with the Project, nor would implementation of the Project result in an increase of staff or drivers utilizing roadways in the area. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not increase the demand for any changes to congestion management programs or interfere with existing level of service standards during the operational phase. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The Project would not substantially increase hazards due to geometric design feature or incompatible uses, nor would it result in inadequate emergency access. No roadway design features are associated with this Project and there would be no change in the existing land use that could result in an incompatible use. As there are no roadways being modified for this Project or impede any emergency access routes. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Table 3-20. Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts

Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.19.1 Environmental Setting

The DWD has not received any letters from any California recognized Native American tribes, regarding consultation pursuant to California Statute: Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1.

3.19.2 Regulatory Setting

3.19.2.1 State

Assembly Bill 52

The Project is subject to Native American consultation pursuant to California statute: Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21080.3 (AB 52). Under AB 52, the lead agency, within 14 days of determining that an application is complete, must notify any Native American Tribe that has previously requested such notification about the Project and inquire whether the Tribe wishes to initiate formal consultation. Tribes have 30 days from receipt of notification to request formal consultation. The lead agency then has 30 days to initiate the consultation, which then continues until the parties come to an agreement regarding necessary mitigation or agree that no mitigation is needed, or one or both parties determine that negotiation occurred in good faith, but no agreement will be made.

Per the statute, tribal consultation is required only with those tribes that formally request consultation in writing.

CEQA

CEQA is applicable to discretionary actions by state or local lead agencies. Under CEQA, lead agencies must analyze impacts to cultural resources. Significant impacts under CEQA occur when "historically significant" or "unique" cultural resources are adversely affected, which occurs when such resources could be altered or destroyed through project implementation. Historically significant cultural resources are defined by eligibility for or by listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). In practice, the federal National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria (see below) for significance applied under Section 106 are generally (although not entirely) consistent with CRHR criteria (see PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CEQA Guidelines, Section 4852 and Section 15064.5(a)(3)).

Significant cultural resources are those archaeological resources and historical properties that:

(A) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;

(B) Are associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

(C) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values; or

(D) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Unique resources under CEQA, in slight contrast, are those that represent:

> An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:
>
> (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
>
> (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
>
> (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC § 21083.2(g)).

Preservation in place is the preferred approach under CEQA to mitigating adverse impacts to significant or unique cultural resources.

3.19.3 Impact Assessment

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically

defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a-i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)

No Impact: DWD has not received any letters from a California Native American tribe regarding tribal resources within the Project vicinity. Considering the lack of construction or earthwork activities, that no vegetation would be removed, no landmarks or building would be altered, and that the Project would use only existing infrastructure there would be no impact to Tribal resources.

a-ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact: As stated above, the lack of construction activities prevents the disturbance of any potential tribal resources as a result of the Project. As such, there would be no impact to Tribal resources.

3.20 Utilities and Service Systems

Table 3-21. Utilities and Service Systems Impacts

Utilities and Service Systems Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reductions goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.20.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

DWD is responsible for providing irrigation water for agricultural use within the District's service area. The Project would use existing facilities to transport the water from DWD to the participating entities and would not extend service to locations outside of the agreed service areas. All utilities needed for the water transfer are already in place and currently being utilized as needed.

3.20.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The Project would not involve the relocation or construction of any new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities. No construction nor operational changes are proposed. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

No Impact. The Project involves the transfer of surface water and would reduce groundwater pumping within DWD. The Project would not result in the loss of substantial amounts of groundwater that would be need during dry years, and would not interfere with groundwater recharge in the Project area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) 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?

No Impact. The Project would not generate additional wastewater. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

No Impact. As the Project would not generate solid waste, there would be no need for an increase in solid waste capacity for the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. As discussed above, the Project would no generate solid waste. Therefore, there would be no impact to any statutes or regulations related to solid waste.

3.21 Wildfire

Table 3-22. Wildfire Impacts

Wildfire Impacts					
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrollable spread of wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.21.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project would be located in Yolo, Sutter, and Colusa counties. The Project would convey water purchased by the DWD and would not result in the construction of any new infrastructure. All water convey during the contract period would be conveyed using existing conveyance facilities.

3.21.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factors exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire?

c) Would the project Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact. As part of the Project water would be transferred through existing conveyance facilities. The Project does not involve construction of any structures or earthmoving activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.22 CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table 3-23. Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts

Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.22.1 Impact Assessment

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?

No Impact: The Project has no potential to substantially degrade the environment, reduce the habitat or population of fish or wildlife species, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or restrict, reduce, or eliminate endangered, rare or important plants, animals, or California history or prehistory. There would be no impacts.

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)?

No Impact: Cumulatively considerable means that "the incremental effects of an individual 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 project." The Project involves water transfer between DWD and six entities.

Due to the lack of construction activities, additional vehicle trips, and emissions, the opportunity for cumulatively considerable effects or impacts is not available. All of the water to be transferred from the entities to DWD would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. There would be no cumulative impacts.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact: The Project would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. With a lack of construction or any operational changes, there would be no impacts.

3.23 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

Date

Printed Name/Position