

DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT
ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2020 AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
(SCH # 2021060185)

APPLICANT: Dudley Ridge Water District

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

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

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

PROJECT TITLE: Adoption and Implementation of the 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan

CONTACT PERSON: Dale K. Melville, Assistant Manager-Engineer, Dudley Ridge Water District; phone 559-449-2700

PROJECT LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District is located in southern Kings County on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The District lies south of Kettleman City and is bounded on the northeast by the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, on the south by the Kings-Kern County Line, and generally on the west by the Governor Edmund G. Brown California Aqueduct. Interstate 5 traverses the District in a northwest-southeast direction.

The Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) proposes to adopt and implement the provisions of its 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan. In the Plan, the District identified the need to improve the process for approving water transfers and exchanges among State Water Project (SWP) contractors. As part of DRWD's review of its Water Management Plan along with one of the water management strategies identified in the Plan (i.e., streamlining the DWR approval process for water transfer water requests), DRWD is subjecting the Plan and the water transfers, exchanges, and banking operations described in the Plan to CEQA review. These water operations, as described in the Plan, include:

- Deliveries in and out of long-term District banking and exchange programs (i.e., Kern Water Bank Authority, Cawelo Water Regulation Program, Semitropic Water Exchange, San Gabriel Valley Water Banking/Exchange, Kern County Water Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District's Strand Ranch and Stockdale Integrated Banking Projects, etc.).
- Deliveries in and out of short-term or spot market groundwater banking programs or exchanges (i.e., Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water Storage District, Central Coast Water Agency, Mojave Water Agency, Solano County Water Agency, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Palmdale Water District, etc.).
- Annual water purchases, including Dry Year Transfer Programs and purchases of non-Project (non-SWP) via the District or the Westside Districts.

- Multi-year water purchases of SWP or non-Project water via the District or the Westside Districts (i.e., Mojave Water Agency, Palmdale Water District, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Western Hills Water District, Browns Valley Water District, etc.).
- Deliveries to or from other water districts that District landowners have agricultural landholdings, whereby annual water needs can be facilitated by transferring water within a common farming operation (located in multiple water districts) to balance their water supplies where it has the most economic benefit. Historically, common landowner transfers have occurred with member units of the Kern County Water Agency, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, Green Valley Water District, Westlands Water District, and various non-Project water districts located on the eastside of the San Joaquin Valley. Future common landowner transfers may be anticipated in other water districts in Kings, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Merced, and Madera counties where District landowners have landholdings and farming operations that involve SWP water or non-Project water.
- Transfers to/from other SWP contractors (or their member units) for annual or multi-year transfers and transfer packages (exchanges).
- Transfers to/from non-Project water purveyors for annual or multi-year transfers and transfer packages (exchanges).
- Transfers to/from other SWP contractors (or their member units) with established water transfer, banking, or exchange programs.
- Transfers to/from CVP contractors (or their member units) with established water transfer, banking, or exchange programs for annual or multi-year transfers or exchanges.
- Transfers to/from non-project (SWP or CVP) with established water banking or exchange programs for annual or multi-year transfers or exchanges.

FINDINGS:

1. This is to advise that the Lead Agency, Dudley Ridge Water District, has approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.
2. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
3. An Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared for this project, posted, and filed in the offices of the California Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and the California Public Resources Code prior to the District taking action to adopt the 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan.
4. This Notice of Determination has been filed to document the action by the District of Adopting and implementing the 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan. No further CEQA compliance is required.
5. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the project.

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

Date Approved by Lead Agency: 7/14/2021



Dale K. Melville, Manager-Engineer
Dudley Ridge Water District