

Dudley Ridge Water District

Dudley Ridge Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Water Transfer and Banking Program

Draft Initial Study / Negative Declaration

December 2021

Prepared for:
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
AF	Acre Feet
AFY	Acre Feet per Year
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CO	Carbon Monoxide
Contractor	State Water Contractor
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DRWD	Dudley Ridge Water District
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Initial Study
km	kilometers
KWB	Kern Water Bank
KWBA	Kern Water Bank Authority
ND	Negative Declaration
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOE	Notice of Exemption
O ₃	Ozone
Pb	Lead
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter 10 Microns In Size
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter 2.5 Microns In Size
ppb	Parts Per Billion
ppm	Parts Per Million
Project	Dudley Ridge Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Water Banking Program

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SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SGVMWD	San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
SJVAPCD.....	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SO _x	Sulfur Oxide
SWP	State Water Project
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic meter

Chapter 1 Introduction

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard) has prepared this Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND) to address the environmental effects of the proposed Dudley Ridge Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Water Transfer and Banking Program (Project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.* The Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) is the CEQA lead agency for this proposed 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 IS/ND is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, 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 the Project components and objectives, presents the CEQA checklist and environmental analysis for all impact areas, and mandatory findings of significance. 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. If the Project could have a potentially significant impact on a resource, the issue area discussion provides a description of potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures and/or permit requirements that would reduce those impacts to a less than significant level. **Chapter 3 Impact Analysis**, concludes with the Lead Agency's determination based upon this initial evaluation.

Chapter 2 Project Description

2.1 Project Background and Objectives

2.1.1 Project Title

Dudley Ridge Water District and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Water Transfer and Banking Program.

2.1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Dudley Ridge Water District
455 W. Fir Avenue
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2.1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

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2.1.4 Project Location

Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) boundaries are located in Kings and Los Angeles Counties, respectively; the Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA) is located in Kern County in California. The Project would result in the conveyance of water between two water districts, with the option of SGVMWD's water being temporarily stored in the KWBA's Kern Water Bank (KWB) (See [Figure 2-1](#)).

2.1.5 Description of Project

2.1.5.1 Project Background

In June 1995, DRWD and SGVMWD entered into a *Water Banking Agreement* defining the terms and conditions for a water exchange program through 2035. The 1995 agreement allowed DRWD to retain up to 20,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of State Water Project (SWP) water or other water types in a storage account with SGVMWD; SGVMWD retained 5% of the quantity delivered for its use. In years when DRWD had demands for the water, SGVMWD would release a portion of its SWP supply to DRWD, subject to SGVMWD retaining 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of its SWP supply during the months of June-September to meet a then-existing contract obligation with Southern California Edison. A Negative Declaration (SCH #94042003 was prepared and adopted for the program. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved the conveyance agreement for the program via a letter agreement dated July 19th, 1995.

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DRWD and SGVMWD Water Transfer and Banking Program

In December 2002, the earlier agreement was amended and restated in an *Amended and Restated Water Banking Agreement* (2002 Agreement) to better reflect the mutual needs of each district. The 2002 Agreement reduced the quantity of water DRWD could hold on account with SGVMWD to 12,500 AF, allowed SGVMWD to retain the first 10,000 AFY of SWP supply for its own uses, allowed up to 3,000 AFY of SGVMWD's SWP deliveries to be reclassified as return water to DRWD if the SWP allocation was 50% or greater. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed with the State Clearinghouse, Kings County, and Los Angeles County in December 2002. DWR approved the conveyance agreement for the program via SWPAO #03-055.

In 2005, the districts again determined mutual best interests would be best served by amending and restating the 2002 Agreement with the *Water Exchange Agreement* to better conform to the exchange nature of the program, as DRWD does not have physical banking capacity for the water delivered to SGVMWD. This program was part of DRWD's 2005 Water Management Plan (2005 WMP) which was addressed in a Negative Declaration filed for the 2005 WMP 2005 (SCH #2004121103). DWR approved the conveyance agreement for the program via SWPAO #05-017.

In 2010, the districts again determined mutual best interests would be best served by amending and restating the 2002 Agreement with the *Water Exchange Agreement* to allow for multi-year exchanges through December 31, 2010. This program was part of DRWD's 2005 Water Management Plan (2010 WMP) which was addressed in a Negative Declaration filed for the 2005 WMP (SCH #2004121103). DWR approved the conveyance agreement for the program via SWPAO #10-013.

The 2005 agreement was modified in January 2017 as the *2017 Water Exchange Agreement* ((2017 Agreement). The 2017 Agreement increased the quantity DRWD could retain in account with SGVMWD to 20,000 AF, but allowed SGVMWD to retain 10% of the DRWD deliveries to SGVMWD. In March 2017 an NOE was filed with the State Clearinghouse, Kings County, and Los Angeles County, noting that the program was part of DRWD's 2015 Update to the 2012 Water Management Plan (2015 Update) which was addressed in a Negative Declaration filed for the 2015 Update (SCH #2016021110). DWR approved the conveyance agreement for the program via SWPAO #16-028.

In 2020, the 2017 Agreement was amended to mitigate water shortages by exchanging and banking water to regulate the SWP deliveries consistent with the DWR water supply contracts. The water deliveries are made through SWP and existing facilities to continue to accommodate water transfers between DRWD and SGVMWD and provide for temporarily banking of SGVMWD's SWP water in the Kern Water Bank (KWB). The *2020 Water Banking Agreement* (2020 Agreement) was approved by both DRWD and SGVMWD in April 2021. The major provisions of the 2020 Agreement are the following:

1. Extends the delivery term from 2035 up to 2085 if both parties' Water Supply Contracts with DWR are extended beyond 2035, as anticipated.
2. SGVMWD maintains an on-going account for up to 20,000 AF of DRWD's SWP water delivered to SGVMWD for future return to DRWD via exchange of a portion of SGVMWD's SWP water allocation.
3. The ability for SGVMWD to store its SWP water and non-project water in a portion of DRWD's capacity in the KWB to mitigate for the delivery constraints that SGVMWD periodically faces in receiving its SWP water deliveries from DWR through the East Branch of the California Aqueduct (East Branch). Use of the KWB allows SGVMWD the ability to store water in the KWB until delivery constraints in the East Branch capacity subside and SGVMWD's stored water can be conveyed to SGVMWD's service area. SGVMWD does not plan to utilize more than 5,000 AF of storage space in the KWB at any time.
4. In-lieu of SGVMWD delivering a portion of its SWP water to the KWB, SGVMWD may deliver a portion of its water to meet in-district irrigation demands within DRWD, for later return to SGVMWD via transfer from DRWD or recovery from DRWD's stored water in the KWB.

The Project would require the execution of the following agreements:

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DRWD and SGVMWD Water Transfer and Banking Program

- A transfer package comprised of two Table A transfer agreements among DWR, DRWD, and SGVMWD to allow for the delivery and return of water under the 2020 Banking Program (items 2 and 4 above).
 - a. Transfer of DRWD’s Table A water to SGVMWD’s service area
 - b. Transfer of SGVMWD’s Table A water to DRWD’s service area.
- Groundwater Banking Agreement to allow for SGVMWD to store its water when there are delivery constraints on the East Branch (item 3 above)
 - a. Delivery, storage, and recovery of SGVMWD’s SWP water and non-SWP water as a second priority within DRWD’s capacity in the KWB.
 - ~~b. Delivery, storage, and recovery of DRWD’s SWP water and non-SWP water within DRWD’s capacity in the KWB~~

DRWD is located in southern Kings County on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. DRWD was organized on January 26, 1963, under the California Water District Law. Land use within the DRWD is mostly agricultural, and through a number of annexations over the years, the DRWD has expanded in size from the original 29,330 acres to its current size of 37,615 acres. The DRWD’s primary water source is imported surface water supplies from the SWP; DRWD’s SWP Table A amount is 41,350 AF, however the long-term average Table A supply currently provided by the SWP is 58% of the Table A amount, or 23,983 AF for DRWD.¹ Water is moved through 12 miles of district-owned concrete-lined canals and 10 miles of DRWD underground pipelines to metered farm turnouts. DRWD also owns a terminal reservoir where final field deliveries can be made directly from the reservoir. While the reservoir was historically utilized, privately-owned surface storage reservoirs have since been constructed to supplant its operation.²

The SGVMWD was formed in 1959 after winning approval from the voters of the cities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre. In anticipation of its long-term water needs, SGVMWD entered into a contract with DWR in 1962 for the delivery of 25,000 AF of water per year from the SWP. In 1964, the contract was amended to allow for 28,800 AF of SWP Table A amount, of which 58% (16,704 AF) is the current long-term average supply.³ SGVMWD is located within the Main San Gabriel Basin. The Main San Gabriel Basin is a large groundwater basin replenished by stream runoff from the adjacent mountains and hills, by rainfall directly on the surface of the valley floor, subsurface inflow from the Raymond and Puente basins, and irrigation runoff. Imported water from the State Water Project is also used to replenish the Main Basin, which serves as a natural storage reservoir. The surface area of the Basin is about 167 square miles and the freshwater storage capacity is estimated to be about 8.6 million acre-feet.

DRWD and SGVMWD are two of 29 State Water Contractors who obtain water from the SWP.

The KWBA is located on a large undeveloped area of land of nearly 20,000 acres to the southwest of the City of Bakersfield. The water bank site provides an efficient, reliable, and environmentally sound location to provide groundwater storage for both local urban water users and hundreds of thousands of acres of essential crops, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, fiber, and livestock used in products enjoyed by consumers throughout California.⁴ The amount of storage readily accessible to the KWB is estimated to be about 1.5 million acre-feet.

2.1.5.2 Purpose

The need for the Project would provide additional enhancements to the 2017 Agreement for the DRWD-SGVMWD transfer and exchange program and provide SGVMWD interim storage of a portion of its SWP

¹ California National Resources Agency. Final DCR 2019 Report (See Table 5-5). Website: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/state-water-project-delivery-capability-report-dcr-2019/resource/119da5c5-1c47-4142-8896-334628ca61cd>. Accessed 12/13/21.

² Dudley Ridge Water District. About Dudley Ridge Water District. Website: <http://www.dudleyridgewd.org/>. Accessed 6/11/21.

³ San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. About SGVMWD. Website: <http://sgvmwd.org/ABOUT-SGVMWD/Introduction>. Accessed 6/11/21.

⁴ Kern Water Bank Authority. The Kern Water Bank: Dual Purpose. Website: <http://www.kwb.org/>. Accessed 6/11/21.

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DRWD and SGVMWD Water Transfer and Banking Program

water in the KWB when delivery capacity to its service area is constrained by available delivery capacity in the East Branch of the California Aqueduct.

2.1.5.3 Project Description

The DRWD-SGVMWD transfer program, which began in 1995 and has been modified through its existence, has allowed DRWD to convey excess water supplies in a given year to SGVMWD when SGVMWD has the capacity to receive the water. Capacity is determined by the California Aqueduct capacity, water levels of the Main Basin in the SGVMWD, and flood control restrictions affecting SGVMWD’s ability to recharge water. SGVMWD maintains an accounting of the DRWD water received, and when DRWD requests a transfer from SGVMWD for up to 90% of the water previously conveyed to SGVMWD, SGVMWD transfers a portion of its current year Table A water to the extent it can meet DRWD’s request. This arrangement allows SGVMWD to receive additional water that it can recharge earlier than it otherwise could, and nets 10% of the DRWD water delivered to supplement SGVMWD’s groundwater account in the Main Basin. In return, DRWD can better regulate its variable SWP supply year by year. The return of water is available to DRWD once SGVMWD has received 5,000 AF of its SWP supply, approximately 17% of its Table A allocation. The 2020 Agreement also allows for DRWD have a portion of their previously transferred water to SGVMWD delivered to DRWD by requesting DWR to reclassify a portion of SGVMWD’s SWP previously water delivered in a given year to SGVMWD to be shown as delivered to DRWD. Water delivered to SGVMWD by this reclassification is limited to years where the SWP Table A allocation is 50% or greater.

Table 2-1 below, shows the transaction history between DRWD and SGVMWD from 1999 to 2019. Note that prior to the agreement revisions in 2017, losses were at 5% of the water delivered to SGVMWD.

The 2020 Water Banking Agreement allows SGVMWD to store water within the KWB capacity for interim storage during times when SGVMWD’s conveyance capacity in the East Branch of the California Aqueduct is limiting deliveries to SGVMWD. It is expected that SGVMWD would generally bank some of its Table A water in the KWB in years where there is 70% SWP water allocation or greater. Banking the water during higher allocation years allows SGVMWD to avoid the risk of carryover water spilling from San Luis Reservoir when SGVMWD’s delivery capacity is limited to a rate lower than its contract capacity of 48 cubic feet per second in the East Branch.

Except for the system and administrative losses of 10-15%, the intent of the 2020 Agreement is for DRWD and SGVMWD to each receive the same amount of SWP water with or without the transfers, however, the timing of the transfers will be different to allow each district to better regulate, through storage, the SWP water in a manner that provides each district greater reliability.

Table 2-1 Dudley Ridge Water District Summary of SGVMWD Transactions, AF

Year	Recharge	Recharge Losses	Recovery	Total In/(Out)	Cumulative Balance
1999	3,729	(186)	-	3,543	3,543
2000	665	(33)	-	632	4,174
2001	-	-	(4,174)	(4,174)	0
2002	1,800	(90)	-	1,710	1,710
2003	8,700	(435)	-	8,265	9,975
2004	1,059	(53)	-	1,006	10,981

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Year	Recharge	Recharge Losses	Recovery	Total In/(Out)	Cumulative Balance
2004	-	-	(4,118)	(4,118)	6,863
2005	3,484	(174)	-	3,310	10,173
2006	2,760	(138)	-	2,622	12,795
2007	-	-	(5,976)	(5,976)	6,819
2008	632	(32)	-	600	7,419
2008	-	-	(3,500)	(3,500)	3,919
2010	4,780	(239)	-	4,541	8,460
2011	551	(28)	-	523	8,984
2012	3,338	(167)	-	3,171	12,155
2013	672	(34)	-	638	12,793
2013	-	-	(1,500)	(1,500)	11,293
2014	-	-	(240)	(240)	11,053
2016	-	-	(1,192)	(1,192)	9,861
2017	1,487	(149)	-	1,338	11,200
2019	3,345	(335)	-	3,011	14,210
Total	37,002	(2,092)	(20,700)	14,210	14,210

2.1.6 Water Supply

The SWP diverts and conveys long-term water supplies from northern California through State-run water conveyance facilities to portions of northern California, Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and southern California. Approximately 70 percent of the water is used for residential, municipal, and industrial uses and about 30 percent is used for agricultural irrigation. It is the largest state-financed water project ever built. SWP facilities deliver each year's available water through contracts between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the 29 State Water Project Contractors (Contractor or Contractors), including DRWD and SGVMWD. Each year water is allocated by DWR and provided to each water Contractor in an annual allotment represented as a percentage of their Table A amount. The Contractors pay for the costs of construction and DWR's maintenance, operation, and administration of the SWP facilities.

The Contractors' contracts were structured to reflect anticipated increasing population and water demand, estimated by DWR and the Contractors, and completion of SWP facilities. The SWP Table A amount is specified in each Contractor's contract in a schedule that sets forth the maximum annual amount of water that

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may be requested to be delivered in any given year. DRWD has a maximum annual Table A amount of 41,350 AFY and SGVMWD has a maximum annual Table A amount of 28,800 AFY.

Whenever the available annual supply of Table A water is determined by DWR to be less than the total of all Contractors' requests, the available supply of Table A water is allocated among all Contractors in proportion to each Contractor's Table A amount relative to the total Table A amounts pursuant to Article 18 of the SWP Water Supply Contracts. Table A allocations differ from year to year based on water availability within the State according to DWR.⁵ Due to persistent dry conditions in California, DWR has currently decreased all Table A allocations for 2021 to 5 percent of Contractors' requested Table A amounts.⁶

2.1.6.1 Dudley Ridge Water District

DRWD's water supply is comprised completely of SWP surface water; due to poor groundwater conditions, useable groundwater is not provided to any of its customers. As a Contractor of the State Water Project (SWP), DRWD purchases imported water from the DWR. Each year, DRWD receives an annual allocation (Table A amount), which is based on available SWP supplies, with a total maximum contract amount of 41,350 AFY. Since 2015, DRWD has received between 5 and 85 percent of its Table A amount. To manage the wide variations of the SWP supply, which has varied historically from 0-100%, DRWD has developed several water management programs to achieve a more stable supply to meet the relatively firm crop demand. In addition to the water program with SGVMWD, these programs include participating in the KWBA banking program (1996), the Cawelo Water District Water Regulation Program (2001), and the Semitropic Water Exchange (2008) - a common landowner banking program with Semitropic Water Storage District.

DRWD's water supply is primarily made up of water that is conveyed to them from outside of its boundaries. Water is delivered through the SWP allocation, transfers from other districts, from water banking facilities, or in the form of imported landowner water. DRWD does not pump its own groundwater supply due to the low yield and quality of groundwater within its service area. Table 2-2 shows the water budget of the DRWD from 2016-2020.

Table 2-2 DRWD Water Supplies (AF)

Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Prior Year Carryover	1,656	9,838	7,415	7,092	9,202
Carryover Spill	0	0	0	-317	0
Table A	17,372	27,981	13,261	24,811	3,527
Article 21	0	15,722	0	3,484	0
Turnback Pool	0	400	0	0	0
Multi-Year Water Pool	461	0	0	0	0
Yuba Accord	0	0	333	0	1,011
Dry Year Transfer Program	0	0	800	0	1,272
Transfer from Tulare Lake Basin WSD	2,295	7,500	0	0	899
Exchange from San Gabriel Valley MWD	1,192	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Butte County	1,276	1,943	800	1,859	265
Transfer from Browns Valley ID	0	0	1,593	0	2,170
Exchange from Metropolitan WD of Southern CA	0	143	295	440	96
Transfer (recovery) from Kern Water Bank Authority	140	14,460	7,885	0	8,450
Transfer from City of Fresno	0	371	0	0	0
Exchange with Solano County WA	0	0	1,000	0	0

⁵ Department of Water Resources. State Water Project Historical Table A Allocations Water Years 1996-2022. PDF. Accessed 12/13/21.

⁶ Department of Water Resources. State Water Project Historical Table A Allocations Water Years 1996-2022. PDF. Accessed 12/13/21.

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Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Transfer from Empire-Westside ID	0	0	438	0	305
Transfer from Kern County WA	0	0	0	2,000	0
Landowner Imported Water	41,747	40,769	53,176	47,098	60,569
Total Surface Water Supplies	66,139	119,127	87,356	86,467	87,766
Transfer to Kern County WA	-9,505	-9,025	-28,300	-4,000	-18,900
Transfer (recharge) to Kern Water Bank Authority	0	-39,965	0	-21,020	0
Exchange to Metropolitan WD of Southern CA	-1,049	-5,062	-621	-1,311	-350
Exchange to San Gabriel Valley MWD	0	-1,487	0	-3,345	0
Total Transfers Out	-10,554	-55,539	-28,921	-29,676	-19,250
Total Surface Water Supplies Used in-District	55,585	63,588	58,435	56,791	68,516

⁷ Dudley Ridge Water District. 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan.

2.1.6.2 San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

SGVMWD’s water supply is comprised of SWP Table A water and water transferred from other agencies. As a Contractor of the SWP, SGVMWD purchases imported water from the DWR. Each year, SGVMWD receives an annual allocation, which is based on available SWP supplies and its total maximum contract amount of 28,800 AFY. Since 2015, SGVMWD has also received between 5 and 85 percent of its annual allotment. SWP water is delivered to SGVMWD via the California Aqueduct and the Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline that connects to the SWP at the Devil Canyon Power Plant north of San Bernardino.

Water demand in the SGVMWD is shaped by regional population growth and increase in population within the SGVMWD service area. Water usage within the SGVMWD includes irrigation, commercial, industrial, and residential uses. Water delivered to SGVMWD is exclusively used to replenish water pumped from the Main San Gabriel Basin by adding SWP water to its cyclical storage supply. SGVMWD provides water to four cities: Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre.

SGVMWD has an agreement with the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster that provides 50,000 AF in the cyclical storage account for future water usage. Water in cyclical storage must be used for resupply of groundwater that is pumped from the Basin. Deliveries to SGVMWD are exclusively used to replenish the Main Basin, and the inclusion of a cyclical storage amount ensures that the Main Basin will be replenished throughout multiple dry years. As a result, SGVMWD has the ability to continue to serve its customers into the future.

2.1.6.3 Kern Water Bank Authority

The Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA) is a 32 square mile water banking facility located southwest of Bakersfield, within the Kern portion of the San Joaquin Groundwater Basin. The KWBA has 1.5 million-acre foot of storage capacity accessible water recharge and recovery.⁸ Water stored on-site in the KWBA is collected (via recharge in ponding basins), stored underground, and recovered via wells and canals to existing local and State facilities for transfer to the participants’ service areas. Transfers between the DRWD and SGVMWD utilizing the KWBA result in an approximately 10 percent loss of water supplies, however any deliveries from SGVMWD (an out-of-County, non-KWBA participant) would be subject to an additional 5 percent loss, as a result of KWCA policy.

⁷ Dudley Ridge Water District. 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan. Website: <http://www.dudleyridgewd.org/>. Accessed 9/7/21.

⁸ Kern Water Bank Authority. Frequently Asked Questions. Website: <https://www.kwb.org/faqs/>. Accessed 9/13/21.

2.1.7 Site and Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project is located in Kings, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties. Land within and surrounding the DRWD boundaries are primarily agricultural and located on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, with the Coastal Mountain Range to the west and the Sierra Mountain Range to the east. SGVMWD's boundary is located in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area of Los Angeles County and abuts the San Gabriel Mountain Range and Angeles National Forest to the northeast.

2.1.8 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

In addition to DRWD and SGVMWD, other agencies whose approval may be required are:

- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- KWBA – Kern Water Bank Authority
- KCWA – Kern County Water Agency

2.1.9 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 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.

DRWD has received written correspondence from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut and the Dumna Wo Wah Tribe pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 requesting notification of any proposed projects. Letters of notification pursuant to AB 52 were sent to the tribes on 6/11/21. DRWD did not receive a request for formal consultation within the allowed 30-day period.

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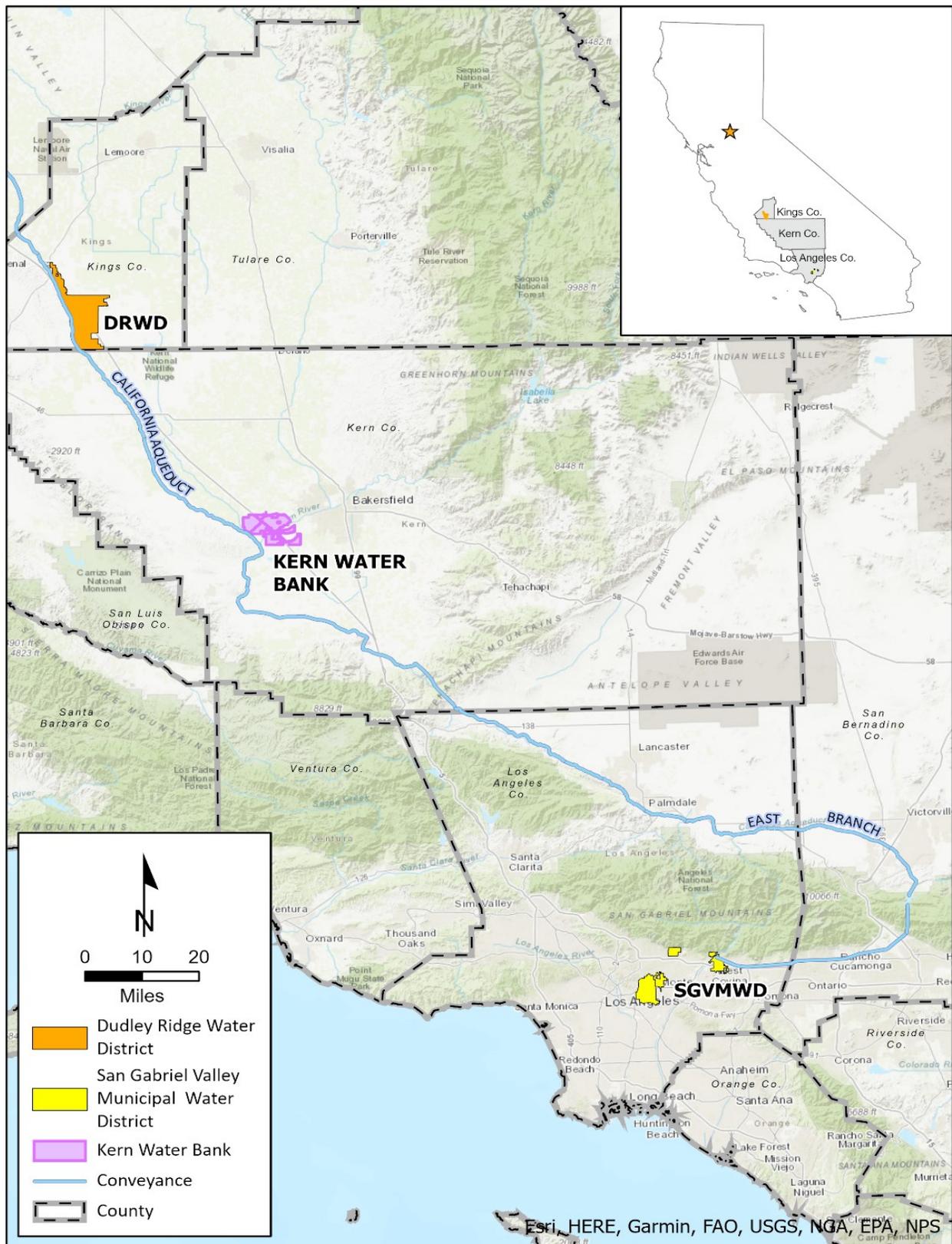


Figure 2-1. Regional Location

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 and mitigation measures would be recommended for each of the potentially significant impacts that would reduce the impact to less than significant.

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

The analyses of environmental impacts here in **Chapter 3** 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 will 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

DRWD is located in southern Kings County on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The area, like most of the San Joaquin Valley, is characterized by rural farmland. To the west of the DRWD’s service area is the California Coastal Mountain Range. Kern County, like Kings County, is predominantly agricultural lands. Kern County is surrounded by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range to the east and the Transverse Ranges and Mojave Desert to the south. SGVMWD is in Los Angeles County, spread out over 27 square miles. SGVMWD serves four Los Angeles County Cities – Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre. The surrounding land use is mostly dense, urban, and residential uses.

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. There are no construction activities associated with the water transfer or the storage of water. Facilities required for the transfer and storage of water are already existing and would not need to be altered and there would be no temporary or permanent physical changes to the environment 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. SGVMWD’s boundary is located near State Routes 210, 110, and 39 in Los Angeles County, parts of which have been designated as scenic highways by Caltrans.⁹ There are no designated scenic highways near DRWD or KWBA. Ultimately, there are no alterations of existing facilities required as part of the Project that

⁹ Caltrans. State Scenic Highway Map. Website: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed June 2021.

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would damage or alter existing views. Further, there would be not changes or alterations to historic buildings within a state scenic highway. 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. As discussed above, the Project would not involve any temporary or permanent physical changes to the existing viewsheds in the region. 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. Project would not involve any temporary or permanent physical changes to the existing viewsheds in the region and no new light sources would be added due to Project activities. The Project would use existing facilities to store and transfer water. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The land within DRWD’s boundary is primarily agricultural. While a combination of row crops and permanent crops have historically been grown in the DRWD, today permanent crops are grown such as pistachios, almonds, pomegranates, and grapes. SGVMWD is in Los Angeles County encompassing the cities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre. There is little to no agricultural uses.

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has been documenting changes in agricultural land use since 1984 and provides the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) which 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 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 below¹⁰:

¹⁰ California Department of Conservation. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Website: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp> Accessed June 2021.

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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.

DOC identified DRWD land as Farmland of Statewide Importance and SGVMWD land as Urban and Built-Up Land Use. KWBA is located in Kern County and is surrounded by Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance.¹¹

3.3.2 Impact Assessment

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 would not involve any change in land use or any physical changes to the land itself. There would be no potential for farmland conversion or any potential alteration in Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as there would be no change to the existing land uses. All water being transferred between DRWD and SGVMWD as a part of the Project would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. In addition, water may be temporarily stored in the KWB for a period of time; no new construction would be required to KWBA facilities either. Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹¹ California Important Farmland Finder (FMMP): <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed May 2021.

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

No Impact. The Project would 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 water being transferred between DRWD and SGVMWD as a part of the Project would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. No lands are anticipated to go into or out of production as a result of the Project. In addition, water may be temporarily stored in the Kern Water Bank for a period of time; no new construction would be required to KWBA facilities either. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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 transfer and storage 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 identified within the Project boundaries. 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. As discussed above, the Project would not involve any conversion of forest land to non-forest use. All water being transferred between DRWD and SGVMWD as a part of the Project would be transferred using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be required by the Project. There would be no impact.

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. The water transferred would be used in the same way as current water usage. As mentioned above, the Project would not result in any construction or change in the environment and no lands are anticipated to go into or out of production as a result of the Project. Land alteration or vegetation removal is not part of Project activities, nor is the conversion of farmland or forest land 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.4.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Air quality is influenced by a variety of factors, including topography, local, and regional meteorology. DRWD and KWBA are located within Kings and Kern counties, respectively, and the air quality is regulated by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). SGVMWD is in Los Angeles County and is regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). In addition, these agencies are also located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (DRWD and KWBA) and the South Coast Air Basin (SGVMWD). SJVAPCD and SCAQMD monitor ambient air quality on a real-time basis throughout their respective counties.¹²

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 (NO₂) as “does not meet the primary standards”, “cannot be classified”, or “better than national standards”. For sulfur dioxide (SO₂), areas are designated the same but also has an additional designation “does not meet the secondary standards”. However, CARB terminology of “attainment, nonattainment, and unclassified” is more

¹² Air Quality Data (PST) Query Tool. California Air Resources Board. Website: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/aqmis2/aqdselect.php>. Accessed May 2021.

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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 (PM₁₀) based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM₁₀ standards. All other areas are designated “unclassified.”

Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 that follow, set forth the summary of ambient air quality standards and attainment designations for the SJVAPCD and SCAQMD, respectively.

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Table 3-4. 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 ₂ S)	1-hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)	Unclassified		
Vinyl Chloride (C ₂ H ₃ Cl)	24-hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³)	Attainment		
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

Table 3-5 SCAQMD Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards and Attainment Designation.¹³

Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards & Attainment Designation	
Pollutant	Concentration Needed or Attainment Determination
NO₂ 1-hour average annual arithmetic mean	South Coast AQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 0.18 ppm (state) 0.03 ppm (state) and 0.0534 ppm (federal)
PM₁₀ 24-hour average annual average	10.4 µg/m ³ (construction) & 2.5 µg/m ³ (operation) 1.0 µg/m ³
PM_{2.5} 24-hour average	10.4 µg/m ³ (construction) & 2.5 µg/m ³ (operation)
SO₂ 1-hour average 24-hour average	0.25 ppm (state) & 0.075 ppm (federal – 99th percentile) 0.04 ppm (state)
Sulfate 24-hour average	25 µg/m ³ (state)
CO 1-hour average 8-hour average	South Coast AQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 20 ppm (state) and 35 ppm (federal) 9.0 ppm (state/federal)
Pb 30-day Average Rolling 3-month average	1.5 µg/m ³ (state) 0.15 µg/m ³ (federal)

Table 3-6 SJVAPCD and SVAQMD Daily Emissions Standards.

Source	Daily Emissions (in Pounds)					
	ROG	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
<i>SJVAPCD Significance Thresholds</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>SCAQMD Significance Thresholds</i>	75	100	550	150	150	155

3.4.2 Impact Assessment

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

No Impact. Air quality standards are set by the SJVAPCD and the SCAQMD. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the air quality management standards. Water transferred as a result of the Project would utilize existing conveyance and water banking infrastructure. Additional emissions would not be generated as a result of Project activities. 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 would not result in any physical change in the environment. As discussed in Section 2.1.5, **Description of Project**, DRWD and SGVMWD will both receive the same amount of SWP supplies they normally would without the transfers, however, the timing of the transfers allows for each agency to plan and regulate their respective water supplies in a way that provides for better reliability. The Project would not result in any increase of emissions that would exceed acceptable levels for federal or state ambient air quality standards. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. Considering the lack of construction and additional possible air emissions, the Project would not be a source of odors, toxic air contaminants, naturally occurring asbestos, fugitive dust, or other potentially substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹³ South Coast Air Quality Management District. Air Quality Analysis Handbook. Website: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook>. Accessed May 2021.

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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 would transfer water between DRWD and SGVMWD, with some water being conveyed and stored in the KWBA facilities. The Project would not generate odors and generate any additional emissions. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.5 Biological Resources

Table 3-7. 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.5.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Kings, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties contain a variety of biological communities and wildlife habitats that contribute to the ecosystems of the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. California contains several “rare” plant and animal species. In this context, rare is defined as species known to have low populations or limited distributions. As the human population grows, resulting in urban expansion which encroaches on the already limited suitable habitat, these sensitive species become increasingly more vulnerable to extirpation. State and federal regulations have provided the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a mechanism for conserving and protecting the diversity of plant and animal species native to California. Numerous native plants and animals have been formally designated as “threatened” or “endangered” under State and federal endangered species legislation. Other formal designations include “candidate” for listing or “species of special concern” by CDFW. The California

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Native Plant Society (CNPS) has its list of native plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered. Collectively these plants and animals are referred to as “special status species.”

There are two habitat conservation plans located in Kings and Kern counties: Southwest San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (in progress); and the KWBA Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan.

Aera Energy LLC is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan specific for Aera’s future development and ongoing operations and maintenance activities in Kern, Kings, and Fresno counties, California. The Plans area encompasses Aera’s active oils fields, areas where Aera’s future development may occur, and lands that will be conserved for species covered by the Plan.

The KWBA Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan was executed on October 2, 1997 by and among the USFWS, the CDFW, and KWBA, a joint powers authority.

3.5.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The Project would not 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 CDFW or USFWS. No construction or physical change in the environment would result from the Project. In addition, the Project would not conflict with any local or regional plan, policy, or regulation. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) Would the project 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. The Project would not 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 CDFW or the USFWS. The Project would not conflict with any regional plan, policy, or regulation governing riparian habitats or other natural sensitive communities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on State or federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means. The Project would not result in any construction or physical change in the environment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project 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 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. The Project would utilize existing conveyance facilities such as the SWP and KWBA bank. No additional facilities would be built. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would not interfere with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Vegetation or tree removal are not part of Project activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Would the project 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. The Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. DRWD and the KWBA storage bank are located within two habitat conservation plan areas: the Southwest San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan in Kings and Kern County; and the KWBA Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan in Kern County. SGVMWD's service area falls within the Los Angeles County General Plan Conservation Element. Since there is no construction or ground disturbing activities associated with the Project, there would be no conflict with the Southwest San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan, the KWBA Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan, or the Los Angeles County General Plan Conservation Element.^{14 15 16} Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹⁴ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. NCCP Plan Summary – Aera Energy Southwest San Joaquin Valley HCP/NCCP. Website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/Aera-SW-San-Joaquin>. Accessed June 2021.

¹⁵ Kern Water Bank Authority. HCP/NCCP. Website: <http://www.kwb.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Pages.Page/id/491>. Accessed June 2021.

¹⁶ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Website: <https://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/generalplan>. Accessed June 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.6.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The prehistoric populations of Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties consisted of the Tachi-Yokut, Ventureño, Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut, and Dumna Wo Wah Tribes. Although cultural resources may be found within the districts and KWBA boundaries, in this case, any cultural resources would not be disturbed because no construction activities or other ground disturbance will occur in connection with the Project. 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, land use or alteration changes, construction activities, and removal of buildings or facilities associated with water transfer and/or storage.

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. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical or archeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines in Section 15064.5. The Project does not involve any new construction or earthmoving activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would use existing infrastructure and does not involve any construction or earthmoving activities. The Project would not require any construction activities or the need to use temporary or permanent equipment to complete the transfer and banking. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.7.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Gas Company provide natural gas to the Project areas and PG&E and Southern California Edison provide electricity. The City of Azusa within the SGVMWD boundary has its own municipal electric utility called the Azusa Light & Water Electric Division. All energy used during the Project would be utilized by existing infrastructure to convey the water transferred between DRWD and SGVMWD or stored in the KWB. The Project would use energy through conveyance at SWP facilities.

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?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. No physical change in the environment would result from the completion of this Project. DRWD, SGVMWD, and KWBA currently use energy through operation of automated gates, screens, wells, and various pumps. No new pumps or energy-operated equipment would be added as part of this Project. As discussed in **Section 2.1.5, Description of Project**, DRWD and SGVMWD will both receive the same amount of SWP supplies they normally would without the transfers, however, the timing of the transfers allows for each agency to plan and regulate their respective water supplies in a way that provides for better reliability. While DRWD would not be utilizing additional energy, the SGVMWD would use slightly less energy than it usually would to recover water from the KWB, as a result of the transferring water than they would have if full SWP allocations and delivery capacity in the East Branch were being provided by DWR. The Project would result in SGVMWD receiving the same amount of water, however, 15% of water would be left behind at KWB, resulting in less energy being expended. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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 physical change in the environment. The Project would not exceed any thresholds set by the SJVAPCD and the SCAQMD. 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.8.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

3.8.1.1 Geology and Soils

Most of the soils in the San Joaquin Valley are used for agriculture. Kern County has a large crude oil industry as well. In Los Angeles County the area is mainly urban with cities abutting the San Gabriel Mountains.

3.8.1.2 Faults and Seismicity

The geologic nature in southern California region consists of steep mountains, low foothills, and relatively flat valleys. The greatest potential for seismic activity is posed by the San Andreas Fault. The San Andreas Fault

marks the junction between the North American and Pacific Plates. The fault is 1300 km long, extends to at least 25 km in depth, and has a northwest southeast trend. It is classified as a right lateral (dextral) strike-slip fault. Although both plates are moving in a north westerly direction, the Pacific Plate is moving faster than the North American Plate, so the relative movement of the North American Plate is to the southeast.

3.8.1.3 Liquefaction

Liquefaction takes place when loosely packed, water-logged sediments at or near the ground surface lose their strength in response to strong ground shaking. Liquefaction occurring beneath buildings and other structures can cause major damage during earthquakes.

3.8.1.4 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 transfer and storage of water through existing infrastructure would not directly or indirectly cause the adverse effects or injury or death. Additionally, based on the Kings County Operational Area Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kings County and DRWD are situated in a Low Landslide Incidence Area.¹⁷ Due to the nature of the Project, and the absence of construction and ground disturbance, there would be no potential for seismic related events caused by ground disturbing activities, nor would the Project increase the risk for landslides in the Project vicinity. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. There is no construction or soil disturbance as part of Project activities. Therefore, 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. The Project would not create or cause soil to become unstable. No structures would be constructed as part of this Project and there would be no ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be no impact.

¹⁷ 2012 Kings County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. County of Kings. Website: <https://www.countyofkings.com/home/showdocument?id=15243>. Accessed May 2021.

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d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. The Project does not propose construction or any ground disturbing activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would not result in the use or installation of any septic tanks, nor would the Project implement any ground disturbance activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would not result in any construction or ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 previously 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), observations over the last several decades reveal clear signals of climate change and its effects in California.¹⁸ 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 policies. New, carefully targeted research is necessary to inform future policy development and implementation.¹⁹

¹⁸California 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 May 2021.

¹⁹California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2013. Accessed May 2021.

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GHGs are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere.²⁰ 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 CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated carbons.²¹

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?

No Impact. The Project would not generate GHG emissions through the transfer through existing facilities and recovery of stored water from the KWB that would, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. As discussed in Section 2.1.5, **Description of Project**, DRWD and SGVMWD will both receive the same amount of SWP supplies they normally would without the transfers, however, the timing of the transfers allows for each agency to plan and regulate their respective water supplies in a way that provides for better reliability. The Project would transfer water between DRWD and SGVMWD while utilizing existing water conveyance facilities. In addition, a portion of SGVMWD's water being conveyed may be stored in the KWBA water banking site southwest of Bakersfield. These facilities would continue to deliver and store water without the implementation of this Project, as the SGVMWD's use of DRWD's capacity in the KWB is a second-priority to DRWD's use of the banking facility. The Project would result in SGVMWD receiving the same amount of water, however, 15% of water would be left behind at KWB, resulting in less energy being expended and therefore less emissions being generated. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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 the emissions of GHG. The Project would adhere to the goals and policies set in the Kings County, Kern County, and Los Angeles County general plans. In addition, the Project would be in conformance with air quality goals and policies set by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. There would be no impact.

²⁰ 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 May 2021.

²¹San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2015. Accessed May 2021.

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

3.10.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

3.10.1.1 Hazardous Materials

There are a number of federal and State databases that provide information regarding facilities or sites identified as meeting the Cortese List requirements and which list the past and present businesses that have had or are currently experiencing a hazardous material release within the applicable counties. These include Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System, GeoTracker (the leaking underground storage tank database), EnviroStor, the Toxic Release Inventory, and the List of Active Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders.

Products as diverse as gasoline, paint, solvents, household cleaning products, refrigerants, and radioactive substances are categorized as hazardous materials. What remains of a hazardous material after use, or

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processing, is considered to be a hazardous waste and the applicable generator or disposer must identify the handling, transportation, and disposal of such wastes, as well as ensure the proper handling of hazardous materials.

Beginning in the 1970s, governments at the federal, State, and local levels became increasingly concerned about the effects of hazardous materials management on human health and the environment. Numerous laws and regulations were developed to investigate and mitigate these effects. As a result, the storage, use, generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste are highly regulated by federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

3.10.1.2 Airports

There are several airports throughout the Kings, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties.²²

Kern County: There are 27 airports in Kern County, California, serving a population of 878,744 people in an area of 8,130 square miles. There is 1 airport per 32,546 people, and 1 airport per 301 square miles. In California, Kern County is ranked 30th of 58 counties in airports per capita, and 28th of 58 counties in airports per square mile.

Kings County: There are 10 airports in Kings County, California, serving a population of 150,183 people in an area of 1,390 square miles. There is 1 airport per 15,018 people, and 1 airport per 138 square miles. In California, Kings County is ranked 16th of 58 counties in airports per capita, and 11th of 58 counties in airports per square mile.

Los Angeles County: There are 49 airports in Los Angeles County, California, serving a population of 10,105,722 people in an area of 4,058 square miles. There is 1 airport per 206,239 people, and 1 airport per 82 square miles. In California, Los Angeles County is ranked 53rd of 58 counties in airports per capita, and 5th of 58 counties in airports per square mile. Los Angeles International and Burbank airports are the largest.

3.10.1.3 Emergency Response Plan

Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties all have Emergency Response and/or Emergency Operations and/or Emergency Preparedness Plans.

Kern County: <https://www.kerncounty.com/community/emergency>

Kings County: <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management/preparedness/plans>

Los Angeles County: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/emergencydisaster-plans-and-annexes/>

3.10.1.4 Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are people or other organisms that may have a significantly increased sensitivity or exposure to contaminants by virtue of their age and health (e.g., schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes), status (e.g., sensitive or endangered species), proximity to the contamination, dwelling construction (e.g.,

²² County Office. Airports in California. <https://www.countyoffice.org/ca-kern-county-airport/> Accessed June 2021

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basement), or the facilities they use (e.g., water supply well). The location of sensitive receptors must be identified in order to evaluate the potential impact of the contamination on public health and the environment.

3.10.1.5 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. Project activities involve the transfer and storage of water and would not transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials. There would be no impact to the public or the environment.

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 Project activities would not discharge hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, 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 does not include activities that would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or substances. No construction or use of construction equipment is associated with Project activities; therefore, possible hazardous emissions, materials, or substances would not result within one-quarter mile of any existing or proposed 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. The Project does not involve any construction or ground disturbing activities. Existing water conveyance and storage facilities would be utilized, and the Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. 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?

No Impact. Although there are airports throughout the Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties, the Project would not result in a safety hazard or in excessive noise for people residing or working in the area related to public airport activities. Therefore, 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 utilize existing water conveyance infrastructure. It would not interfere with the emergency response and evacuation procedures outlined in the Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles County Emergency Plans.^{23 24 25} These emergency plans implement the Standardized Emergency Management System required by State law, and include information on mutual aid agreements, hierarchies of command, and different levels of response in emergency situations. Therefore, there would be no impact.

²³ County of Kings Office of Emergency Management. Emergency Operations Plan. Website: <https://www.countyofkings.com/home>. Accessed June 2021.

²⁴ Kern County Fire Department. Emergency Plans. Website: <https://kerncountyfire.org/education-safety/emergency-plans/>. Accessed June 2021.

²⁵ County of Los Angeles. County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan. Website: <https://lacounty.gov/strategic-plan-and-goals/>. Accessed June 2021.

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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. The Project consists of transferring water through the utilization of existing water conveyance infrastructure. The Project would not result in any construction or ground disturbing activities. The Project would not directly or indirectly expose people or structures, to any risks associated with wildland fires. Therefore, 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the 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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.11.0 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Like most of California, the San Joaquin Valley experiences a Mediterranean climate. Warm, dry summers are followed by cool, moist winters. Summer temperatures often reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the humidity is generally low. Winter temperatures are often below 60 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and rarely exceed 70 degrees. On average, the San Joaquin Valley receive approximately 12-15 inches of precipitation in the form of rainfall yearly, most of which occurs between October and March.

Los Angeles County has a milder climate with an average summer high of 84 degrees Fahrenheit and an average winter low of 46 degrees Fahrenheit. The County receives about 16 inches of rain per year and has approximately 283 sunny days.

The SWP is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants and pumping plants extending more than 700 miles—two-thirds the length of California. Planned, constructed, and operated by the DWR, the SWP is the nation’s largest state-built, multi-purpose, user-financed water project. It supplies water

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to more than 27 million people in northern California, the Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast and southern California. SWP water also irrigates about 750,000 acres of farmland, mainly in the San Joaquin Valley.

The primary purpose of the SWP is water supply. SWP was designed to deliver nearly 4.2 million acre-feet of water per year, although the current reliability annually averages about 2.1 million acre-feet. Water is received by 29 long-term SWP Contractors, including DRWD and SGVMWD, who distribute it to farms, homes, and industry. Water supply depends on rainfall, snowpack, runoff, water in storage facilities, and pumping capacity from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), as well as operational constraints for fish and wildlife protection, water quality, and environmental and legal restrictions.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in 2014 to provide for the management of groundwater resources in California, particularly in groundwater basins that are adjudicated. Under SGMA, new local agencies, known as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), were given authority to regulate groundwater subject to stakeholder input. GSAs are mandated to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for approval by the DWR.

The goals of SGMA are to:

- *Develop regulations to revise groundwater basin boundaries;*
- *Adopt regulations for evaluating and implementing GSPs;*
- *Identify basins subject to critical conditions and overdraft;*
- *Identify water available for groundwater replenishment; and*
- *Publish best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater.*

Under SGMA, groundwater users are required to report their water use, which may be unwelcome by some water users. A balancing act is at play between data collection, groundwater management and the burden of providing data to local and state governments.

3.11.0.0 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

No Impact. The Project would receive, and transfer SWP Table A water based on the required agreements between the water districts and DWR. The transfer and storage of water would not violate any water or groundwater quality standards, nor would it impact waste discharge requirements. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact. Water transferred would be from SWP-allocated water. Groundwater would not be utilized for this Project, other than the recovery of previously recharged/stored surface water. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project 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:

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

c-ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

c-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

c-iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The Project would not result in any physical alteration of the environment. Construction of roads, staging areas, and other ground disturbing activities that would cause erosion and siltation would not occur as part of Project activities. Drainage patterns would not be altered and there would be no surface runoff adding sources of pollutants or impediments of water flow as a result of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundations?

No Impact. The Project would not release hazards or pollutants due to flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones inundation. The Project would transfer water between DRWD and SGVMWD and store portions of the allocated water within the KWBA water bank. There would be no impact.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The Project is located in numerous Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundaries that have associated Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).²⁶ The agencies that share an area with the Project site includes: San Joaquin Valley Basin, Southwest Kings GSA, Tri-County Water Authority GSA (Tulare Lake), El Rico GSA, Kern Groundwater Authority GSA, Kern River GSA, San Gabriel Valley Basin (an adjudicated basin that is managed by the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster), and the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles (consisting of the adjudicated Central and West Coast Basins). Water transferred as a part of this Project would be from the Table A SWP allocation and would not use groundwater resources. The Project would not conflict with any plan or policy regarding water quality or groundwater management. Therefore, there would be no impact.

²⁶ California Department of Water Resources. GSA Map Viewer. Website: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>. Accessed May 2021.

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.12.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located within Kings, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties. According to the Kings County General Plan, DRWD is comprised of land planned for Agriculture Open Space.²⁷ The northwestern portion of their boundary contains some land planned for Community Districts to the east of Kettleman City and State Route 41. According to the Kern County General Plan, the KWBA water banking site to the southwest of Bakersfield is planned primarily for Resources, including agriculture and mineral and petroleum use.²⁸ SGVMWD is located in the Los Angeles Metro area, and the district serves the cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Sierra Madre, and Azusa. According to the Los Angeles County General Plan, the SGVMWD service area is comprised primarily of urban built-up lands.²⁹

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 and storage facilities and would not result in any construction activities. In addition, there would not be any changes in land use as a result of the Project and the Project would not conflict with any land use or General Plan designations. 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 not conflict with any land use planning practices or General Plans. Therefore, there would be no impact.

²⁷ County of Kings, California. 2035 General Plan, Land Use Element. Website: <https://www.countyofkings.com/home/showpublisheddocument/15995/636302054199570000>. Accessed May 2021.

²⁸ Kern County, CA Planning and Natural Resources Department. General Plans & Elements. Website: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/planning-documents/general-plans-elements/>. Accessed May 2021.

²⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. General Plan Update Program – Interactive Maps. Website: <https://planning.lacounty.gov/gpnet>. Accessed May 2021.

3.13 Mineral Resources

Table 3-15 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.13.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

There are multiple mining and mineral extraction facilities in Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties. The California DOC Division of Mine Reclamation compiles data on the current status of mines and the commodities produced. The California Geological Survey (CGS) produces Mineral Land Classification studies that identify areas with potentially important mineral resources that should be considered in local and regional planning.

The Kern County General Plan Land Use Map shows that areas within the KWBA water banking site are designated as areas for resources, including agriculture, minerals, and petroleum. In addition, there is a large area of land bordering the KWBA site to the south of the Taft Highway that is classified as a Mineral Resource Zone 1. Lands in this zone are designated as having little likelihood for the presence of significant mineral resources³⁰.

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. There would be no construction or earthmoving activities associated with the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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 to and from participating districts using existing water conveyance infrastructure and no new construction would be needed by the Project. While some of the land in the KWBA water bank site is designated by the Kern County General Plan as Resources for mineral and petroleum use, the Project would not change the land use of these areas. There would be no impact.

³⁰ Data Basin. Mineral Resource Zones for Kern County. Website: <https://databasin.org/>. Accessed June 2021

3.14 Noise

Table 3-16. Noise Impacts

Noise Impacts				
Would the project result in:	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.14.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Ambient noise levels in Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties vary widely and mainly come from noise generators such as major roads, agricultural equipment, airports, industrial and commercial areas, 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 would not have any associated construction noise or vibration noise. Operations of the existing water conveyance facilities currently produces noise and vibration associated with the movement of water. Although water would be transferred using the existing facilities, it would not increase the ambient noise and vibration levels as a result. There are no additional noise and vibration factors that would be generated by the Project. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project would transfer water through existing water conveyance infrastructure. As discussed above, the transfer of the allotted Table A water would not increase the ambient noise and vibration. Therefore, 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. As discussed in Section 3.10 there are several airports that are located within or near district boundaries; however, the process of transferring and storing water would not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels greater than the existing ambient noise levels. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.15 Population and Housing

Table 3-17. 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.15.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties. Kern County has a population of 900,202 people, Kings County has a population of 152,940 people, and Los Angeles County has a population of 10,039,107 people according to the United States Census Bureau.^{31 32 33}

3.15.2 Impact Assessment

a) Would the project 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)?

No Impact. The Project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth. Water transferred would continue to be used in the same capacity as the current allocated water. Additionally, the conveyance and storage of the SWP Table A water would use existing facilities. Construction activities are not part of Project activities. 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 and storage facilities and would not result in any physical change in the environment. No existing people or housing would be displaced as a result of this Project, nor would any housing be created. Therefore, there would be no impact.

³¹ US Census Bureau. QuickFacts Kings County, California. Website: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/kingscountycalifornia/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

³² US Census Bureau. QuickFacts Kern County, California. Website: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/kerncountycalifornia/PST045219>. Accessed May 2021.

³³ US Census Bureau. QuickFacts Los Angeles County, California. Website: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia_CA/PST045219. Accessed May 2021.

3.16 Public Services

Table 3-18. 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) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.16.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties maintain public services for their respective jurisdictions and provide fire and police protection, as well as schools, parks and other public facilities and services. The Project consists of utilizing existing water facilities to provide water in order to assist with groundwater replenishment and agriculture irrigation and would not require additional public services to be provided to the area within the DRWD and SGVMWD service areas.

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 would utilize existing water conveyance and pumping facilities to transfer the water. There would not be an additional need for public services including, *Fire Protection, Police Protection, Schools, Parks, and Landfills*. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.17 Recreation

Table 3-19. Recreation Impacts

Recreation Impacts				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties offer a variety of recreational opportunities through the use of their Parks and Recreation Departments and nearby State and federal lands. There may be recreational areas for the public to utilize near the DRWD, SGVMWD, and KWBA existing facilities 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 an increase in population (through the creation of housing or jobs) and would not contribute to the deterioration or need for any recreational facilities near the Project area. Therefore, 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 any recreational facilities, nor would it require the construction of any recreational facilities. The Project would transfer water between DRWD and SGVMWD. In addition, the KWBA water banking site southwest of Bakersfield may be utilized for periods of time to store a portion of SGVMWD’s water. The Project would not result in any physical change in the environment or increase the need for recreational facilities population. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.18 Transportation

Table 3-20. 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 a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)??	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.18.1 Environmental Settings and Baseline Conditions

The main form of transportation in Kern, Kings, and Los Angeles counties is through vehicular travel. All three counties are served by a large network of highways, expressways, and freeways. Each county also has public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle lanes and trails. Interstate 5 runs through all three counties.

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?

No Impact. The Project would not alter any form of circulation such as transit, roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities and as a result would not conflict with any plan, ordinance, or policy governing circulation. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact. The Project involves the transference of water through existing conveyance facilities. There would be no effects regarding vehicle miles traveled or any other items listed under CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b). 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)?

No Impact. No roadway features or incompatible uses are proposed as a part of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The Project would not result in a modification to any roads or designated emergency routes. As a result, the Project would not result in inadequate emergency access. There would be no impact.

3.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Table 3-21. 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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. In applying the 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.19.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

DRWD has received written correspondence from the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut and the Dumna Wo Wah Tribe pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 requesting notification of any proposed projects.

3.19.2 Impact Assessment

- a) Would the project 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 the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

No Impact. DRWD has not received any letters from a California Native American tribe regarding tribal resources within the Project vicinity. Letters pursuant to AB 52 were sent on 6/11/21. Considering the lack of construction or earthwork activities, that no vegetation would be removed, no landmarks or building would be

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altered, and that the Project would use only existing infrastructure there would be no impact to Tribal resources. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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. In applying the 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. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.20 Utilities and Service Systems

Table 3-22. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.20.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

DRWD is responsible for providing irrigation water for agricultural use within their district service area. SGVMWD provides reliable supplemental water for groundwater replenishment purposes to four Los Angeles County cities – Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre, which equates to roughly 206,000 people. The KWBA provides an efficient, reliable, and environmentally sound water storage facility for both local urban water users and hundreds of thousands of acres of essential crops, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, fiber, and livestock. The KWBA also contributes to local wildlife habitat conservation programs.

3.20.1.1 Water Supply

DRWD's main water source is imported surface water from the SWP. Water is delivered to landowners from the California Aqueduct through five delivery structures (“turnouts”), and from each turnout, water is moved through 12 miles of district-owned canals and 10 miles of underground pipelines to metered farm turnouts. DRWD also owns a terminal reservoir to capture operational spills, where final field deliveries can be made directly from the reservoir. While this reservoir has been historically utilized, privately owned storage reservoirs have since been constructed to supersede its operation.

SGVMWD also imports water from the SWP via the California Aqueduct and the East Branch. Water is delivered to the Main San Gabriel Basin via pumps and gravity. SGVMWD also utilizes spreading grounds maintained by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for groundwater replenishment. Spreading

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grounds conserve water by allowing surface water to percolate into the soil, which then recharges the underlying aquifer.

The KWBA operates the Kern Water Bank (KWB) which is a groundwater recharge, storage, and recovery facility that serves local and urban and agricultural water suppliers. The Kern Water Bank stores water in the underlying aquifer during periods of surplus of rainfall, runoff, and other surface water supplies; the participants in the KWB recover the stored water during times when surface water deliveries are below in-district demands.

3.20.1.2 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

In Kern County there are seven wastewater treatment facilities under the Public Works Department: Kern Sanitation Authority; Ford City-Taft Heights Sanitation District; Sheriff's Lerdo Facility Wastewater System; Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area Wastewater System; Lakeshore Pines County Service Area 39.1 Wastewater System; and County Service Areas/CSAs. Several cities also have facilities, such as Wasco, Shafter, and Delano to name a few.

Within Kings County the cities of Lemoore, Hanford, Corcoran, and Kettleman City have wastewater treatment facilities. There is also Leprino Wastewater Treatment facility.

Los Angeles County has multiple wastewater facilities maintained by the Los Angeles County Public Works and consist of the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District treatment plants including: Malibu Mesa Wastewater Reclamation Plant, Malibu Water Pollution Control Plant, Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant, and Lake Hughes Community Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Los Angeles County Sanitation District is the largest.

3.20.1.3 Landfills

Landfills within 20 miles of SGVMWD service boundary: Scholl Canyon Landfill, Azusa Land Reclamation Co. Landfill, Puente Hills Landfill, Savage Canyon Landfill, Burbank Landfill Site No. 3, and Olinda Alpha Sanitary.³⁴

Landfills within 20 miles of KWBA boundary: Shafter-Wasco Recycling & Sanitary Landfill, Buttonwillow Sanitary Landfill, McKittrick Waste Treatment Site, Taft Recycling & Sanitary Landfill, and Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Solid Waste Landfill, H.M.

Landfills within 20 miles of DRWD service boundary: H.M. Holloway Inc., Chemical Waste Management, Inc. Unit B-17, Avenal Regional Landfill, and Coalinga Disposal Site.

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. The water transfer and banking would be done through existing water conveyance facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

³⁴ California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Solid Waste Map [Solid Waste results \(arcgis.com\)](#). Accessed June 2021

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b) Would the project 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 would not adversely impact the water supplies available to serve SGVMWD and DRWD and any reasonably foreseeable development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Table A water allocations are determined by water availability. Each year, the DWR announces SWP Table A allocations which inform water contractors of SWP deliveries. Therefore, there would be no impact.

c) Would the project 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 produce wastewater as a result of the water being transferred and/or stored. 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 produce solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. It would not necessitate an increase in solid waste capacity by the Project. There would be no impact.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The Project would not produce solid waste. There would be no impact to federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.21 Wildfire

Table 3-23. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.21.1 Environmental Setting and Baseline Conditions

Wildfire is a perennial and growing threat throughout California. Years of fire suppression strategy have transformed this vegetation into heavier fuel, of sufficient density and height to act as a ladder to tree canopies and created conditions for more destructive conflagrations.

3.21.2 Impact Assessment

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- 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 uncontrolled spread of a 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?**

No Impacts. There are no construction or ground disturbance activities associated with the Project. The transfer and storage of SWP water would not create or exacerbate wildfire risks or post-fire instability. There would be no impacts.

3.22 CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table 3-24. Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts

Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts				
Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.22.1 Environmental Settings and Baseline Conditions

3.22.2 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 would not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a 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)?**

No Impact. The Project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

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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 have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

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

December 27, 2021

Date

Dale K. Melville

Dale K. Melville – Assistant Manager – Engineer
Dudley Ridge Water District