

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
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**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

March 8, 2022

**Mar 18 2022****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Dena Giacomini  
Provost & Pritchard  
1800 30th Street, Suite 280  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

RE: Palmdale Water District (PWD) and  
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District  
(LCID) Multi-Year Water Transfer  
Project – Initial Study/Negative  
Declaration  
SCH # 2022020458  
GTS # 07-LA-2022-03871

Dear Dena Giacomini:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced Initial Study/Negative Declaration. The proposed Project states that the Palmdale Water District (PWD) and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) seek to enter a mutually beneficial water transfer. In this Project, LCID would transfer its portion of State Water Project (SWP) annual Table A water to PWD. PWD would receive an amount not less than 75% and not more than 100% of LCID's annual Table A allocation, up to a maximum of 2,300-acre feet. In addition, LCID has an annual option to retain up to 25% of its Table A water. The annual transfer would take place from the date that the agreement is fully executed, until December 31, 2035. The parties may mutually revise the agreement in the years 2025 and/or 2030.

All water transferred from LCID to PWD would use existing conveyance infrastructure and would not require any new construction. The water transferred to PWD would be used to increase the water supply reliability within PWD's service area. Implementation of the Project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in LCID's or PWD's service areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. The total amount of SWP water available for allocation in any year would not change. The Palmdale Water District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PWD boundary is located in the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County and has a service area of 187 square miles. LCID is located in the community of Littlerock in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The California Aqueduct runs through both Palmdale and Littlerock near State Route 14 (SR-14) and State Route 138 (SR-138) respectively. The ND states that the Project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in LCID's or PWD's service

areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. Therefore, Caltrans does not expect this project to result in an increase of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) nor does it expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the State Highway System.

However, please note, changes in the Project that would require any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, including SR-14 and SR-138, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Finally, any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way might require an encroachment permit, however, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ronnie Escobar, the project coordinator, at [Ronnie.Escobar@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Ronnie.Escobar@dot.ca.gov), and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-03871.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse