

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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**VIA-EMAIL**

July 8, 2024

Brian Deason  
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Subject: State Clearinghouse #2024060244, 2024 El Dorado Irrigation District  
Temporary Reservoir Re-Operation Water Transfer Project CEQA Initial Study/Negative  
Declaration

Dear Mr. Deason:

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has reviewed the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Temporary Reservoir Re-operation Water Transfer Project. DWR has the following comments.

**Project Description**

EID is planning to transfer up to 4,300 acre-feet of water to various Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) Contractor Agencies from July through November 2024. EID proposes to make 750 acre-feet of transfer water available through the re-operation of Weber Reservoir to release water that would have remained in storage in 2024 under a post-1914 water right (License 2184), and an additional transfer of up to 3,550 acre-feet of water made available through re-operation of EID's Silver Lake and Caples Lake under pre-1914 water rights (Statement 015941 and Statement 004708, respectively), with total amount of up to 4,300 acre-feet to be transferred among all rights. Releases from Caples and Silver lakes that would otherwise be added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2024 demands would instead be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake. The proposed project would result in increased inflow of up to 4,300 AF into Folsom Reservoir.

**Comments****2.4 Proposed Project and 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer**

Section 2.4, Proposed Project explains that the proposed project's release from Weber Reservoir and Caples and Silver lakes would be coordinated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and DWR for CVP and SWP water system operations, respectively. For transfers from Weber Reservoir, EID is seeking from the State Water

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Resources Control Board a temporary (1 year or less) changes in Place of Use and Point of Rediversion (PORD) pursuant to EID Water Right License 2184 (Application 1692) and consistent with CWC Sections 1725-1732. The proposed PORD would add the SWP Banks pumping plant as a PORD. Section 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer explains EID's plans for the proposed transfer water should state and federal approvals be completed.

DWR would like to notify EID that as of the date of this letter, it has been reported that there is expected to be no available capacity to convey transfer water at the Banks Pumping Plant in 2024. This means that all the pumping capacity is anticipated to be fully utilized, leaving no room for additional water transfers between July and November 30, 2024 – the timeframe under which the transfers would occur.

## 2.6 Regulatory Requirements, Permits and Approvals

The IS/ND describes DWR/Reclamation as agencies that may have approval or review authority over portions of the proposed project. Specifically, the IS/ND explains that conveyance agreements are needed, as appropriate, between EID and the buyers of the transfer water in coordination with Reclamation or DWR depending on which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. The proposed water transfers consist of releases from Weber Reservoir (up to 750 AF) that would otherwise remain in Weber Reservoir and releases from Caples/Silver lakes (up to 3,550 AF) that would otherwise be added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2024 demands that would instead be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake. This proposed EID drawdown of Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake storage for meeting transfer objectives would result in a lower than planned end-of-season storage absent the transfer.

DWR agrees with EID's determination that a refill agreement is needed, as the water vacated from Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake for this transfer may impact the water rights and operations of the SWP and CVP. DWR requests that all coordination is with both DWR and Reclamation, independent of which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. The refill agreement would include conditions, criteria, and procedures to account and mitigate injuries to SWP and CVP operations from future EID refill following the release of the transfer water, and both DWR and Reclamation would be signatories to any refill agreement. DWR requests that any order approving EID's temporary change contain a term requiring a signed and executed refill agreement with both DWR and Reclamation.

## 3.19 Utilities and Service Systems impact analysis and 3.19.2 Discussion

For 3.19.2(b): the IS/ND concludes a less than significant impact. The discussion explains that EID would enter into a refill/conveyance agreement with DWR and Reclamation, as appropriate, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties to ensure the proposed project would have minimal or no effect

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on EID's ability to meet future water demand obligations. With an executed refill agreement with DWR and Reclamation, the impact would be less than significant.

To improve coordination and to facilitate the transfer of the latest information, DWR requests that EID submit a complete transfer proposal using DWR's Water Transfers Information Management System online database at <https://info.water.ca.gov/wtims/>.

DWR appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SWP staff at [SWPWaterTransfers@water.ca.gov](mailto:SWPWaterTransfers@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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