

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Butte Water District 2025 Water Transfer Program

Lead Agency: Butte Water District

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Project Location: Butte and Sutter Counties

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Butte Water District (BWD) proposes to sell up to 20,534 acre-feet (af) of water to the participating member districts of the State Water Contractors Incorporated or other South of Delta purchasers, including one or more Central Valley Project contractors (Buyers) during the 2025 irrigation season. As a willing seller, BWD would make up to 20,534 af of water available to Buyers by idling rice cropland (i.e., non-irrigation of farmland by voluntary participants) and/or through groundwater substitution, (i.e., using groundwater supplies instead of surface water supplies). BWD may idle up to 4,928 acres of rice land to make up to 14,784 af of water and/or will pump groundwater from wells located in Sutter County for up to 5,750 sf of water in 2025. Water made available by crop idling and/or groundwater substitution within the boundaries of the BWD would then be retained and stored by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) at Lake Oroville for delivery to Buyers. Groundwater pumping, if applicable, would only occur within that portion of the BWD boundaries that lie within Sutter County. The project area, from which the water for this transfer will be made available, is defined by the BWD boundaries which encompass approximately 32,505 acres in the northern Sacramento Valley in Butte and Sutter Counties.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Potentially significant effects raised by the temporary water transfer program include Biological Resources and Hydrology/Water Quality.

Any impacts on biological resources will be mitigated by maintaining movement corridors for wildlife by keeping adequate water in drainage canals and conveyance infrastructure, maintain vegetation for wildlife for habitats, monitoring, dispersing lands for crop idling and avoiding idling lands that have high probability for special status wildlife to minimize any potential effects on wildlife, perform best management practices and education for special status wildlife during irrigation activities.

Any impacts on groundwater supplies will be mitigated by monitoring groundwater and surface water levels before, during, and after transfer, and coordinate with potentially impacted third parties to collect and monitor groundwater data, measure groundwater quality from each production well, report monitoring data, and follow a mitigation plan if groundwater levels fall below historic low levels.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Prior to the 30-day public comment being opened, there are no known controversies in the project area known to Butte Water District. Butte Water District will receive written comments and hear any potential oral comments at its public hearing meeting prior to closing the public comment period to address any controversies raised.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
California Department of Fish & Game