

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR
Public Scoping Meetings

Chico
January 11, 2011
Sacramento
January 12, 2011
Los Banos
January 13, 2011

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Meeting Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Presentation**
 - Project Overview
 - Schedule
 - EIS/EIR Development Process
- **Open House**

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Meeting Purpose

- Provide information about long-term transfer combined EIS/EIR
- Gather information from the public on alternatives and potential environmental issues
- Answer questions about transfers

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Background

- Reclamation is not purchasing water under this project
- Reclamation is approving transfers
- Recent History
 - 2009 – Drought Water Bank
 - 2010 – Environmental Assessment for CVP-related transfers in 2010-2011
 - 2012 – EIS/EIR for CVP-related transfers in 2012-2022

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Purpose and Need

- Hydrologic and climatic variability, as well as regulatory restrictions, can strain water supplies
- In an effort to be more prepared to manage for water shortages caused by decreases in water delivery from the CVP, various water agencies have requested that Reclamation facilitate water transfers
- The purpose of the Proposed Action is to facilitate voluntary water transfers from willing sellers north of the Delta to water users south of the Delta and the San Francisco Bay Area

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Project Overview

- EIS/EIR to analyze the effects of CVP-related water transfers
- Project timeframe is from 2012 to 2022



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Project Overview

- Reclamation is not initiating a “bank” or “program”
- Buyers and sellers are responsible for negotiating transfer terms, including transfer method, amount, period, and price
- SLDMWA will be responsible for negotiating transfers on behalf of potential buyers that are Member Agencies
- Reclamation and DWR will be responsible for approving transfers under their jurisdiction and for use of CVP and SWP facilities required for the transfers

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Transfers in EIS/EIR

- CVP water supplies
- Non-CVP water supplies that require use of CVP or SWP facilities (including Warren Act contracts)
- Single year or multi-year transfers
- Transfers would not necessarily occur each year within the project timeframe
- Total annual transfers likely in the range of 100,000 to 150,000 acre feet
- Transfers of SWP water will not be directly analyzed in the EIS/EIR (all transfers will be included in the cumulative analysis)

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Project Agencies

- **NEPA**
 - Lead Agency – Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
- **CEQA**
 - Lead Agency – San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
 - Responsible Agency – California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

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Project Schedule

Project Milestone	Proposed Date
NOI and NOP	December 2010
Scoping Meetings	
Chico, CA	January 11, 2011
Sacramento, CA	January 12, 2011
Los Banos, CA	January 13, 2011
Draft EIS/EIR	July 2011
Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR	August 2011
Final EIS/EIR	January 2012
ROD and NOD	February 2012

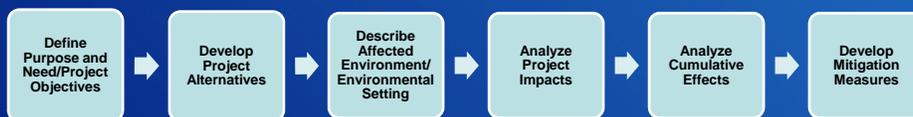
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Environmental Review Purpose

- Evaluate reasonable alternatives that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts
- Provide information for public review and comment
- Identify any significant environmental impacts
- Disclose to decision makers the impacts, benefits, mitigation, and public comments

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EIS/EIR Development Process



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Open House Stations

- Station 1: Overview
- Station 2: Transfer Types and Resources to be Analyzed
- Station 3: Process, Schedule, and Comments

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How to Submit Comments

- Tonight: state oral comments to court reporter or fill out a comment form
- By February 28, 2011:

– Mr. Brad Hubbard
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825, MP-410
bhubbard@usbr.gov
Fax: (916)978-5290

– Ms. Frances Mizuno
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Water Authority
P.O. Box 2157
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Fax: (209)826-9698/
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Thank You for Your Participation

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OVERVIEW



PURPOSE AND NEED

Hydrologic conditions, climatic variability, and regulatory requirements for operation of water projects commonly affect water supply availability in California, making advance planning for water shortages necessary and routine. This hydrologic and climatic variability, as well as regulatory restrictions, can strain water supplies in areas that are dependent on delivery of supplies to meet most, if not all, of the water demand. This is especially true

in areas south of the Delta that are dependent on CVP operations for delivery of water supplies. In an effort to be more prepared to manage for water shortages caused by decreases in water delivery from the CVP, various water agencies have requested that Reclamation facilitate water transfers from areas of greater supply north of the Delta to areas of need south of the Delta. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to facilitate voluntary water transfers from willing sellers north of the Delta to water users south of the Delta and the San Francisco Bay Area.

WHAT IS A WATER TRANSFER?

- Sale of water between a willing seller and a willing buyer
- Water sold must have been put to beneficial use in previous years
- Sellers must take an action to make water available

OVERVIEW

- Reclamation is not initiating a “bank” or “program”
- Reclamation is not purchasing water under this EIS/EIR
- Project time frame is 2012 through 2022
- Transfers analyzed include
 - CVP supplies
 - Non-CVP water supplies that require use of CVP or SWP facilities (including Warren Act contracts)
 - Single year or multi-year transfers
- Transfers would not necessarily occur each year within the 10-year time frame
- Transfers of SWP water will not be directly analyzed in the EIS/EIR (all transfers will be included in the cumulative analysis)

STUDY AREA, ROLES, & RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDY AREA



NEPA LEAD AGENCY – BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

- Lead development of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Manage Federal permitting efforts (Endangered Species Act)
- Approve and facilitate transfers

CEQA LEAD AGENCY – SAN LUIS & DELTA- MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

- Lead development of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Assist in permitting efforts
- Negotiate transfers on behalf of potential buyers who are member agencies

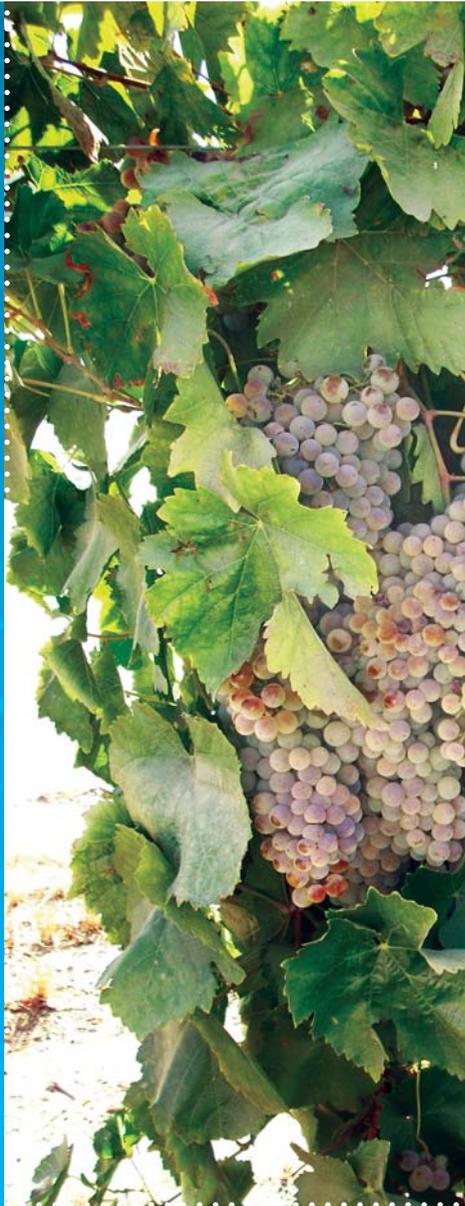
CEQA RESPONSIBLE AGENCY – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

- Review and provide feedback on development of EIS/EIR
- Review and comment on transfer proposals
- Operate SWP to facilitate transfers

BUYERS AND SELLERS

- Identify transfer needs
- Negotiate transfer terms, including transfer method, amount, period and price
- Provide transfer proposal to Reclamation and DWR for review

TYPES OF TRANSFERS



GROUNDWATER SUBSTITUTION

- Sellers forego diversion of surface water supplies and pump equivalent amount of groundwater
- Buyers receive foregone surface water supply

CROPLAND IDLING

- Sellers make surface water available by not planting agricultural fields
- Buyers receive unused surface water supply

CROP SHIFTING

- Sellers switch from a higher water use crop to a lower water use crop
- Buyers receive the difference in water use

STORED RESERVOIR PURCHASE

- Sellers release water from non-CVP or SWP reservoirs that would otherwise have remained in storage

OTHER METHODS SUGGESTED DURING SCOPING

RESOURCES TO BE ANALYZED



HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- Groundwater
- Surface Water Hydrology
- Water Quality

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Vegetation and Wildlife
- Fishery Resources

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

- Geology and Soils
- Air Quality
- Visual Resources
- Climate Change

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND SOCIOECONOMICS

- Agricultural Resources
- Land Use
- Regional Economics
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

EIS/EIR PROCESS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PURPOSE

- Compliance activities associated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will:
 - Evaluate reasonable alternatives that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts
 - Provide information for public review and comment
 - Identify significant environmental impacts
 - Develop mitigation (ways to reduce or avoid environmental impacts)
 - Communicate to decision makers the impacts, mitigation, and public comments

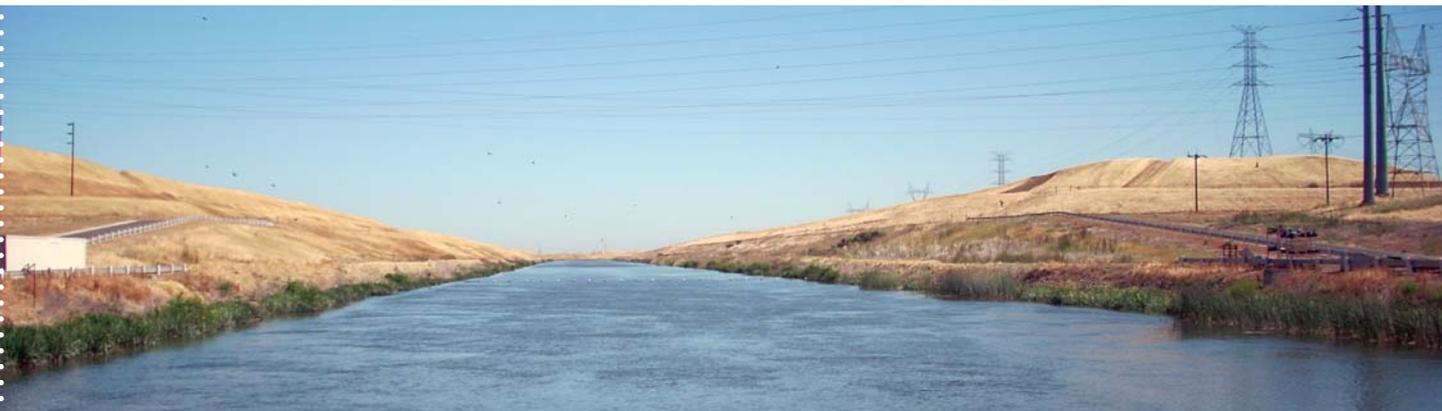
WHAT IS SCOPING?

- Public scoping serves to include agencies, stakeholders, and the interested public in the decision making process and to allow full environmental disclosure. Reclamation and SLDMWA invite stakeholder and public input on the environmental considerations as part of the scoping process of the Draft EIS/EIR.
- Scoping helps to identify and refine:
 - Potential alternatives
 - Potential environmental impacts
 - Potential mitigation measures

EIS/EIR TIMELINE

2011			2012		
Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Public Scoping Meetings	Impact Analysis	Draft EIS/EIR	Comment Period & Public Hearings	Final EIS/EIR	Record Decision/ Notice of Determination

COMMENT STATION



HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

- All comments due by close of business on February 28, 2011

TONIGHT

- Fill out a comment form at this station and return it to the comment box
- Verbally submit comments to the court reporter

BY FEBRUARY 28, 2011

- You may either mail the comment card to the address on the back; or mail, email, or fax a letter to the contact information below. Please include your name, address, and phone number

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