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

Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR
Public Scoping Meetings

Meeting Agenda

• Introductions
• Presentation
  – Project Overview
  – Schedule
  – EIS/EIR Development Process
• Open House
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

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
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.

Project Overview

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

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)
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)

Project Schedule

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

EIS/EIR Development Process

- Define Purpose and Need/Project Objectives
- Develop Project Alternatives
- Describe Affected Environment/Environmental Setting
- Analyze Project Impacts
- Analyze Cumulative Effects
- Develop Mitigation Measures
Open House Stations

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

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
    San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
    P.O. Box 2157
    Los Banos, CA 93635
    frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org
    Fax: (209)826-9698/
    (209)832-6200
Thank You for Your Participation
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

Legend:
- Potential Sellers: Upstream from the Delta
- Potential CVP buyers: In Central Valley or San Francisco Bay 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

Long-Term North to South Water Transfers EIS/EIR
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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Scoping Meetings</td>
<td>Impact Analysis</td>
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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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2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825

E-mail: bhubbard@usbr.gov
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