

Appendix B
Scoping Meeting Materials

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

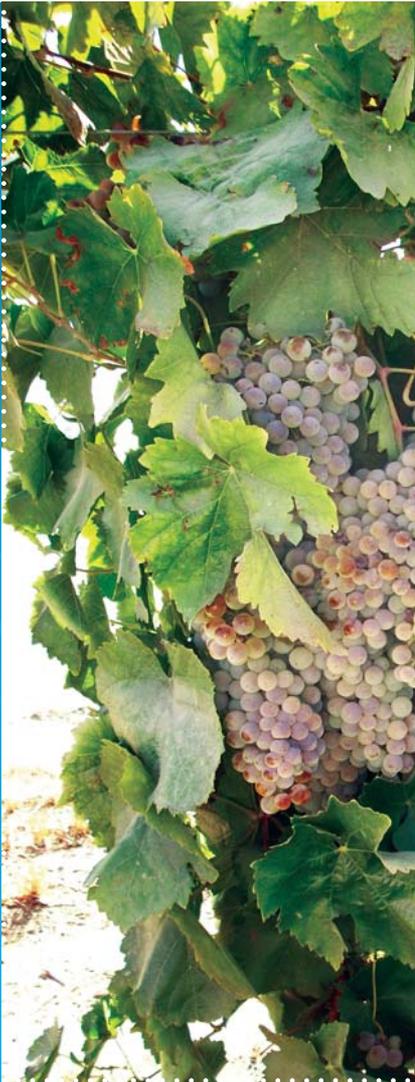
CEQA RESPONSIBLE AGENCY – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

- 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

Brad Hubbard

Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825

E-mail: bhubbard@usbr.gov

Fax: (916) 978-5290

Frances Mizuno

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
P.O. BOX 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635

E-mail: frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org

Fax: (209) 826-9698 / (209) 832-6200