

**DRAFT  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF  
WATER FROM SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT  
UNDER THE CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY PROGRAM**

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California

**Recommended:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Specialist Date

**Concur:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Manager Date

**Concur:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch Chief Date

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Division Chief Date

FONSI Number:

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Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California**

**BACKGROUND**

The EWA is a cooperative water management group consisting of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. The purpose of the EWA is to The EWA is a mechanism for purchasing, allocating and delivering Central Valley Project (CVP)/State Water Project (SWP) water and other water for environmental purposes. The proposed action would facilitate acquisition of water supply for EWA purposes.

The purpose of the proposed acquisition and transfer is to obtain water from SCVWD for the EWA over the next two years. The proposed action reflects similar water acquisitions that were analyzed in greater detail in the Draft EWA EIS/EIR July 2003. EWA needs to secure water sources on a willing buyer, willing seller basis. The Proposed Action would allow flexibility for both the EWA and SCVWD in the management of their water resources. The No Action Alternative would not allow for the acquisition of SCVWD water supplies.

**FINDINGS**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared that evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The EA is attached for reference.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has found that the two year agreement for the acquisition of up to 50,000 acre feet of water per year from Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) in support of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) under the California Bay Delta Authority Program is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

- The proposed action will not adversely affect surface water resources in SCVWD, Semitropic Water Storage District or in the conveyance facilities and structures which will be utilized. Water acquired and transferred from SCVWD is considered to be temporarily in excess by SCVWD due to adequate water supplies; therefore surface water resources will not be overburdened to accomplish the proposed action. There will not be any changes in Delta pumping operations which will occur with the implementation of the Proposed Action.
- Water transfers would be conveyed through existing facilities. Construction of additional facilities to transport water is not necessary.
- The Proposed Action will not adversely affect groundwater resources in SCVWD or Semitropic. Transfer water from SCVWD will not be made available from groundwater within the district, as the district does not own any pumps. Furthermore, any pumping by individuals in SCVWD, will not overburden groundwater resources within SCVWD to meet their needs. Groundwater resource impacts resulting from Semitropic operations have been analyzed in the *Semitropic Groundwater Banking Project, Final Environmental Impact Report, Findings and Mitigation Monitoring Plan*; July, 1994.
- No changes in land use will occur as a result of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is temporary and will not facilitate any land conversions. In addition, no land fallowing or habitat restoration will be deferred, no lands would be annexed into any service area to specifically use transfer or exchange water made available by the proposed action. No native, untilled, or similar habitats would be disturbed by the proposed action
- The Proposed Action will not affect any Federal listed or special status species. No construction is necessary to facilitate the Proposed Action, all transfer water will be conveyed through existing facilities and therefore no disturbances to Federally listed, special status species and critical habitats would occur. There will be no increases in water deliveries from the Delta.
- Cultural resources will not be affected due to the Proposed Action because no new land use changes or new construction would occur.
- The absence of Indian Trust Assets in areas affected by the water acquisition and transfer precludes any impact.
- Minority or disadvantaged populations or communities would not be adversely impacted by the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease to minority or disadvantaged populations or communities within SCVWD or Semitropic.

- The Proposed Action will not contribute to a cumulatively significant adverse impact when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, given the relatively small amount of water involved and the short-term and temporary nature of the water acquisition and transfer.