

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR 2014 SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY WATER TRANSFERS

**LEAD AGENCY:** San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
842 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:** The initial study for this mitigated negative declaration is available for review at: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, 842 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA 93635 and online at [http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=16681](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=16681)

Questions or comments regarding this mitigated negative declaration and initial study may be addressed to:

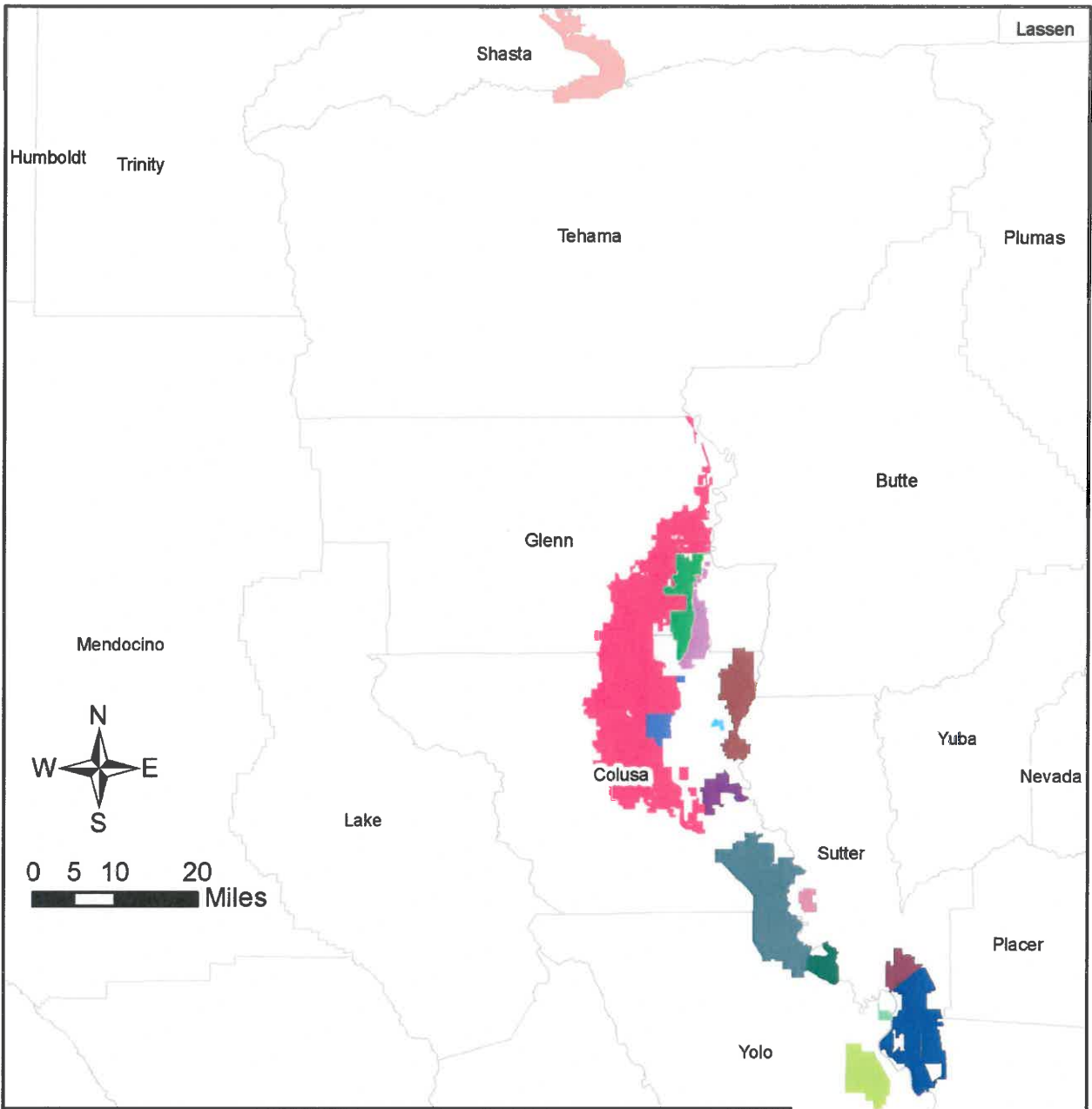
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Attention: Ms. Frances Mizuno  
842 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635  
Fax (209) 826-9698 or e-mail: frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org

**Project Description:** The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and its Participating Members will experience severe water shortages in 2014 and are soliciting willing sellers to transfer water. A number of entities upstream from the Delta have expressed interest in transferring water to the Participating Members of the SLDMWA. The SLDMWA would negotiate with these sellers, on behalf of the Participating Members, to identify potential transfers and the specifics of each transfer arrangement, which, collectively, constitute the "proposed project" addressed in the Initial Study. Transfers would be from willing sellers in the Sacramento Valley to buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and Santa Clara Valley. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is based on the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) that analyzes transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) water through CVP or State Water Project facilities and transfers of non-CVP water supplies that require the use of CVP facilities. The water would be made available for transfer through a combination of cropland idling and groundwater substitution.

**Project Location:** The proposed transfers could originate in Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, or Yolo Counties from sellers shown on the map on the next page. The transfer buyers could be in Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, or Stanislaus Counties.

**Findings:** An initial study was prepared to assess the proposed transfers' potential effects on the environment and the significance of those impacts. Based on the initial study, the SLDMWA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- The project will not result in impacts to agriculture and forestry resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems
- The project will result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, and noise.



**Legend**

<b>Districts</b>	
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #f8766d; border:1px solid black;"></span> Anderson-Cottonwood ID	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #800000; border:1px solid black;"></span> Pleasant Grove-Verona MWC
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90EE90; border:1px solid black;"></span> Conaway Preservation Group	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #DDA0DD; border:1px solid black;"></span> Princeton-Codora-Glenn ID
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #00BFFF; border:1px solid black;"></span> Eastside MWC	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #008000; border:1px solid black;"></span> Provident ID
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FF0066; border:1px solid black;"></span> Glenn-Colusa ID	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #A52A2A; border:1px solid black;"></span> Reclamation District 1004
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #0000FF; border:1px solid black;"></span> Maxwell ID	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #4682B4; border:1px solid black;"></span> Reclamation District 108
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #000080; border:1px solid black;"></span> Natomas Central MWC	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #006400; border:1px solid black;"></span> River Garden Farms
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FF69B4; border:1px solid black;"></span> Pelger MWC	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #6A0DAD; border:1px solid black;"></span> Sycamore MWC
	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90EE90; border:1px solid black;"></span> Te Velde Revocable Family Trust

**Potential Selling Entities**

**Mitigation Measures:** The initial study incorporated the following mitigation measures:

- Measure AQ-1 - All diesel-fueled engines would either be replaced with an engine that would meet the applicable emission standards for model year 2013 or would be retrofit to meet the same emission standards.
- Measure AQ-2 - Natural gas engines will be retrofit with a selective catalytic reduction device (or equivalent) that is capable of achieving a NOx control efficiency of at least 90 percent.
- Measure AQ-3 - Any engines operating in the area of analysis that are capable of operating as either electric or natural gas engines would only operate with electricity during any groundwater transfers.
- Measure AQ-4 - Selling agency would reduce pumping at diesel or natural gas wells to reduce emissions to below the thresholds.

#### **MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- No substantial evidence exists that the proposed project would have a negative or adverse effect on the environment.
- The project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, significantly reduce the habitat for fish and wildlife species, result in fish or wildlife populations below a self-sustaining level, reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.
- The project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse effects on humans.
- The project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.

In accordance with Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the SLDMWA staff has independently reviewed and analyzed the initial study (attached) and mitigated negative declaration for the proposed project and finds that the initial study and mitigated negative declaration reflect the independent judgment of the SLDMWA staff.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## INITIAL STUDY FOR 2014 SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY WATER TRANSFERS

1. Project title: 2014 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Transfers
2. Lead agency name and address: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
842 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635
3. Contact person and phone number: Ms. Frances Mizuno, (209) 832-6200
4. Project location: The proposed transfers could originate in Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, or Yolo counties. The transfer buyers could be in Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, or Stanislaus counties.
5. Project sponsor's name and address: Same as Lead Agency.
6. General plan designation: Not Applicable – Interagency Agricultural Water Transfers
7. Zoning: All lands with potential to participate in the selling agency areas are agricultural. The majority of participating lands in the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority area are agricultural. Some cities and water districts that serve urban areas are participating as buyers.
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)  
Refer to Chapter 2 of the Initial Study.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:  
Refer to Chapter 2 of the Initial Study.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority will coordinate with their Participating Agencies and the sellers identified in this Initial Study. Transfer negotiations will occur between the Authority and interested sellers. Reclamation approval is required for transfer of water subject to Reclamation contract and use of Central Valley Project facilities. As a Federal agency, Reclamation does not complete CEQA compliance; however, Reclamation will verify that buyers and sellers have complied with CEQA in accordance with Central Valley Project Improvement Act requirements. Chapter 2 describes the involvement of State agencies, including the California Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

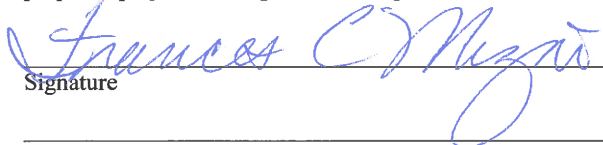
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |                                                   |                                                             |                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

[X] County Clerk
County of: See attached
Address:

From:

Public Agency: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Address: 842 6th Street Los Banos, CA 93635
Contact: Ms. Frances Mizuno
Phone: (209) 832-6200

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2014031038

Project Title: 2014 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Transfers

Project Applicant: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Project Location (include county): See attached list of counties

Project Description:

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and its Participating Members will experience severe water shortages in 2014 and are soliciting willing sellers to transfer water. A number of entities upstream from the Delta have expressed interest in transferring water to the Participating Members of the SLDMWA. The project includes transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) water or transfers that require use of CVP facilities. The water would be made available for transfer through cropland idling/crop shifting and groundwater substitution.

This is to advise that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority has approved the above [X] Lead Agency or [ ] Responsible Agency

described project on April 14, 2014 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project [ ] will [X] will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [ ] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. [X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [X] were [ ] were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [X] was [ ] was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ ] was [X] was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings [X] were [ ] were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

SLDMWA, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

Signature (Public Agency): Frances Mizuno Title: Assistant Executive Director

Date: April 14, 2014 Date Received for filing at OPR:

## County Clerks

Colusa County  
546 Jay Street, Room 200  
Colusa, CA 95932

Fresno County  
625 Kern Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Glenn County  
526 West Sycamore Street  
Willows, CA 95988

Kings County  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard, Room B06  
Hanford, CA 93230

Merced County  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

Sacramento County  
600 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

San Benito County  
440 Fifth Street, Room 206  
Hollister, CA 95023

San Joaquin County  
44 North San Joaquin Street, Room 260  
Stockton, CA 95202

Santa Clara County  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110

Shasta County  
1643 Market Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Stanislaus County  
1021 I Street, Room 101  
Modesto, CA 95354

Sutter County  
433 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

Tehama County  
633 Washington Street, Room 11  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Yolo County  
625 Court Street, Room B01  
Woodland, CA 95695