

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR 2014 TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY WATER TRANSFERS

LEAD AGENCY: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
5513 Highway 162
Willows, CA 95988

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The initial study for this mitigated negative declaration is available for review at: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, 5513 Highway 162, Willows, CA 95988 and online at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=16682

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

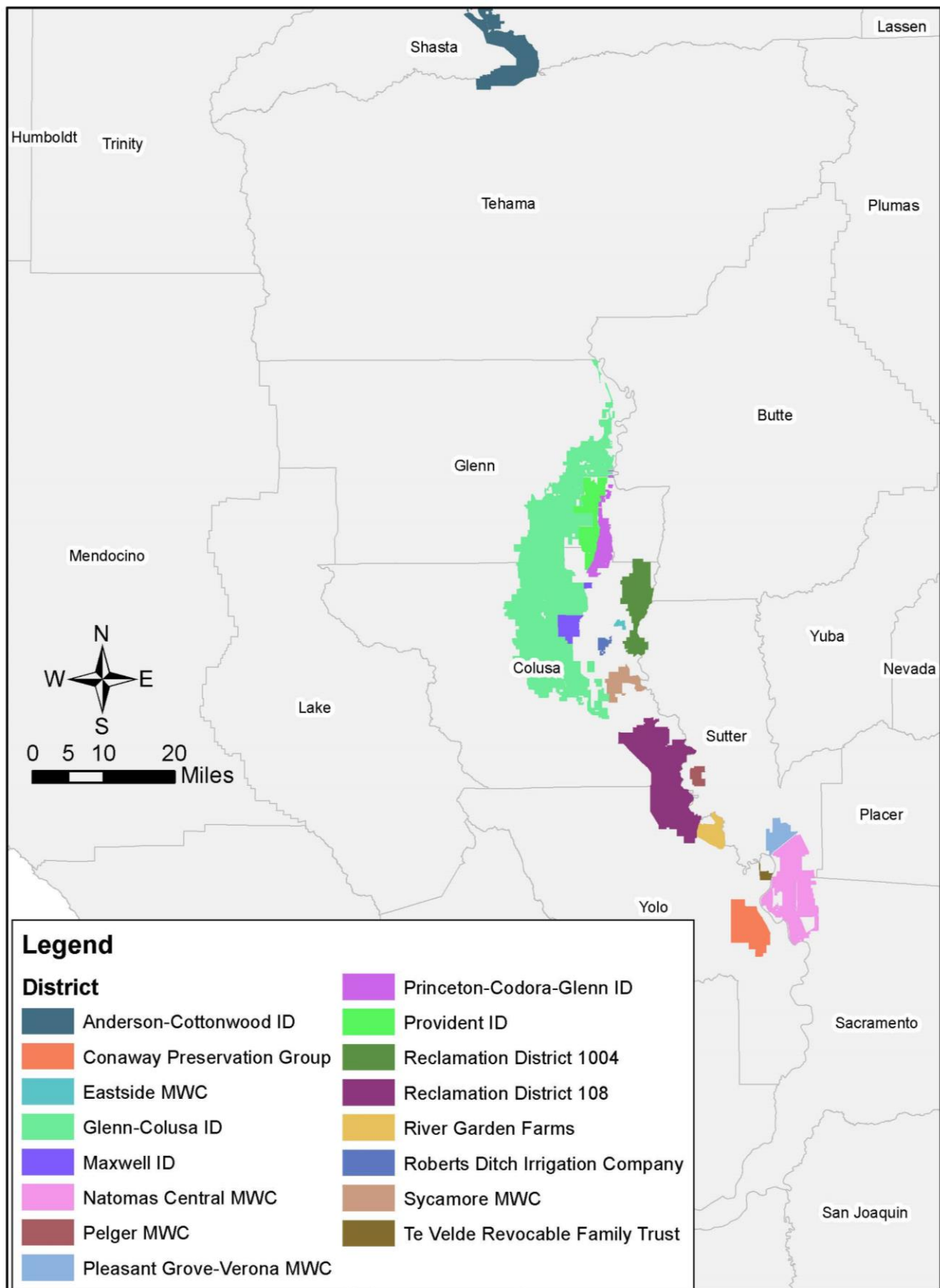
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Attention: Mr. Jeff Sutton
5513 Highway 162
Willows, CA 95988
Fax (530) 934-2355 or e-mail: jsutton@tccanal.com

Project Description: The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and its Member Units will experience severe water shortages in 2014 and are soliciting willing sellers to transfer water. A number of entities have expressed interest in transferring water to the Member Units of the TCCA. The TCCA would negotiate with these sellers, on behalf of the Member Units, 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 to buyers within the Sacramento Valley. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is based on the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) that analyzes transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) water 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 Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, or Yolo 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 TCCA 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.



Potential Selling Entities

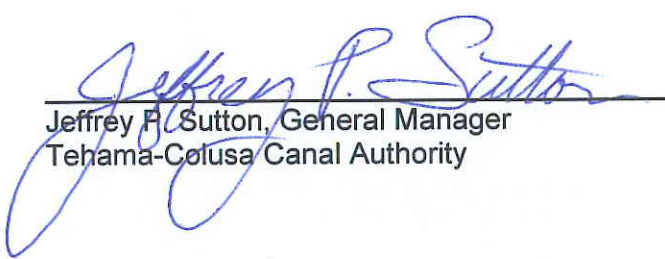
Mitigation Measures: The initial study incorporated the following mitigation measures:

- 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.
- Measure AQ-5 - Operation of the engines at Pleasant Grove-Verona Mutual Water Company will be limited to 6.5 hours per day per engine or 202 cumulative hours for all engines.

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 TCCA 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 TCCA staff.



Jeffrey P. Sutton, General Manager
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority

9-11-14

Date

INITIAL STUDY FOR 2014 TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY WATER TRANSFERS

1. Project title: 2014 Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Water Transfers
2. Lead agency name and address: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
5513 Highway 162
Willows, CA 95988
3. Contact person and phone number: Ms. Jeffrey P. Sutton, (530) 934-2125
4. Project location: The proposed transfers could originate in Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, or Yolo counties. The transfer buyers could be in Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, or Yolo 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 transfers are agricultural.
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.)
The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority will coordinate with their Member Units 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 Jeffrey P. Sutter

Date 3-11-14

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

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

☒ County Clerk
 County of: See attached
 Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
 Address: 5513 Highway 162
Willows, CA 95988
 Contact: Mr. Jeffrey P. Sutton
 Phone: (530) 934-2125

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): 2014032032

Project Title: 2014 Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Water Transfers

Project Applicant: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority

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

Project Description:

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and its Member Units will experience severe water shortages in 2014 and are soliciting willing sellers to transfer water. A number of entities have expressed interest in transferring water to the Member Units of the TCCA. The project includes transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) water or transfers that require the 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 Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority has approved the above
☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency

described project on April 15, 2014 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ 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.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ 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:

TCCA, 5513 Highway 162, Willows, CA 95988

Signature (Public Agency): Jeffrey P. Sutton Title: General Manager

Date: 4-15-14 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

County Clerks

Colusa County

546 Jay Street, Room 200

Colusa, CA 95932

Glenn County

526 West Sycamore Street

Willows, CA 95988

Sacramento County

600 8th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Shasta County

1643 Market Street

Redding, CA 96001

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