



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Patterson Irrigation District 1-Year Transfer for up to 6,000 acre-feet of Available Surface Water Supply to Santa Clara Valley Water District

**Finding of No Significant Impact
CGB-ED-2024-002**

Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
South-Central California Area Office, Fresno, California

CGB-ED-2024-002

**Patterson Irrigation District 1-Year Transfer for
up to 6,000 acre-feet of Available Surface Water
Supply to Santa Clara Valley Water District**

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Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which is supported by Reclamation's attached Environmental Assessment (EA) CGB-ED-2024-002 *Patterson Irrigation District 1-Year Transfer for up to 6,000 acre-feet of Available Surface Water Supply to Santa Clara Valley Water District*, hereby incorporated by reference.

Background

In 2009, Patterson Irrigation District (PID) requested approval from Reclamation for the transfer of up to 13,350 acre-feet (AF) of its Replacement Water, Central Valley Project (CVP) water, and pre-1914 San Joaquin River water to Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) over a period of four years (March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2014). Reclamation analyzed the affected environment for the following resources: Water Resources, Land Use, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets (ITA), Socioeconomic Resources, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, and Global Climate in EA-09-172 entitled *Four Year Transfer and Warren Act Contracts for up to 13,350 acre-feet of PID's Available Surface Water Supply to Santa Clara Valley Water District*.

In 2014, after the four-year transfer had expired, PID requested approval from Reclamation for a new 10-year transfer (March 1, 2014 through February 29, 2024), subject to available water, of up to 36,000 AF of its Transfer Water to Valley Water with no more than 6,000 AF to be transferred in any given year. Reclamation analyzed the affected environment for the following resources: Water Resources, Land Use, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, ITA, Socioeconomic Resources, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, and Global Climate in EA-13-072 entitled *Patterson Irrigation District 10-Year Transfer and/or Warren Act Contract for up to 36,000 acre-feet of Available Surface Water Supply to Santa Clara Valley Water District*.

PID and Valley Water executed a series of water transfer agreements to effectuate the water transfers contemplated under Reclamation's prior approvals, with the current agreement expiring in 2025. However, because Reclamation's approval completed for the transfer program expired on February 28, 2024, PID requested approval from Reclamation for a one-year transfer (March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025), subject to available water, of up to 6,000 AF of its Transfer Water to Valley Water.

Alternatives Considered

Reclamation reviewed PID and Valley Water's proposal for the transfer of up to 6,000 AF of Replacement Water in CGB-ED-2024-002. The No Action Alternative reflect the future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining

potential effects to the human environment. For the purposes of analysis, the No Action Alternative is the same as baseline conditions.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the delivery of up to 6,000 AF of PID's Replacement Water to Valley Water over the transfer-year period (March 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025). Reclamation would continue to deliver CVP and Replacement water to PID and Valley Water pursuant to their CVP water service contracts. PID could sell their non-CVP water to willing buyers and Valley Water could purchase additional non-CVP water supplies.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve PID's delivery of up to 6,000 AF of PID's Replacement Water to Valley Water over the transfer period. All water stored within federal facilities would be delivered prior to February 28, 2025.

Environmental Commitments

PID and Valley Water shall implement the environmental protection measures listed in Table 1 of the EA to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Comments on the EA

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on Draft EA between June 28th, 2024, and July 15th, 2024. No comments were received.

Findings

Reclamation has determined that, under the Proposed Action, there would be No Effect to proposed or listed species or Critical Habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.), and there would be no take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation considered potential short-term and long-term effects of the Proposed Action, both beneficial and adverse. Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant, with respect to the affected environment and degree of effects of the action (40 CFR 1501.3(b)).

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iii)).
2. The Proposed Action will not violate federal, state, tribal, or local law protecting the environment (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iv)).
3. The Proposed Action will not affect any ITA (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum – July 2, 1993).
4. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898 – February 11, 1994).
5. The Proposed Action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 – May 24, 1996 and 512 DM 3 – June 5, 1998).