



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Transfers and Exchanges with Kings River Districts and Kern County Districts (2025-2034)

**Finding of No Significant Impact
CGB-ED-2025-030**

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-2025-030

**Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Transfers
and Exchanges with Kings River Districts and
Kern County Districts (2025-2034)**

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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-2025-030, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Transfers and Exchanges with Kings River Districts and Kern County Districts (2025-2034), hereby incorporated by reference.

Background

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (Arvin-Edison) contracts with Reclamation for water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and has an irrigation demand of about 150,000 acre-feet of water per year. Arvin-Edison holds a contract for an annual Friant Division CVP water supply of up to 40,000 acre-feet of Class 1 supplies and up to 311,675 acre-feet of Class 2 supplies delivered via the Friant-Kern Canal, which is owned by Reclamation and operated and maintained by the Friant Water Authority. Arvin-Edison's available CVP supplies may also include prior year carryover/rescheduled water, San Joaquin River Restoration Program Unreleased Restoration Flows, Recovered Water Account and Recapture/Recirculation, and Section 215 water.

Because of conveyance restrictions resulting from subsidence on the Friant-Kern Canal, Reclamation is unable to fully deliver Arvin-Edison's Friant Division CVP contract supply during wet periods/years. To maximize the use of its contractual water supplies made available by Reclamation, Arvin is proposing to transfer up to 100,000 acre-feet of its available Friant Division CVP supplies to water agencies that can take delivery of water from the Kings River, which is upstream of the most subsidence-impacted reaches on the Friant-Kern Canal, or to various agencies in Kern County, including but not limited to, Kern Delta Water District, City of Bakersfield, and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District through existing infrastructure.

Alternatives Considered

CGB-ED-2025-030 considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve a 10-year transfer and exchange program that would allow Arvin-Edison to provide of up to 100,000 acre-feet of its

available contracted or acquired CVP water supplies to Kings River Area Agencies (shown in Table 1 of CGB-ED-2025-030) or the various Kern County Districts (shown in Table 2 of CGB-ED-2025-030). Instead, Arvin-Edison would need to request separate approvals from Reclamation as each water management action opportunity becomes available. Arvin-Edison would continue to receive their CVP water supplies pursuant to their CVP contract.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve a 10-year (extending March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2034) transfer and exchange program that would allow Arvin-Edison to provide up to 100,000 acre-feet of its available contracted or acquired Friant Division CVP water supply (other than Section 215 water supplies) to the Kings River Area Agencies (shown in Table 1 of CGB-ED-2025-030) or various Kern County Districts (shown in Table 2 of CGB-ED-2025-030) consistent with Arvin-Edison's 9(d) Repayment Contract.

Proceeds from the transfer of CVP water to Kings River Area Agencies or Kern County Districts would be used to acquire substitute water supplies that can ultimately be delivered to Arvin-Edison in order to continue meeting its customers' needs and/or increase groundwater recharge opportunities.

Environmental Commitments

Arvin-Edison shall implement the environmental protection measures listed in Table 3 of the Final 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 December 16, 2024, and January 14, 2025. No comments were received.

Findings

Reclamation found that the Proposed Action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 compliance may be necessary, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b).

In compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Proposed Action, Reclamation has determined that there would be No Effect to any proposed or listed species or Critical Habitat under the ESA 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.).

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects from implementing the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality¹ regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior regulations (43 CFR Part 46) and is hereby incorporated by reference.

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 Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum – July 2, 1993).
4. 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).

¹ Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity* (Jan. 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. The Bureau of Reclamation verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum.