

The Proposed Project (Project) includes (1) up to 5,616 acre-feet of long-term exchanges between California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to facilitate the delivery of Central Valley Project (CVP) contract supply to three long-term CVP contractors under their existing contracts, and (2) a long-term change in place of use in DWR and Reclamation water rights permits/licenses authorized by the State Water Board to execute the exchanges for up to 15 years.

The three CVP contractors, located between south of the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (Banks) and north of O'Neill Forebay (O'Neill) and collectively known as the North of O'Neill Contractors are: (1) Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID), (2) the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery (National Cemetery), and (3) Del Puerto Water District (Del Puerto).

The North of O'Neill Contractors are either unable to directly receive CVP water using CVP facilities or require additional operational flexibility to allow more efficient water deliveries. Currently, when unused California Aqueduct capacity is available, DWR can convey CVP water to the North of O'Neill Contractors under CWC Section 1810 or using Joint Point of Diversion (JPOD) authorized in Water Rights Decision 1641 (D1641)¹. CVP water under JPOD through Banks has lower priority than the State Water Project (SWP) deliveries; therefore, excess capacity is only available to CVP after DWR has met all its SWP demands. Since unused SWP capacity cannot be guaranteed, CVP deliveries to the North of O'Neill Contractors pursuant to JPOD is unreliable. The Project would improve reliability by having DWR deliver SWP water through Banks to the North of O'Neill Contractors consistent with approved monthly schedules. In exchange, Reclamation would deliver an equivalent amount of CVP water pumped at the Jones Pumping Plant (Jones) to DWR at O'Neill. DWR would use the CVP water provided at O'Neill within the SWP place of use downstream of O'Neill. The proposed exchanges would be one-for-one exchanges and there would be no increase in diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) by either DWR or Reclamation due to the Project.

¹ Under D-1641, DWR and Reclamation may use each other's pumping facilities for the diversion and rediversion of Project supplies.