

PUBLIC DRAFT
INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

2020 El Dorado Irrigation District Temporary Water Transfer

MARCH 2020

PREPARED FOR:
El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA, 956670





**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2020 EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFER**

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations) for the 2020 EID Temporary Water Transfer Project (proposed project). EID plans to transfer up to 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to state and/or federal water contractors (Buyers) to be used by the Buyers in their service areas south of the Delta in 2020.

EID proposes to transfer water to the Buyers during summer and fall 2020. EID would make the water available through re-operations of three EID reservoirs to release water otherwise planned to be consumed by EID customers and/or stored within the EID network of reservoirs. The involved reservoirs and rivers/creeks would all operate consistent with their historic flow and release schedules, and would meet all applicable rules and requirements, including but not limited to lake level and minimum streamflow requirements. The proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity would consist of releases from Weber Reservoir (up to 850 AF) that would otherwise remain in Weber Reservoir and releases from Caples/Silver lakes (up to 8,000 AF) that would otherwise be added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2020 demands that would instead be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake. Because the total potential quantity available from the three reservoirs exceeds 8,000 AF, EID would have flexibility to adjust operations at any of the reservoirs as conditions or operations may warrant during the transfer period to fulfill the proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity.

EID has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) on the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and EID's guidelines for CEQA compliance. The IS describes the proposed project and assesses the proposed project's potential to result in significant adverse impacts on the physical environment. It concludes that the proposed project would not have any potentially significant or significant adverse effects on the environment and, therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed and as such a Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared.

DOCUMENT REVIEW & AVAILABILITY: The 30-day public review period begins on March 16, 2020 and ends on April 15, 2020. A copy of the IS/ND is available for public review at 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667, or online at <http://www.eid.org/regulatory/environmental-docs-ceqa-nepa->.

CONTACT: Please send written comments to: Brian Deason, EID, 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667; Email: 2020WaterTransfer@eid.org by no later than 5:00 pm on April 15, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: The EID Board of Directors intends to consider adoption of the ND at its regularly scheduled board meeting on April 27, 2020, or at a subsequent board meeting, after 9:00 a.m. at EID's main headquarters building located at 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville, CA. Board meeting schedule and agenda will be available at <https://www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation for this meeting, please contact the EID ADA coordinator at 530-642-4045 or e-mail at adacoordinator@eid.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility.

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT TITLE: 2020 El Dorado Irrigation District Temporary Water Transfer

LEAD AGENCY: El Dorado Irrigation District

PROJECT LOCATION: Water would be released from EID storage facilities in western El Dorado County, northwestern Alpine County, and northeastern Amador County; flow through El Dorado County to Folsom Reservoir in Sacramento County, and then would be released below Folsom Dam into the lower American River; flow into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties) and be pumped into the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) and/or Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) in the south Delta; flow through the Aqueduct and/or DMC in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Kings, counties to be diverted by Federal and/or State water contractors (Buyers) at one or more turnouts along the Aqueduct, DMC, Cross Valley Canal, or any of these facilities downstream laterals; and used by the Buyers in their service areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EID proposes to transfer up to 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to the Buyers during summer and fall 2020. EID would make the water available through re-operations of three EID reservoirs to release water otherwise planned to be consumed by EID customers and/or stored within the EID network of reservoirs. The involved reservoirs and rivers/creeks would all operate within their historic flow and release schedules, and lake levels and streamflow would meet California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other regulatory requirements. The proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity would consist of releases from Weber Reservoir (up to 850 AF) that would otherwise remain in Weber Reservoir and releases from Caples/Silver lakes (up to 8,000 AF) that would otherwise be added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2020 demands that would instead be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake. Because the total maximum transfer quantity potentially available from the three reservoirs exceeds 8,000 AF, EID would have flexibility to adjust operations at any of the reservoirs as conditions or operations may warrant during the transfer period to fulfill the proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity.

FINDINGS: An initial study (IS) has been prepared to assess the proposed project's potential effects on the physical environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the analysis conducted in the IS, the proposed project will not have any significant adverse effects on the environment and, as such, a Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed project would have no effects on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, recreation, and wildfire.
2. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on biological resources, energy, hydrology and water quality, public services, and utilities and service systems.
3. The proposed project would not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
4. The proposed project would not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

5. The proposed project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable and contribute to a significant cumulative impact. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.
6. The environmental effects of the proposed project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Public Draft

Initial Study/
Proposed Negative Declaration
for the
2020 El Dorado Irrigation District
Temporary Water Transfer

Prepared for:

El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA, 956670
Contact: Brian Deason
Environmental Resources Supervisor

Prepared by:

Ascent Environmental, Inc.
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
Andrea L. Shephard, Ph.D.
Senior Project Manager

March 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	III
1 INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance	1-1
1.2 Why this Document?	1-1
1.3 Summary of Findings	1-2
1.4 Document Organization	1-2
2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2-1
2.1 Project Overview	2-1
2.2 Project Location	2-1
2.3 Project Objectives	2-3
2.4 Proposed Project	2-3
2.5 Public Trust Doctrine and California Water Right Law	2-11
2.6 Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Approvals	2-12
3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	3-1
3.1 Aesthetics	3-4
3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources	3-6
3.3 Air Quality	3-9
3.4 Biological Resources	3-11
3.5 Cultural Resources	3-21
3.6 Energy	3-22
3.7 Geology and Soils	3-24
3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3-27
3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3-29
3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality	3-32
3.11 Land Use and Planning	3-36
3.12 Mineral Resources	3-37
3.13 Noise	3-38
3.14 Population and Housing	3-40
3.15 Public Services	3-41
3.16 Recreation	3-43
3.17 Transportation	3-45
3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources	3-47
3.19 Utilities and Service Systems	3-49
3.20 Wildfire	3-51
3.21 Public Trust Resources	3-53
3.22 Mandatory Findings of Significance	3-54
4 REFERENCES	4-1
5 REPORT PREPARERS	5-1

Appendices

Appendix A – Biological Data

Figures

Figure 2-1	CVP and SWP Contractor Service Areas	2-2
Figure 2-2	Re-operation Flow Paths	2-5
Figure 2-3	Proposed Caples Lake and Silver Lake Re-Operations Schematic.....	2-7
Figure 2-4	Weber Reservoir End-of Month Storage Overview	2-8
Figure 2-5	Caples, Silver, and Jenkinson Lakes Operations with Proposed Transfer.....	2-10

Tables

Table 3-1	Aquatic Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur within the Project Area	3-12
Table 3-2	Caples Reservoir Releases 2009 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS).....	3-15
Table 3-3	Silver Lake Reservoir Releases 2012 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS).....	3-16
Table 3-4	Weber Reservoir Releases 2012 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS).....	3-18

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AF	acre-feet
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
Banks Pumping Plant	Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant
Buyers	Federal and/or State Water Contractors South of the Delta
CAA	federal Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
cfs	cubic feet per second
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
Cortese List	Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List
CVP	Central Valley Project
CWC	California Water Code
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DMC	Delta Mendota Canal
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DYTP	Dry-Year Transfer Program
EID	El Dorado Irrigation District
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GHG	greenhouse gas
IEPR	Integrated Energy Policy Report
IS/ND	initial study/proposed negative declaration
Jones Pumping Plant	C.W. Bill Jones Pumping Plant
LAR	lower American River

LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MDB&M	Mount Diablo Base and Meridian
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PORD	Point of Rediversion
POU	Place of Use
PRC	Public Resources Code
proposed project	2020 EID Temporary Water Transfer
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standards
SLR	San Luis Reservoir
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SWC	State Water Contractors
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has prepared this initial study/proposed negative declaration (IS/ND) to address the potential environmental consequences of the proposed 2020 EID Temporary Water Transfer (proposed project). Chapter 2 “Project Description” presents the detailed project information.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.). An initial study is prepared by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]), and thus to determine the appropriate environmental document. In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a “public agency shall prepare...a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration...when: (a) The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence...that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, or (b) The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects but revisions to the project plans or proposal are agreed to by the applicant and such revisions would reduce potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level.” In this circumstance, the lead agency prepares a written statement describing its reasons for concluding that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact report.

1.2 WHY THIS DOCUMENT?

As described in the environmental checklist (Chapter 3), the project would not result in any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, an IS/ND is the appropriate document for compliance with the requirements of CEQA. This IS/ND conforms to these requirements and to the content requirements of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

Under CEQA, the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the project. EID is the CEQA lead agency because they are responsible for carrying out the proposed water transfer. The purpose of this document is to present to decision-makers and the public information about the environmental consequences of implementing the project. This disclosure document is being made available to the public for review and comment. This IS/ND will be available for a 30-day public review period from March 16, 2020 to April 15, 2020.

Supporting documentation referenced in this document is available for review at:

El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Comments should be addressed to:

Brian Deason, Environmental Resources Supervisor
El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667

E-mail comments may be addressed to: 2020WaterTransfer@eid.org

Written comments (including via e-mail) must be received by 5:00 pm on April 15, 2020.

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, EID may (1) adopt the ND and approve the project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project. If the project is approved and funded, EID may elect to, but is not required to, proceed with the project.

1.3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3, “Environmental Checklist,” contains the analysis and discussion of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. Based on the issues evaluated in that chapter, EID has determined that the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts and, therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed.

The proposed project would result in no impacts related to the following issue areas:

- ▶ Aesthetics,
- ▶ Agriculture and Forestry Resources,
- ▶ Air quality,
- ▶ Cultural Resources,
- ▶ Geology and Soils,
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Materials,
- ▶ Land Use and Planning,
- ▶ Mineral Resources,
- ▶ Noise,
- ▶ Population and Housing,
- ▶ Public Services,
- ▶ Recreation,
- ▶ Utilities and Service Systems,
- ▶ Transportation,
- ▶ Tribal Cultural Resources, and
- ▶ Wildfire.

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to the following issue areas:

- ▶ Biological Resources,
- ▶ Energy,
- ▶ Public Trust Resources, and
- ▶ Mandatory Findings of Significance.

1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This IS is organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter provides an introduction to the environmental review process. It describes the purpose and organization of this document as well as presents a summary of findings.

Chapter 2: Project Description. This chapter describes the purpose of and need for the proposed project, identifies project objectives, and provides a detailed description of the project.

Chapter 3: Environmental Checklist. This chapter presents an analysis of a range of environmental issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist and determines if project actions would result in no impact, a less-than-significant impact, a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated, or a potentially significant impact.

Chapter 4: References. This chapter lists the references used in preparation of this IS.

Chapter 5: List of Preparers. This chapter identifies report preparers.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This chapter describes the proposed project, which would involve the transfer of water held under water rights by EID to federal and/or state water contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), collectively the Buyers. The proposed project seeks to transfer water to the Buyers during summer and fall of 2020 as part of the Buyers' efforts to purchase a variety of water supplies during dry hydrologic conditions. The project location and background are described along with project objectives, project characteristics, and discretionary actions and approvals that may be required.

2.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

EID proposes to transfer up to a maximum of 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of water during summer and fall 2020 to the Buyers through re-operations of three EID reservoirs. Water transfers from water purveyors north of the Delta to water contractors south of the Delta, similar to the proposed project, occur in most years. In addition, the proposed water transfer would follow the historic pattern and existing operating conditions for the waterways and facilities affected.

With the proposed project, up to 850 AF would be released from EID's Weber Reservoir, which stores water pursuant to Water Right License 2184 (Application 1692). This portion of the transfer would require approval of a Temporary Change pursuant to California Water Code Section 1725 et seq from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), requested through a Petition for Change Involving Water Transfers to change the Place(s) of Use (POUs) and Point(s) of Rediversion (PORDs) under License 2184 to include the Harvey O. Banks (Banks) Pumping Plant, the C.W. Bill Jones (Jones) Pumping Plant, and San Luis Reservoir as PORDs, the Buyers service areas as POUs, and their PORDs for the water transfer. While a SWRCB petition is required, on its own the Weber Reservoir portion of the transfer would be exempt from CEQA under California Water Code (CWC) Section 1725 and CEQA Guidelines 15282(u) as long as the transfer would not injure any legal user of the water or unreasonably affect fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses. However, the Weber Reservoir portion of the transfer is addressed together with the Caples Lake and Silver Lake portions in this document to provide a complete description of the proposed water transfer and environmental impacts thereof.

With the proposed project, up to 8,000 AF would be released from EID's Caples and Silver lakes, both of which store water pursuant to pre-1914 water rights (Statement 015941 and Statement 004708, respectively). Transfer of the stored pre-1914 water in these lakes is subject to CEQA review but would not require a petition to SWRCB.

Because the total potential quantity available from the three reservoirs exceeds the proposed maximum transfer volume (8,000 AF), EID would have flexibility to adjust operations at any of the reservoirs as conditions or operations may warrant during the transfer period to fulfil the proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity.

If dry conditions persist into spring of 2020, the transfer volumes may be lower than those evaluated in this IS. However, this document addresses the maximum potential transfer volume. In addition, the reservoir storage and release schedules may vary from what is presented in the transfer scenario depending on final hydrology for 2020 and when the agreements and authorizations for the transfer are finalized, but they would be consistent with the historic pattern of operations of the facilities.

2.1.1 El Dorado Irrigation District

EID was organized in 1925 under the Irrigation District Law (Water Code Section 20500, et seq.). EID provides water to a population of approximately 126,000 people within its service area for municipal and industrial (M&I) and irrigation uses, as well as wastewater treatment and recycled water services, to meet the growing needs of its customers. It also operates recreational facilities as a condition of its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. As such, EID is one of the few California districts that provides a full complement of water services.

EID is located in El Dorado County on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The service area is bounded by Sacramento County to the west and the community of Strawberry to the east. The area north of the communities of Coloma and Lotus establishes the northern-most part of the service area, while the communities of Pleasant Valley and South Shingle Springs establish the southern boundary. EID's contiguous service area spans 220 square miles and ranges from 400 feet in elevation, at the Sacramento County line, to more than 4,000 feet in elevation in the eastern portion of the service area. Two hundred pressure-regulating zones are required for reliable operation. The water system contains more than 1,245 miles of pipeline, 27 miles of ditches, five treatment plants, 36 storage tanks and reservoirs, and 37 pumping stations.

EID owns and operates a FERC-licensed hydroelectric power generation system consisting of a powerhouse, five reservoirs (Echo Lake, Lake Aloha, Caples Lake, Silver Lake, and El Dorado Forebay), and more than 22 miles of flumes, canals, siphons, and tunnels. Project facilities are located east of Placerville in El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties. EID also owns and operates several other water facilities including Jenkinson Lake and numerous other water rights and reservoirs acquired in the 1900s including Weber Reservoir and many pre-1914 water rights.

2.1.2 Central Valley Project Contractors

The Central Valley Project (CVP) has long-term agreements to supply water to more than 270 contractors in 29 of California's 58 counties (CVP Contractors). Deliveries by the CVP include an annual average of 5 million acre-feet of water for agriculture, 600,000 acre-feet of water for M&I uses (enough water to supply about 2.5 million people for a year), and water for wildlife refuges and maintaining water quality in the Delta. Most CVP Contractors do not rely solely on their CVP water supply as they have other sources of water available, such as their own water rights, groundwater, State Water Project (SWP) water and other sources. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the CVP in coordination with the SWP under the Coordinated Operation Agreement between the federal government and the State of California (authorized by Public Law 99-546). The CVP and SWP operate pursuant to water rights permits and licenses that are issued by the SWRCB. The proposed project could transfer water to any CVP Contractors south of the Delta (Buyers), which include the following:

- ▶ City of Avenal
- ▶ City of Coalinga
- ▶ City of Fresno
- ▶ City of Huron
- ▶ City of Lindsay
- ▶ City of Orange Cove
- ▶ City of Tracy
- ▶ Fresno County Water Works District No. 18
- ▶ San Benito County Water District
- ▶ Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- ▶ Banta Carbona Irrigation District
- ▶ Broadview Water District
- ▶ Byron-Bethany Irrigation District
- ▶ Coelho Family Trust
- ▶ Del Puerto Water District
- ▶ Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District
- ▶ Eagle Field Water District
- ▶ Exeter Irrigation District
- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District
- ▶ Fresno Slough Water District
- ▶ Garfield Water District
- ▶ Grasslands Water District
- ▶ International Water District
- ▶ Ivanhoe Irrigation District
- ▶ James Irrigation District
- ▶ Laguna Water District
- ▶ Lewis Creek Water District
- ▶ Lindmore Irrigation District
- ▶ Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District
- ▶ Lower Tule River Irrigation District
- ▶ M.L. Dudley Company
- ▶ Mercy Springs Water District
- ▶ Orange Cove Irrigation District
- ▶ Oro Loma Water District
- ▶ Panoche Water District
- ▶ Patterson Water District
- ▶ Porterville Irrigation District
- ▶ Reclamation District 1606
- ▶ San Benito County Water District
- ▶ San Luis Water District
- ▶ Saucelito Irrigation District
- ▶ Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
- ▶ Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utilities District
- ▶ Stone Corral Irrigation District
- ▶ Tea Pot Dome Water District
- ▶ Terra Bella Irrigation District
- ▶ Tranquility Public Utility District
- ▶ Tulare Irrigation District
- ▶ West Stanislaus Water district
- ▶ Westlands Water District

2.1.3 State Water Project Contractors

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has long-term contracts with 29 water agencies (i.e., SWP Contractors) statewide to deliver water supplies developed from the SWP system. These contracts are with both M&I and agricultural water users and provide more than 3 million acre-feet for East Bay, San Joaquin Valley and southern California water users (DWR 2019). Approximately 30 percent of SWP water is used to irrigate approximately 750,000 acres of agricultural land, located mostly within the San Joaquin Valley (Water Education Foundation 2019). Twenty-four SWP Contractors are located south of the Delta and could receive water from the proposed project. Those contractors include the following:

- ▶ Alameda County Water District
- ▶ Zone 7 Water Agency
- ▶ Santa Clara Valley Water District
- ▶ Oak Flat Water District
- ▶ Empire West Side Irrigation District
- ▶ County of Kings
- ▶ Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
- ▶ Dudley Ridge Water District
- ▶ San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- ▶ Kern County Water Agency
- ▶ Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency
- ▶ Mojave Water Agency
- ▶ Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- ▶ Ventura County Flood Control District
- ▶ Castaic Lake Water Agency
- ▶ Palmdale Water District
- ▶ Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
- ▶ Crestline – Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
- ▶ San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- ▶ San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
- ▶ San Geronimo Pass Water Agency
- ▶ Desert Water Agency
- ▶ The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- ▶ Coachella Valley Water District

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The EID service area is located in western El Dorado County and the EID reservoirs that would be involved in the proposed project are located in western El Dorado County, northwestern Alpine County, and northeastern Amador County (Figure 2-1).

Weber Reservoir is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of Placerville in El Dorado County, within Sections 17 and 18 of Township (T) 10N, Range (R) 12E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M) of the Camino United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Weber Reservoir is located on North Fork Weber Creek, tributary to Weber Creek, tributary to South Fork American River (SFAR), thence Folsom Lake.

Caples Lake is located approximately 0.4 mile east of Kirkwood in Alpine County, off State Route 88. Caples Lake is within Sections 22 and 23 of T10N, R17E and Sections 18, 19, 20, and 30 of T10N, R18E, MDB&M, of the Caples Lake 7.5-minute quadrangle. Caples Lake is located on Caples Creek, tributary to Silver Fork American River (Silver Fork), tributary to the SFAR, thence Folsom Reservoir.



Source: DWR and Reclamation 2016, DWR 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2-1 CVP and SWP Contractor Service Areas

Silver Lake is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Kirkwood in Amador County, off State Route 88. Silver Lake is within Sections 32 and 33 of T10N, R17E and Sections 4, 5, and 8 of T9N, R17E, MDB&M, of the Caples Lake 7.5-minute quadrangle and within Section 8 of T9N, R17E, MDB&M, of the Tragedy Spring 7.5-minute quadrangle. Silver Lake is located on the Silver Fork, tributary to SFAR, thence Folsom Reservoir.

Jenkinson Lake is located in Pollock Pines in El Dorado County, off Sly Park Road and Mormon Emigrant Trail. Jenkinson Lake is within Sections 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 of T10N, R13E, MDB&M, of the Sly Park 7.5-minute quadrangle. Jenkinson Lake is located on Park Creek and receives inflow from Park, Hazel, and Camp creeks, all of which are tributary to the North Fork Cosumnes River.

The flow path of water released from Weber Reservoir is shown in Figure 2-2. Water is discharged into Weber Creek then travels downstream to the SFAR and thence into Folsom Reservoir. The flow path of water released from Caples and Silver lakes is shown in 2-2 and 2-3. Typically, water released from Caples and Silver lakes to be transferred in 2020 is directed for consumptive use within EID's service area.

2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the proposed project would include transfer of water during 2020 that otherwise would be consumed by EID customers and/or stored within the EID network of reservoirs to the Buyers.

The specific project objectives are to:

- ▶ Provide water from Weber Reservoir for transfer in 2020
- ▶ Provide water from Caples and Silver lakes for transfer in 2020

The Buyers are interested in augmenting their water supply through this transfer. This interest is based on the reduced availability of their CVP/SWP contract water to provide their agricultural customers a critical water supply for irrigation of their crops during the 2020 growing season and to support existing M&I water uses. Transfer water that EID provides to the Buyers would be used entirely within the Buyers' service areas.

2.4 PROPOSED PROJECT

EID proposes to transfer up to 8,000 AF of water to the Buyers during summer and fall 2020. EID would make the water available through re-operation of EID reservoirs to release water otherwise planned to be consumed by EID customers and/or stored within the EID network of reservoirs. Specifically, the transfer quantity would be derived from the following re-operations:

1. Up to 850 AF would be released from Weber Reservoir that would otherwise be maintained in storage.
2. Up to a total of 8,000 AF would be released from Caples and Silver lakes and discharged back into the SFAR through the El Dorado Powerhouse just upstream from Slab Creek Reservoir or bypassed at Kyburz Diversion Dam, and then travel downstream to Folsom Reservoir that would otherwise be used directly to meet summer and fall 2020 demands in-lieu of releases from other EID storage facilities or added to storage in Jenkinson Lake.

Without the proposed project, water that has been stored in Weber Reservoir is typically maintained, while summer and early fall water that has been stored in Caples and Silver lakes is either delivered directly to EID's Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant or delivered through the Hazel Creek Tunnel (via EID's Kyburz Diversion Dam and El Dorado Canal) into Jenkinson Lake. Under the proposed project, EID would instead use water already stored in Jenkinson Lake to meet these demands during this time period in lieu of water from Caples and Silver lakes, and Jenkinson Lake would not be replenished with water from Caples and Silver lakes during this time period. This would allow water stored in Caples and Silver lakes to instead be released to Folsom Reservoir between June 1 and November 30, 2020 for transfer to the Buyers. EID would draw on Jenkinson Lake storage for meeting demands.

The proposed project would result in the temporary decreased storage of up to 850 AF in Weber Reservoir and up to 8,000 AF in Jenkinson Lake, and increased inflow of up to 8,000 AF into Folsom Reservoir.

The transfers would not require construction of any new facilities.

The actual transfer quantity from each reservoir and total transfer volume of up to 8,000 AF would be subject to hydrologic conditions leading up to and during the transfer period as well as compliance with all other water right, FERC license, and related requirements. Because the total maximum transfer quantity potentially available from the three reservoirs exceeds the proposed maximum transfer volume (up to 8,000 AF), EID would have flexibility to adjust operations at any of the reservoirs as conditions or operations may warrant during the transfer period to fulfill the proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity. Figures 2-2 and 2-3 illustrate the proposed Weber Reservoir, Caples Lake, and Silver Lake re-operations.

Releases from Weber Reservoir and Caples and Silver lakes would be conducted in accordance with all applicable rules and requirements governing operations, and would be coordinated with the Buyers as well as Reclamation and DWR, as appropriate, for CVP and SWP water system operations, respectively.

To accomplish this transfer, the following temporary (1 year or less) changes in POU and PORD are being sought by Petition to SWRCB pursuant to EID Water Right License 2184 (Application 1692) and consistent with CWC Sections 1725-1732:

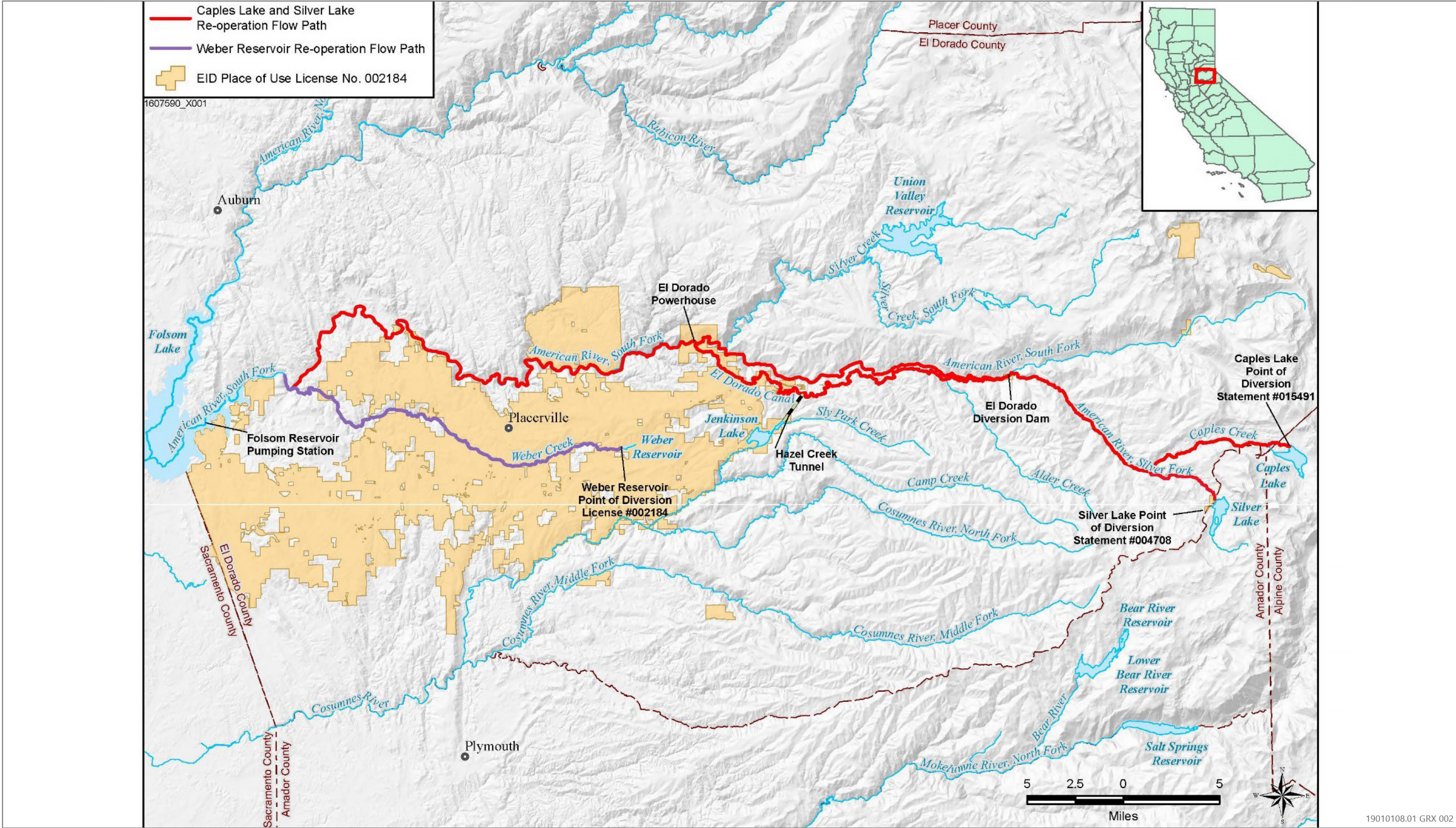
1. Proposed Point of Rediversion: The Banks Pumping Plant would be added as a PORD to allow DWR to pump and remanage delivery of the transfer water to the Buyers' service areas (see Figure 2-1).
2. Proposed Point of Rediversion: The Jones Pumping Plant would be added as a PORD to allow Reclamation to pump and remanage delivery of the transfer water to the Buyers' service areas (see Figure 2-1).
3. Proposed Point of Rediversion: The SLR would be added as a PORD to allow DWR to pump and remanage delivery of the transfer water to the Buyers (see Figure 2-1). SLR is identified on maps filed with the SWRCB Division of Water Rights under Application 5630 (SWP).
4. Proposed Additional Places of Use: The transfer water would be used within the Buyers' specific service areas contained within the CVP and SWP service areas (see Figure 2-1).

2.4.1 Weber Reservoir Re-Operation

As needed to meet consumptive demands, EID makes discretionary releases from Weber Reservoir to provide non-federal supplies for its own use through a Warren Act Contract at Folsom Reservoir. Because of the availability of other supplies in 2020 and strategic management of reservoir operations, EID does not anticipate releasing stored water currently available in this reservoir during 2020. Therefore, absent the transfer or any unforeseen system constraints, EID would only make minimum releases as required by law in 2020. For the transfer, EID would re-operate Weber Reservoir to draw it down under a schedule coordinated with the Buyers, Reclamation, and DWR and deliver this water to the Buyers.

It is anticipated that with the proposed project, EID releases from Weber Reservoir between June 1 and November 30 would be consistent with the historic release patterns for Weber Reservoir when it is used to meet consumptive demands in the EID service area. A maximum of up to approximately 850 AF for transfer (above minimum releases) could be released during this transfer window.

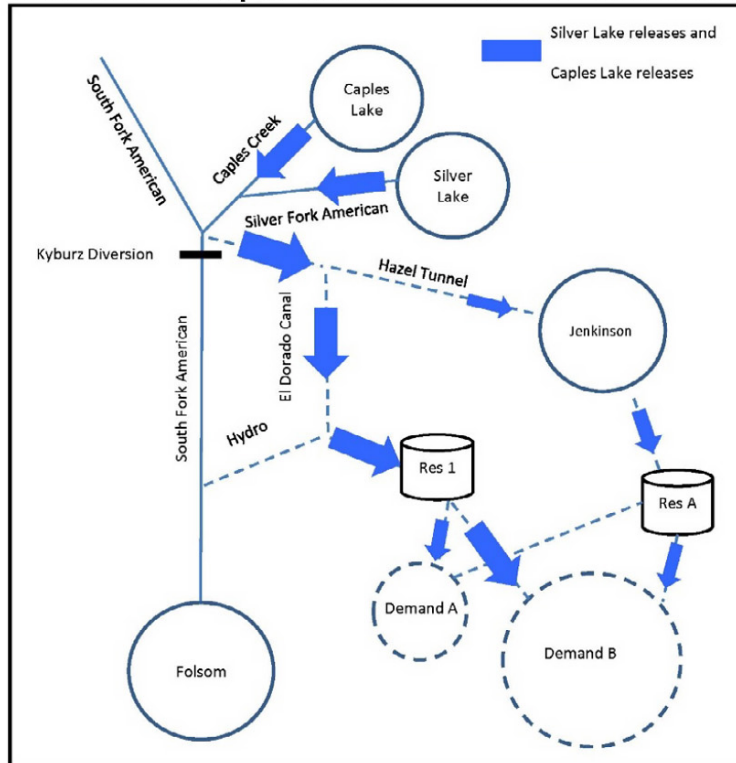
EID would obtain SWRCB approval of temporary changes to its Weber Reservoir licensed water right (License 2184; Application 1692) under CWC Section 1725, et seq. EID would release the planned transfer volume above minimum releases in accordance with anticipated refill/conveyance agreement criteria, and would meet all water rights requirements in WY 2020 and 2021.



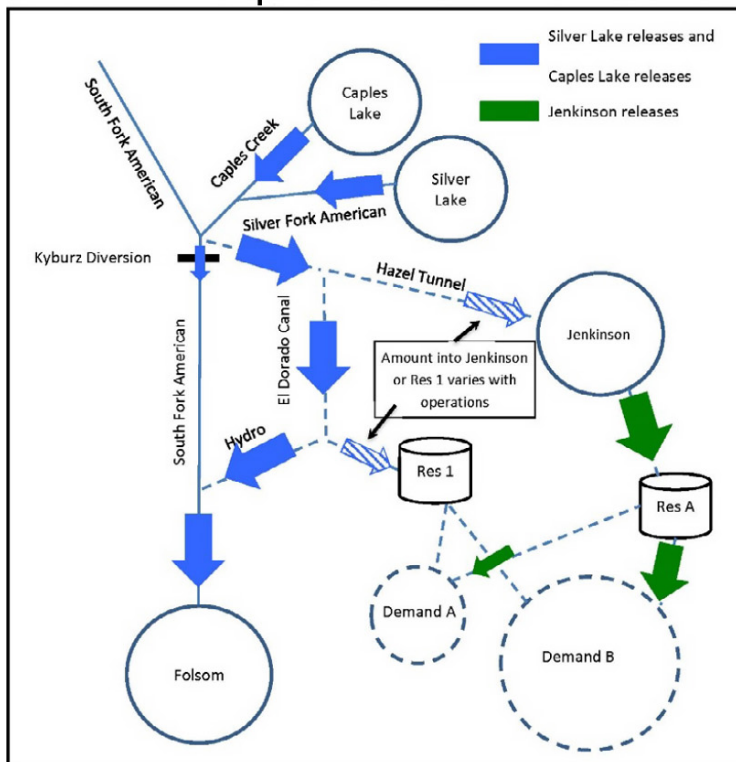
Source: adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2-2 Re-operation Flow Paths

Silver Lake and Caples Lake: 2020 Planned without Transfer



Silver Lake and Caples Lake: 2020 Planned with Transfer



19010108.01 GRX 001

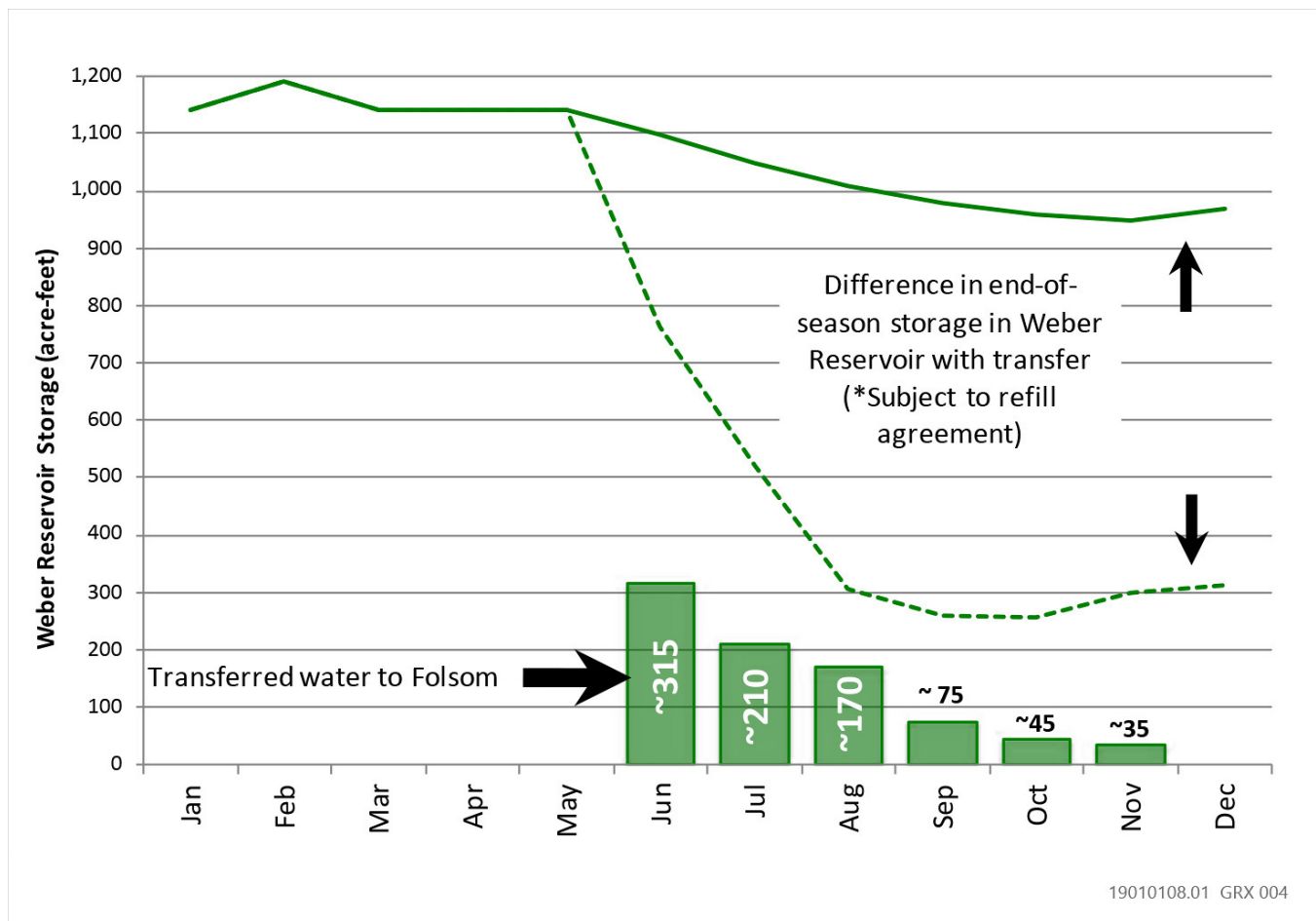
Source: Tully & Young 2020

Figure 2-3 Proposed Caples Lake and Silver Lake Re-Operations Schematic

The capacity of Weber Reservoir is 1,125 AF and EID's water right authorizes diversion of up to 1,000 AF per year. The right requires minimum storage of 200 AF on September 1 annually, and minimum releases not less than 1 cfs to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and recreation in Weber Creek downstream of Weber Reservoir when active reservoir storage is available. Weber Reservoir is projected to be at or near capacity at the onset of the transfer period and the maximum transfer amount would not exceed 850 AF. Therefore, with the proposed transfer of up to 850 AF from Weber Reservoir, the September 1 storage requirement would be met, and the planned carryover storage would be managed to maintain sufficient continued outflow releases following the transfer.

Based on modeling of current and forecasted hydrology for 2020 (Figure 2-4), Weber Reservoir storage would likely drop to approximately 256 AF but may go as low as 200 AF depending on fall weather patterns, prior to refilling during fall and winter 2020/2021 (Tully, pers. comm. 2020). While Figure 2-4 shows a release pattern with a maximum transfer volume of approximately 315 AF in June and tapering down each month thereafter during the transfer period, actual releases could vary and would depend on the following factors:

- ▲ hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer
- ▲ timing of when all agreements and authorizations for the transfer are finalized
- ▲ when Buyers request delivery of water
- ▲ flexible management of Silver Lake, Caples Lake, and Weber Reservoir during the transfer period as EID decides how best to meet its consumptive demands and transfer objectives while still meeting all operational and flow requirements



Source: Tully & Young 2020

Figure 2-4 Weber Reservoir End-of-Month Storage Overview

2.4.1 Caples Lake/Jenkinson Lake and Silver Lake/Jenkinson Lake Re-Operations

The transfer also includes up to 8,000 AF that EID would make available through the re-operation of pre-1914 water rights captured in EID's Caples and Silver lakes, respectively, and managed during the year between Caples and Silver lakes and Jenkinson Lake. EID operates Jenkinson Lake and upstream Project 184 reservoirs, including Caples and Silver lakes, cooperatively to optimize available water supplies and provide desired carry-over for subsequent years (see Figure 2-3).

EID's 2020 existing operation plan is to release water from Caples and Silver lakes previously diverted and stored under these lakes' pre-1914 water rights for immediate consumptive use and/or redirection into Jenkinson Lake (in the Cosumnes River watershed). This planned without-transfer action would re-divert releases of water previously stored in Caples and Silver lakes via EID's Kyburz Diversion Dam and El Dorado Canal, for immediate consumptive uses or to replenish Jenkinson Lake after it has been drawn down during summer (see Figure 2-3).

Under the proposed transfer, EID would rely on water stored in Jenkinson Lake to meet consumptive demands during the transfer period in lieu of using water from Caples and Silver lakes. This re-operation would allow water previously stored in Caples and Silver lakes to instead be released between June 1 and November 30 and re-diverted at Banks or Jones Pumping Plant between July 1 and November 30, 2020 for transfer to the Buyers. The decrease in Jenkinson Lake storage would be equivalent to the water released from Caples and Silver lakes for transfer. See Figure 2-5 for an illustration of these operations with the proposed transfer based on modeling of current and forecasted hydrology for 2020 (Tully, pers. comm., 2020).

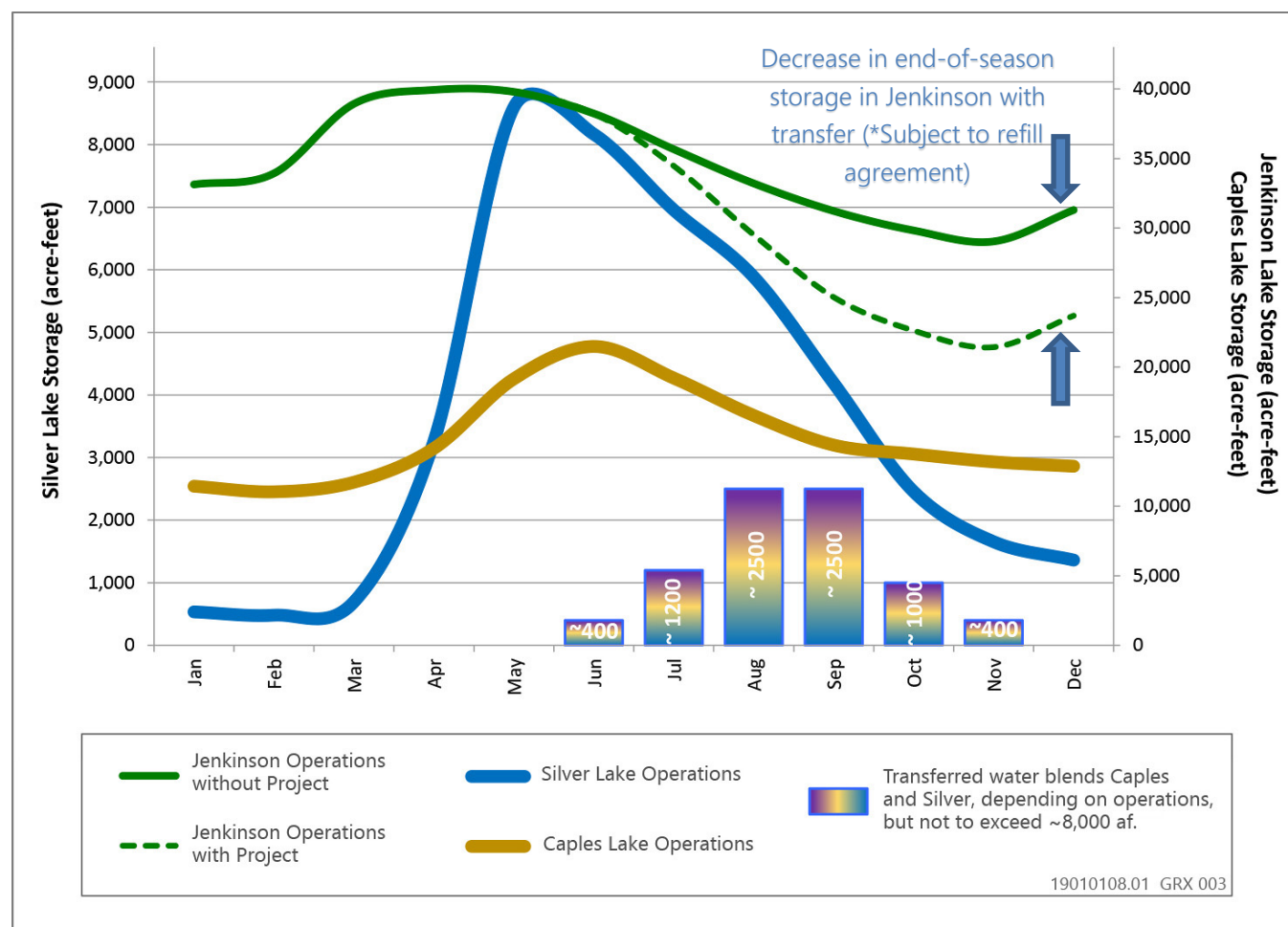
It is anticipated that EID would transfer up to a combined 8,000 AF from Caples and Silver lakes between June 1 and November 30. Based on modeling of current and forecasted hydrology for 2020, the maximum monthly transfer volumes from Caples and Silver lakes are anticipated to include approximately 2,500 AF during August and September. However, as described previously, EID is proposing to transfer up to 8,000 AF to the Buyers should additional supplies become available with spring hydrology. Therefore, the release pattern shown in Figure 2-5 may not represent the maximum quantities available for release from Caples and Silver lakes during the transfer period. As with Weber Reservoir, the actual releases from Caples and Silver lakes could vary and would depend on the following factors:

- ▲ hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer
- ▲ timing of when all agreements and authorizations for the transfer are finalized
- ▲ when Buyers request delivery of water
- ▲ flexible management of Silver Lake, Caples Lake, and Weber Reservoir during the transfer period as EID decides how best to meet its consumptive demands and transfer objectives while still meeting all operational and flow requirements

Caples Lake has a capacity of 22,340 AF, Silver Lake has a capacity of 8,640 AF, and Jenkinson Lake has a capacity of 41,033 AF.

Transfer of the Caples Lake water stored under pre-1914 water right, S015941, and the Silver Lake water stored under pre-1914 water right, S004708, would not require petitions to SWRCB. Releases from Caples and Silver lakes would be conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements and operating criteria, including the Project No. 184 FERC license and associated agreements (e.g., League to Save Sierra Lakes 2004 Settlement Agreement), and would be coordinated with the Buyers.

Because EID would draw on Jenkinson Lake and Weber Reservoir storage for meeting transfer objectives, resulting in a lower than planned end-of-season storage absent the transfer, a refill/conveyance agreement with DWR in coordination with Reclamation for the water transferred from these two reservoirs would be required. Conversely, carryover storage in Caples and Silver lakes would be consistent with past operations and would be the same with or without the proposed transfer, so no refill/conveyance agreement would be applicable to Caples or Silver lakes.



Source: Tully & Young 2020

Figure 2-5 Caples, Silver, and Jenkinson Lakes Operations with Proposed Transfer

2.4.2 Flow Path of Transfer Water

With the proposed transfer, transfer water released from EID facilities would flow to Folsom Reservoir. Specifically, the combined release flows of transfer water from Caples and Silver lakes would be discharged back into the SFAR through the El Dorado Powerhouse just upstream from Slab Creek Reservoir or bypassed at Kyburz Diversion Dam, and then travel downstream to Folsom Reservoir, while flows from Weber Reservoir would follow their normal flow path down Weber Creek to the SFAR and into Folsom Reservoir (see Figure 2-2 and 2-3). Once in Folsom Reservoir, the transfer water would be released through Folsom Dam, and then re-operated via Lake Natoma into the LAR. From the LAR, transfer water would flow for an additional approximately 22 miles to the confluence with the Sacramento River. The transfer water would then continue down the Sacramento River approximately 55 miles where it meets the San Joaquin River at the head of the Delta. From this location, transfer water would enter the tidal portion of the San Joaquin River and would be diverted 45 miles away at the SWP's intake facility, Banks Pumping Plant, or the CVP's intake facility, Jones Pumping Plant, both of which are located near the City of Tracy. Use of the Delta Cross Channel, when available, would decrease the total distance to the PORDs by approximately 18 miles.

From the Banks Pumping Plant PORD, the transfer water could be conveyed south via the California Aqueduct to a Buyer's service area; conveyed south approximately 70 miles to the San Luis Reservoir (SLR) PORD for temporary storage in the SLR prior to delivery to a Buyer's service area; or conveyed southwest in the South Bay Aqueduct to a Buyer's services area in the East Bay. Alternatively, the transfer water could be diverted at the Jones Pumping Plant PORD; conveyed south approximately 70 miles to the San Luis Reservoir (SLR) PORD for temporary storage in the SLR

prior to delivery to a Buyer's service area, or conveyed south for up to 117 miles in the Delta-Mendota Canal and thence to a Buyer's service area.

The service areas of potential Buyers of the transfer water are shown in Figure 2-1

2.4.3 Absent an Approved Transfer

Absent approval from state and federal agencies for this proposed transfer to the Buyers, EID would: (1) maintain a higher end-of-season storage level in Weber Reservoir, and (2) divert all available supplies from Caples and Silver lakes for immediate consumptive use or delivery to Jenkinson Lake to maintain a higher end-of-season storage level in Jenkinson Lake. Caples and Silver lakes would reach the same end-of-season level with or without a transfer. Absent an approved transfer, up to 8,000 AF less water would enter Folsom Reservoir during summer and fall 2020.

2.4.4 Schedule

The proposed water transfer is scheduled to take place between June 1 and November 30, 2020. Water would begin to be transferred to Folsom Reservoir as soon as all necessary approvals are received, and the Buyers and EID have coordinated with Reclamation and DWR, as appropriate.

Once Reclamation releases the water from Folsom Reservoir, DWR or Reclamation, depending on the Buyers, would provide transfer water to the POD at Banks and/or Jones Pumping Plants for transfer to the Buyers on a schedule that is mutually agreeable and/or beneficial to DWR/Reclamation and the Buyers, such that it would not disrupt normal CVP or SWP operations and would adhere to all current flow standards for the LAR from Lake Natoma to the confluence with the Sacramento River, as well as the most up-to-date requirements for the Delta as directed by the SWRCB.

Reclamation could release the transfer water: (1) on top of (in addition to) projected operations resulting in increased LAR flows; (2) as part of operations consistent with the Flow Management Standard (FMS) resulting in increased (by up to 8,000 AF) end-of-September Folsom Reservoir storage; or (3) some combination of (1) and (2). Ultimately, the water would be released by Reclamation, DWR or Reclamation would divert the water at the Banks and/or Jones Pumping Plants, and the Buyers would coordinate with DWR or Reclamation to determine the timing and flow rate of transfer water releases from the PORD for immediate delivery and/or storage in SLR.

2.5 PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE AND CALIFORNIA WATER RIGHT LAW

Under the public trust doctrine, certain resources are held to be the property of all citizens and subject to continuing supervision by the State. Originally, the public trust was limited to commerce, navigation, and fisheries, but over the years the courts have broadened the definition to include recreational and ecological values. In a landmark case, the California Supreme Court held that California water right law is an integration of both public trust and appropriative right systems, and that all appropriations may be subject to review if "changing circumstances" warrant their reconsideration and reallocation.

SWRCB is required to consider the effects of the proposed project on public trust resources and protect those resources where feasible. SWRCB is a key responsible agency for the proposed project. Under the public trust doctrine, SWRCB must balance the potential value of a proposed or existing water diversion with the impact it may have on the public trust. This IS includes a section (Section 3.21) that analyzes the effects on public trust resources from the proposed temporary water transfer.

2.6 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, PERMITS, AND APPROVALS

As the lead agency, EID has the principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the proposed project and for complying with the requirements of CEQA, State CEQA Guidelines, and all other applicable regulations. The following agencies may also have permitting approval or review authority over portions of the proposed project:

- ▶ SWRCB: Temporary Change Petition, requested through a Petition for Change Involving Water Transfers, for License 2184 (Application 1692) approval consistent with CWC Sections 1725-1732
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Concurrence that the proposed project would not result in unreasonable effects on fish and wildlife
- ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: Concurrence that the proposed project would not have potential effects on water quality and other instream beneficial uses. (California Code of Regulations Title 23, Section 794.)
- ▶ DWR/Reclamation: Refill/conveyance agreements, as appropriate with EID and Buyers in coordination with Reclamation and/or DWR depending on which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Title: | 2020 El Dorado Irrigation District Temporary Water Transfer |
| 2. Lead Agency Name and Address: | El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667 |
| 3. Contact Person and Phone Number: | Brian Deason, Environmental Resources Supervisor
El Dorado Irrigation District
Phone: (530) 642-4064
Email: 2020WaterTransfer@eid.org |
| 4. Project Location: | Water would be released from El Dorado Irrigation District storage facilities in western El Dorado County, northwestern Alpine County, and northeastern Amador County; flow through El Dorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Alameda, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno and Kings counties; and be used by Federal and/or State water contractors (Buyers) in their service areas; see Section 2.2, "Project Location." |
| 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: | El Dorado Irrigation District |
| 6. General Plan Designation: | Various, See Section 3.11 "Land Use and Planning" |
| 7. Zoning: | Various, See Section 3.11 "Land Use and Planning" |
| 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.) | <p>El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) proposes to transfer up to 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to the Buyers, which could include federal and/or state South-of-Delta water service contractors during summer and fall 2020. EID would make the water available through re-operations of three EID reservoirs to release water otherwise planned to be consumed by EID customers and/or stored within the EID network of reservoirs. The proposed maximum 8,000-AF transfer quantity would consist of releases from Weber Reservoir (up to 850 AF) that would remain in storage and releases from Caples/Silver lakes (up to 8,000 AF) that would otherwise be added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2020 demands that would instead be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake. Because the total potential quantity available from the three reservoirs exceeds the proposed maximum transfer volume (up to 8,000 AF), EID would have flexibility to adjust operations at any of the reservoirs as conditions or operations may warrant during the transfer period to fulfill the proposed 8,000-AF transfer quantity. Additional detail is provided in Chapter 2, "Project Description."</p> |
| 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings) | See "Environmental Setting" discussion under each issue area in Chapter 3, "Environmental Checklist." |

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) See Section 2.6, "Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Approvals."
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Under AB 52, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Wopumnes Nisenan-Mewuk Nation of El Dorado County, and Wilton Rancheria have requested EID, as a CEQA lead agency, formally notify them of any proposed projects within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. EID sent formal notification of the project to these tribes on January 23, 2020. A response was received from Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians on February 4, 2020. The Tribe stated that no known resources are in the project area and requested continued coordination and copies of any record searches. No other responses from tribes were received.

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. Where checked below, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forest Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> None with Mitigation Incorporated |

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

Brian Deason

Environmental Resources Supervisor

Printed Name

Title

El Dorado Irrigation District

Lead Agency

3.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics.				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed project would transfer up to 8,000 AF in 2020 through existing waterways and infrastructure from Caples Lake in Alpine County, Silver Lake in Amador County, and Weber Reservoir in El Dorado County to the Buyers' service areas. State Highways 50 and 89 in El Dorado County; State Highway 88 and 49 in Amador County; and State Highways 88, 89, and 4 in Alpine County are Officially Designated State Scenic Highways (Caltrans 2019). In addition, several designated or eligible state scenic highways are located within the Buyers' service areas. The lower American River (LAR) (from Lake Natoma to the confluence with the Sacramento River) is designated as "Recreational" under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (California Resources Agency 2020).

3.1.2 Discussion

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The temporary water transfer would occur entirely within existing waterways over a period of up to approximately 6 months in summer and fall 2020 using existing water conveyance infrastructure. No construction or other ground disturbing activities would be required to implement the project. The relatively small volume of water transferred (i.e., up to 8,000 AF) would not result in visual changes to the streams and rivers that carry transfer water from Weber Reservoir, and Caples and Silver lakes, where the water would be released because releases would be consistent with historic patterns and existing operating conditions for the waterways and facilities affected. In Weber Creek, a release from Weber Reservoir of up to 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) would be similar to the maximum summer release rate over the past 10 years (see Table 3-4 in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources"). Releases would result in a temporary increase in average water depth of less than approximately 5 inches (at 15 cfs) as measured at a point located immediately downstream of Weber Reservoir. In the Silver Fork and Caples Creek, maximum releases of approximately 28 cfs and 40 cfs, respectively, would be below the maximum release rate seen during the last 10 years

(see Tables 3-2 and 3-3 in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources"). Given the existing volumes of water in Folsom Reservoir and downstream areas, the small volume of transfer water (up to 8,000 AF) would not result in visual changes to these downstream areas and would also be within the range of historic conditions. Water would be used to support continued agricultural and M&I operations and would be transported via existing conveyance and storage facilities within the Buyers' service areas. The proposed project would not change a scenic vista or have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. **No impact** would occur.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The temporary water transfer would not substantially damage a scenic resource within a state scenic highway. A short reach of Caples Creek and the Silver Fork are located adjacent to State Highway 88, an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway near Caples and Silver lakes. Additionally, a short reach between the confluence of the Silver Fork and SFAR and the Kyburz diversion dam is located adjacent to Highway 50, an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway. However, the views of these reaches are seen primarily by passing motorists and most views are obscured by native vegetation. Additionally, the change in water elevations would be very small and would not be noticeable from the adjacent highway. Because the change in flows would be very small and would be consistent with the pattern of historic operations, the project would not damage any scenic resources or change views from these scenic highways. In addition, the water transfer would not damage any scenic resources within any State Scenic Highways in the Buyers' service areas. There would be **no impact**.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact. The proposed project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project sites or their surroundings. The proposed project would not result in substantial changes in flows in stream reaches or flows through the Buyers' service areas, which would occur via existing conveyance and storage facilities; therefore, the visual character would not be degraded in any of the affected areas. The proposed project could result in temporary lower elevation levels in Jenkinson Lake and Weber Reservoir with the primary differences occurring over the main transfer window of July, August, and September. Those temporary differences would occur during the typical draw down period of the reservoirs and would extend until inflows replenished the vacated storage. Given the small scale of the project, the short-term nature of the water transfer, and that the change in reservoir levels would be within the typical fluctuations of these waterbodies, these temporary changes would not substantially degrade the visual character of the affected reservoirs. There would be **no impact**.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. No new sources of light or glare are proposed. Therefore, the project would not adversely affect day or nighttime views. **No impact** would occur.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agriculture and Forest Resources.				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.				
In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

Water stored in Weber Reservoir is typically used for M&I, fire protection, fish and wildlife protection and/or enhancement, and recreation. Water stored in Caples and Silver lakes is either directly used or conveyed to storage in Jenkinson Lake and typically serves irrigation, domestic, industrial, power generation, fire protection, fish and wildlife protection and/or enhancement, and recreation purposes.

Agricultural uses and zoning occur in both the EID and Buyers' service areas, and the lands include areas that are designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) (DOC 2016a). Approximately 5 million AF of water from the CVP and 900,000 AF of water from the SWP is used for agriculture.

Under the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, local governments can enter into contracts with private property owners to protect land (within agricultural preserves) for agricultural and open space purposes. Lands under active Williamson Act contracts are located in both the EID and Buyers' service areas (DOC 2016b).

For the purposes of this analysis, forest land is defined as land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species that allows for management of timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, recreation, and other public benefits (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 12220(g)). Timberland, a subset of forest land, is defined by PRC Section 4526 and consists of non-federal land that is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products. Some lands surrounding the EID reservoirs are timberlands. No timberland is located in the Buyers' service areas.

3.2.2 Discussion

a) **Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?**

No Impact. As discussed above, lands within the EID and Buyers' service areas are designated by the DOC as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. Water would be temporarily transferred under the proposed project via existing waterways and infrastructure and at least a portion of the transfer water, if not all, would be used for continued agricultural irrigation within agricultural areas of the Buyers' service areas, including on Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland within the Buyers' service areas. The proposed project would not convert farmland to nonagricultural uses and could prevent farmland from becoming fallowed. **No impact** would occur.

b) **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?**

No Impact. A portion, if not all, of the transfer water would be used in areas zoned for agricultural use. Lands under active Williamson Act contracts are located within the EID and Buyers service areas; the proposed project would increase available water supplies to irrigate agricultural lands that may be designated as Williamson Act lands within the Buyers' service areas, supporting this use. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act contract. **No impact** would occur.

c) **Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?**

No Impact. Although there is timberland in the vicinity of the EID reservoirs, the proposed project would not include construction of any new facilities or removal of any timberlands. The project would not affect existing timberlands and therefore not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestry resources. No timberland is located in the Buyers' service areas. **No impact** would occur.

d) **Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in construction of any new facilities or convert any forest land to non-forest uses. **No impact** would occur.

- e) **Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

No Impact. As discussed in Questions a through d above, the proposed project would not result in changes in the physical environment that could result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest uses. If Jenkinson Lake and/or Weber Reservoir did not refill to normal levels in 2021 as a result of the transfer, customer demands could still be met through previously stored water in Jenkinson Lake or through other EID supplies. The transfer water would augment the reduced Buyers' water supply for use in the Buyers' service areas and a portion, if not all, would be used for irrigation of existing agricultural crops, within the Buyers' service areas. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3.1 Environmental Setting

The EID service area is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin which lies along the northern Sierra Nevada, close to or contiguous with the Nevada border, and covers approximately 11,000 square miles. The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District is the local agency authorized to regulate air quality sources in El Dorado County; the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District is the local agency that regulates air quality sources in Alpine County; and Amador County Air Pollution Control District is the local agency that regulates air quality sources in Amador County.

Portions of the Buyers' service areas are located in the San Francisco Bay, San Joaquin Valley, South Central Coast, South Coast, Mojave Desert, San Diego, and Salton Sea air basins. Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Monterey Bay Air Resources District, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (APCD), San Luis Obispo County APCD, Ventura County APCD, Eastern Kern APCD, Antelope Valley AQMD, Mojave Desert AQMD, South Coast AQMD, San Diego County APCD, and Imperial County APCD are the local agencies that regulate air quality sources for these air basins.

GENERAL AIR QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) and the California Clean Air Act (CCAA) required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish health-based air quality standards at the federal and state levels. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) were established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), and lead. These standards have been established with a margin of safety to protect the public's health. Both EPA and CARB designate areas of the state as attainment, nonattainment, maintenance, or unclassified for the various pollutant standards according to the CAA and the CCAA, respectively.

An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the NAAQS or CAAQS for that pollutant in that area. A "nonattainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as identified in the criteria. A "maintenance" designation indicates that the area previously had a nonattainment status and currently has an attainment status for the applicable pollutant; the area must demonstrate continued attainment for a

specified number of years before it can be redesignated as an attainment area. An “unclassified” designation signifies that data do not support either an attainment or a nonattainment status.

Under the NAAQS, Alpine, Amador, and El Dorado counties and portions of the Buyers’ service areas are designated as nonattainment for 8-hour ozone. A portion of El Dorado County and portions of the Buyers’ service areas are designated as nonattainment for PM_{2.5}. Alpine and Amador counties are both unclassified for PM_{2.5}. El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties and portions of the Buyers’ service areas are unclassified for PM₁₀. Some portions of the Buyers’ service areas are in attainment and some are in nonattainment for PM₁₀. Under the CAAQS, Alpine County, Amador County, and El Dorado County, and the Buyers’ service areas are designated as unclassified for ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ (CARB 2018).

3.3.2 Discussion

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. Air quality plans describe air pollution control strategies to be implemented by an air district, city, county, or region. No construction activities are proposed with the project and no long-term operational or maintenance activities that would generate emissions are proposed. The transfer water would augment the Buyers’ existing water supply for use in the Buyers’ service areas and would be used for irrigation of agricultural crops and existing M&I uses. Although agricultural and M&I operations may generate air quality emissions, these land uses are existing land uses that would occur without the project. If the proposed water transfer did not occur, the Buyers would buy water from another water purveyor, pump groundwater to serve the existing land uses in their service areas, and/or fallow existing irrigated agricultural crops. Because water transfer operations and farming and M&I operations would be within the historic range of typical use, the proposed project would not generate new emissions that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of an air quality plan. There would be **no impact**.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

No Impact. The analysis of cumulative effects focuses on whether implementing a specific project would result in cumulatively considerable emissions to a significant cumulative impact. For the reasons discussed under a) above, the proposed project would not generate new air quality emissions, and existing agriculture and M&I water uses would not increase as a result of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative impact. There would be **no impact**.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

No Impact. Some people are especially sensitive to air pollutant emissions and need to be given special consideration when evaluating air quality impacts from projects. These people include children, older adults, and persons with preexisting respiratory or cardiovascular illness. Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, athletic facilities, long-term health-care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. As discussed above under a), the project would not result in an increase in pollutant concentrations. There would be **no impact**.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. Human response to odors is subjective, and sensitivity to odors varies greatly. Typically, odors are regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. However, manifestations of a person’s reaction to foul odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory reactions, nausea, vomiting, headaches). As discussed above under a), existing agriculture and M&I water uses would not increase as a result of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not create new objectionable odors or any other emissions that would adversely affect a substantial number of people. There would be **no impact**.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.4.1 Environmental Setting

Searches of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California were conducted to identify sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant species that could be affected by the proposed project within the Sly Park, Caples Lake, Tragedy Spring, and Camino U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles and the surrounding quadrangles: Aukum, Bear River Reservoir, Caldor, Carson Pass, Echo Lake, Fiddletown, Freel Peak, Garden Valley, Kyburz, Leek Spring Hill, Mokelumne Peak, Old Iron Mountain, Omo Ranch, Pacific Valley, Peddler Hill, Placerville, Pollock Pines, Pyramid Peak, Riverton, and Slate Mountain (CNDDDB 2020, CNPS 2020). These USGS quadrangles are those that surround reservoirs that would be re-operated as part of the project and their respective river reaches. The USGS quadrangles surrounding Folsom Lake and areas south of the Delta where water is to be transferred were not included because the proposed project is not expected to result in physical changes outside of the normal operations of those areas. A total of 68 special-status plant species and 23 special-status

wildlife species have potential to occur or historically occurred within the search area. The full results of these database searches are provided in Appendix A.

Most of the 68 special-status plant species and 23 special-status wildlife species do not have potential to be adversely affected by project implementation because these species are associated with terrestrial habitats, their current ranges do not overlap with the project area, or impacts to species habitat are not expected to occur based on the projected flow patterns. Four special-status plant species and five special-status wildlife species that occur primarily within aquatic habitat have potential to occur within the project area. These species, their listing status, preferred habitat, and potential for occurrence in the project area are detailed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Aquatic Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur within the Project Area

Species	Listing Status ^a Federal	Listing Status ^a State	Habitat	Known Occurrences in the Project Area
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT	SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	The only current population of California red-legged frogs in El Dorado County is present in the upper Weber Creek watershed in a 63-acre area known as Spivey Pond, owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (CNDDDB 2020).
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	–	CE SSC	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Foothill yellow-legged frog is known to occur within the South Fork American River (CNDDDB 2020).
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog <i>Rana sierrae</i>	FE	ST	Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 to 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is known to occur within Silver Lake (CNDDDB 2020).
Southern long-toed salamander <i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	–	SSC	High elevation meadows and lakes in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains. Aquatic larvae occur in ponds and lakes. Outside of breeding season adults are terrestrial and associated with underground burrows of mammals and moist areas under logs and rocks.	Southern long-toed salamander is known to occur within Silver Lake and in the vicinity of Caples Creek (CNDDDB 2020).
Western pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	–	SSC	Aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water.	There are no known occurrences of western pond turtle within the project area; however, suitable habitat is present within Caples Lake, Silver Lake, Weber Reservoir, Caples Creek, Weber Creek, Silver Fork American River, and South Fork American River (CNDDDB 2020).

^a. Listing Status Definitions

Federal

FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected by ESA)

FE Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected by ESA)

State

ST State Listed as Threatened (legally protected by CESA)

CE Candidate for Listing as Endangered (legally protected by CESA)

SSC CDFW Species of Special Concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)

Source: CNDDDB 2020

AQUATIC RESOURCES IN WATER BODIES AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED WATER TRANSFER

The EID reservoirs relevant to the proposed water transfer and the areas downstream of the reservoirs are characterized as open water habitat, perennial drainages, and canals. These habitats provide cover and foraging habitat for a variety of aquatic and water-dependent wildlife and resident native and non-native fish (including Caples Creek and the Silver Fork). No migratory fish species are able to access the SFAR, Caples Creek, or Weber Creek because of the presence of downstream migratory blockages (dams): Nimbus Dam on Lake Natoma and Folsom Dam upstream of Lake Natoma.

Caples Lake

Suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) is present along the shorelines of Caples Lake and tributaries. However, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog has not been documented during several years of surveys conducted along the shorelines at Caples Lake and was last observed in a tributary to Caples Lake in 2002 (Garcia and Associates 2017a).

CDFW files indicate Caples Lake has been stocked since 1930 by CDFW for recreational fishing. Historically, Caples Lake has been planted with rainbow trout, brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout, and lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*). Currently only rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) are planted in Caples Lake by CDFW. Along with current and past CDFW stocking, Caples Lake currently supports populations of non-game fish such as Lahontan reddsides (*Richardsonius egregius*) and tui chub (*Gila bicolor*) as well as a self-sustaining lake trout fishery (CDFW 2016).

Caples Creek

Caples Creek is designated as a Wild Trout Water by CDFW as part of the California Wild and Heritage Trout Program. The designated section of Caples Creek extends from the confluence with the Silver Fork upstream to Caples Lake Dam. This designation includes approximately 11 miles of stream habitat (CDFW 2018c).

Silver Lake

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is present in tributaries to and along the southeast shorelines of Silver Lake (ECORP 2012, Garcia and Associates 2017a). Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog breeding coincides with spring snow melt and is dependent upon water temperature. Breeding occurs shortly after snow melt when adults emerge from hibernation, and generally extends from May into summer. Eggs are laid in ponds, isolated pools, and lakes that do not freeze over, as the tadpole stage may occur for several years.

Rainbow trout, lake trout or mackinaw, and brown trout are found in Silver Lake. Rainbow trout is the only native trout species. All trout species are important recreational fisheries, and rainbow and lake trout are particularly valued in Silver Lake by anglers.

Silver Fork American River and South Fork American River

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is present in the Silver Fork basin above 6,000 feet elevation, though they have not been observed in the mainstem Silver Fork. Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog activity coincides with spring snow melt as described above.

Rainbow trout, brook trout and brown trout are present in the Silver Fork (ECORP 2013, Garcia and Associates 2017b). Rainbow trout, a spring spawner, is the only native trout species in the American River basin. Brown and brook trout are non-native, fall-spawning species. All trout species are important recreational fisheries; both rainbow and brown trout are particularly valued in the upper Silver Fork by anglers. Rainbow trout are the dominant trout species in the Silver Fork. The benthic macro-invertebrate (BMI) community in the Silver Fork and SFAR is diverse and abundant and includes a high percentage of non-tolerant (sensitive) species, including Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (EPT) species (ECORP 2003). The presence of non-tolerant BMIs, in particular EPT species, is indicative of good water quality conditions.

Native fish species that are present in the SFAR include rainbow trout, Sacramento sucker (*Catostomus occidentalis*), California roach (*Hesperoleucus symmetricus*), speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*), Sacramento pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus grandis*), hardhead minnow (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*), and prickly sculpin (*Cottus asper*) (ECORP 2013, Garcia and Associates 2017b). Hardhead minnow is a U.S. Forest Service species of concern. Non-native fish species include brown trout and brook trout. Rainbow trout are the dominant trout species in the SFAR.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*) is also present in the SFAR. In 2011, egg masses were observed in late July during the receding limb of the SFAR hydrograph (Garcia and Associates 2011) downstream from Kyburz diversion dam. Tadpoles were observed in August 2011.

Weber Reservoir

The fish fauna of Weber Reservoir predominantly consists of rainbow trout and several non-native centrarchid (bass and sunfish) species. Other native fish species that may potentially be present in Weber Reservoir include Sacramento sucker, California roach, and prickly sculpin. Non-native fish species may include brown trout, largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

No special-status fish or amphibian species are present in Weber Reservoir. California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) were historically (but not currently) sighted in lower Weber Creek below Weber Reservoir. The only current population of California red-legged frog in El Dorado County is present in the upper Weber Creek watershed in a 63-acre area known as Spivey Pond, owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Bullfrogs and non-native predatory fish are abundant in Weber Reservoir, which precludes the presence of California red-legged frog in the reservoir. California red-legged frog breeding occurs from mid-December through early April along the margins and shallow parts of natural or manmade ponds, or wide slow sections of streams without predatory, non-native fish species. Breeding sites require inundation into summer for tadpoles to reach a size for metamorphosis.

Weber Creek

No special-status fish or amphibian species are currently known to be present in lower Weber Creek. California red-legged frog is present in the American River basin and have been historically (but not currently) sighted in lower Weber Creek (see discussion of Weber Reservoir).

Rainbow trout, a spring spawner, is the only native trout species in Weber Creek, with non-native brown trout, a fall spawner, potentially present. Other fish species that may occur in Weber Creek are as described above for Weber Reservoir; however, Sacramento sucker, California roach, and prickly sculpin are likely the more abundant species, along with the numerically dominant rainbow trout. The BMI community in Weber Creek is somewhat less diverse and abundant compared to other west slope streams, due at least partially to consistently low stream flows (ECORP 2003). BMI species are the primary prey for trout and native fish species. Though most BMI species are present as various instars (life history stages) throughout the year, BMI production is highest in spring.

Jenkinson Lake

The aquatic resources residing in Jenkinson Lake, and especially the fish community, are similar to those found in Weber Reservoir.

3.4.2 Discussion

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less-than-Significant Impact.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON CAPLES LAKE

Transfer water would be released from Caples Lake such that the transfer release rate from approximately June 1 through November 30 would be less than the observed maximum monthly flow rate during that same time period over the past approximately 10 years (i.e., 429 cfs) and consistent with minimum releases for the year type (Table 3-2 and Figure 2-5).

Table 3-2 Caples Reservoir Releases 2009 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Transfer Period						Dec
						Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Maximum	386	39	136	132	361	429	300	121	89	94	92	138
Minimum	5	3	5	5	12	15	6	5	5	5	6	6
Average	29	15	30	36	75	105	63	36	29	10	14	24
2020 Planned without Transfer Condition												
Released from Caples Reservoir						29	40	40	32	8	8	10
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP						29	40	40	32	8	8	10
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand						0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020 Planned with Transfer Condition												
Released from Caples Reservoir (target)						29	40	40	32	8	8	10
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP						0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand						29	40	40	32	8	8	10

Source: Tully & Young 2020

As stated in in Section 2.4.1, "Caples Lake/Jenkinson Lake and Silver Lake/Jenkinson Lake Re-Operations" the pattern of water releases from Caples Lake during the transfer period could vary and would depend on hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer, date when all agreements and authorizations are received, amount of water requested by the Buyer(s), and operational and flow requirements. Table 3-2 shows one potential release pattern for Caples Reservoir with and without the transfer based on modeling of current and forecasted hydrology for 2020. Up to a maximum of 8,000 AF of water would be released from Caples Lake into Caples Creek beginning approximately June 1 and continuing through approximately November 30, and the maximum release during the transfer period would not exceed approximately 40 cfs. With these releases, storage in Caples Lake is projected to remain above minimum lake level requirements with or without the transfer.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON CAPLES CREEK

Water expected to be released from Caples Lake into Caples Creek would be less than the maximum rate that has historically occurred during that time period over the past approximately 10 years (429 cfs) (Table 3-2 and Figure 2-5). The quantity of water released and seasonal timing of releases into Caples Creek during Caples Lake re-operation would be approximately the same with or without the water transfer. Hence, no differences in wetted channel width and wetted area along the stream margins as compared to historic (over the past approximately 10 years) conditions are expected to occur as a result of the proposed water transfer. Because the transfer would not result in increased releases over recent historic conditions, the transfer would not alter depths and water velocities in microhabitats (riffles, pools, runs) compared to what would have occurred under historical Caples Creek operations. The re-operation of Caples Lake would not significantly affect existing cover values for fish, or negatively affect the quality of food-producing riffles in Caples Creek. Therefore, potentially adverse effects to existing instream habitats is not expected to occur.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are not known to occur in Caples Creek and would not be affected by Caples Creek flows. Caples Creek likely does not provide suitable habitat for the species because most of the creek is shallow

riffles and runs with no pocket water and proportionally very little pool and backwater habitat (ECORP 2013). Additionally, although the water transfer would occur during the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog breeding season (May into summer), transfer of water from Caples Lake would result in the same quantity of water and seasonal timing of releases into Caples Creek as would occur without the water transfer.

The temporary elevation of stream flows during the proposed water transfer would be coupled with suitable ramping rates as indicated in the FERC license for the El Dorado Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 184) (FERC 2006). Ramping rates at the beginning and end of the transfer release would restrict increases in water depth in the Caples Creek to 1 foot per hour up to a 75 cfs release, and to 0.5 feet per hour up to a 175 cfs release. This technically-based license requirement, previously approved by the state and federal resource agencies, would result in continued protection of aquatic resources in the Silver Fork, and in particular, would result in a negligible adverse effect on resident populations of aquatic resources.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON SILVER LAKE

Transfer water would be released from Silver Lake such that the transfer release rate from June 1 through November 30 would be less than the observed maximum monthly flow rate during that same time period over the past 10 years (i.e., 485 cfs) and consistent with minimum releases for the year type (Table 3-3 and Figure 2-5).

As stated in in Section 2.4.1, "Caples Lake/Jenkinson Lake and Silver Lake/Jenkinson Lake Re-Operations" the pattern of water releases from Silver Lake during the transfer period would be consistent with historical release patterns, but could vary and would depend on hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer, date when all agreements and authorizations are received, amount of water requested by the Buyer(s), and operational and flow requirements. Table 3-3 shows one potential release pattern for Silver Reservoir with and without the transfer based on modeling of current and forecasted hydrology for 2020. Up to a maximum of 8,000 AF of water would be released from Silver Lake into the Silver Fork from June 1 through November 30 and the maximum release during the transfer period would not exceed approximately 28 cfs. Since releases into the Silver Fork would be the same with and without the transfer, end of season storage in Silver Lake is projected to be the same with and without the transfer.

Table 3-3 Silver Lake Reservoir Releases 2009 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Transfer Period						Dec
						Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Maximum	613	443	152	359	469	672	287	33	139	208	142	320
Minimum	6	4	1	5	20	17	14	11	8	5	5	5
Average	26	28	26	74	124	113	42	17	33	25	17	30
2020 Actual	14											
2020 Planned without Transfer Condition												
Released from Silver Lake						23	19	15	25	28	13	8
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP						23	19	15	25	28	13	8
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand						0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020 Planned with Transfer Condition												
Released from Silver Lake						23	19	15	25	28	13	8
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP						0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand						23	19	15	25	28	13	0

Source: Tully & Young 2020

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON THE SILVER FORK AMERICAN RIVER

Water expected to be released from Silver Lake into the Silver Fork would be well under the maximum rate that has historically occurred during that time period over the past approximately 10 years (672 cfs) (Table 3-3). Slight differences in wetted channel width and wetted area along the stream margins are expected to occur between the proposed water transfer and historic (over the past 10 years) conditions, as average water depth varies depending on the flows. No significant difference in depths and water velocities to microhabitats (riffles, pools, runs) in Silver Fork would be apparent, and would not significantly affect existing cover values for fish, or negatively affect the quality of food-producing (BMLs) riffles in those habitats due to the high level of habitat complexity that exists throughout the Silver Fork. Variations in depth and water velocities would be within the range of depths and velocities that currently occur in the Silver Fork during this time period. Direct adverse effects to aquatic resources would also be negligible, since potentially adverse effects to existing instream habitats would not be expected to occur.

The temporary elevation of stream flows during the proposed water transfer would be coupled with suitable ramping rates as indicated in the FERC license for the El Dorado Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 184) (FERC 2006). Ramping rates at the beginning and end of the transfer release would restrict increases in water depth in the Silver Fork to 1 foot per hour up to a 75 cfs release, and to 0.5 feet per hour up to a 175 cfs release. This technically-based license requirement, previously approved by the state and federal resource agencies, would result in continued protection of aquatic resources in the Silver Fork, and in particular, would result in a negligible adverse effect on resident populations of aquatic resources.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON THE SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER BELOW KYBURZ DIVERSION DAM

The confluence of the Silver Fork with the SFAR is located immediately upstream of the Kyburz Diversion Dam. Proposed water transfer flows to this point would mimic historic flows and would continue to be diverted at Kyburz Diversion Dam. With the proposed project, instead of being directed for consumptive use, the transfer release flow would be discharged back into the SFAR through the El Dorado Powerhouse just upstream from Slab Creek Reservoir or bypassed at Kyburz Diversion Dam, and then travel downstream to Folsom Reservoir. As in the Silver Fork, the water transfer would have negligible effects to aquatic resources in the SFAR extending to the confluence with Folsom Reservoir since the volume of water released for transfer (up to 8,000 AF) would represent a small fraction of SFAR flows during the transfer window.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON JENKINSON LAKE

Without the proposed project, summer and early fall water that has been stored in Caples and Silver lakes is either delivered directly to EID's Reservoir 1 water treatment plant or delivered through the Hazel Creek Tunnel (via EID's Kyburz Diversion Dam and El Dorado Canal) into Jenkinson Lake for treatment at the Reservoir A water treatment plant. Under the proposed project, EID would instead use water already stored in Jenkinson Lake to meet these demands during this time period in lieu of water from Caples and Silver lakes, and Jenkinson Lake would not be replenished with water from Caples and Silver lakes during this time period. This would allow water stored in Caples and Silver lakes to instead be released to Folsom Reservoir between June 1 and November 30, 2020 for transfer to the Buyers. EID would draw on Jenkinson Lake storage for meeting demands, resulting in a lower than planned end-of-season storage in Jenkinson Lake.¹

Since 1990, refill to full storage occurs during the immediate winter months in most years. If EID were unable to refill the reservoir completely in 2021, EID would be able to fulfill its anticipated customer demands while also meeting any

¹ Jenkinson Lake has a capacity of 41,033 AF. Storage in Jenkinson Lake at the beginning of June 2020 (and prior to releases associated with the proposed project) is expected to be approximately 39,799 AF. Based on modeled releases and current forecasting, by September 30, 2020, storage would decrease to approximately 25,029 AF compared to September 30 storage without the water transfer (i.e., approximately 31,229 AF total). By November 30, 2020, storage would decrease to approximately 21,442 AF compared to November 30 storage without the water transfer (i.e., approximately 29,042 AF total).

applicable refill agreement and/or conveyance agreement obligations by Reclamation and DWR, respectively. Adverse effects to aquatic resources in the Cosumnes River drainage downstream from Jenkinson Lake (e.g., Park Creek, Camp Creek, and North Fork Cosumnes River) would not be expected since operations would be within the range of historic operations. Therefore, differences in wetted channel width and wetted area along those stream margins, as well as to aquatic habitats during the period of refill, would be minimal to negligible.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON WEBER CREEK

The proposed water transfer would likely have temporary beneficial effects to aquatic resources in Weber Creek because of an increase in magnitude of the low flows currently released from Weber Reservoir; minimum reservoir release to Weber Creek is approximately 1 cfs throughout the year, depending on the previous month's inflow and reservoir storage conditions. The maximum flow observed during the proposed transfer period (June 1 through November 30) over the past 10 years was 15 cfs, with an average monthly flow of about 2.8 cfs over that time period. The Weber Reservoir water transfer would be up to 850 AF, would occur in June through November, and storage and releases would generally be consistent with historical flow patterns and operations. However, the actual flow schedule could vary from what is presented in Table 3-4 and would depend on hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer, date when all agreements and authorizations are received, amount of and timing for water requested by the Buyer(s), and operational and flow requirements.

Differences in wetted channel width and wetted area along the stream margins between the proposed water transfer and historic (over the past 10 years) conditions would be negligible, as average water depth at the maximum flow (15 cfs) would increase by less than 5 inches over depths observed at minimum flow (1 cfs). Such changes in depths and water velocities to microhabitats (riffles, pools, runs) in Weber Creek would not significantly affect existing cover values for fish, or negatively affect the quality of food-producing (BMIs) riffles in those habitats. Direct adverse effects to aquatic resources would also be negligible, as potential effects to existing instream habitats would be minimal to negligible.

Table 3-4 Weber Reservoir Releases 2009 through 2019 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Transfer Period						Dec
						Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Maximum	49	30	30	24	15	6	6	13	15	10	5	49
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Average	4	4	8	8	4	3	2	3	5	2	2	3
2020 Actual	2	—										
2020 Planned without Transfer Condition												
Released from Weber Reservoir						1	1	1	1	1	1	3
2020 Planned with Transfer Condition												
Released from Weber Reservoir (target)						6	5	4	2	2	2	3

Source: Tully & Young 2020

In addition to the magnitude of flows, the ramping rate of increased or decreased flows may also have the potential to adversely affect aquatic resources if it occurs at a rate that could immediately displace or strand fish or other aquatic resources. The Weber Dam and Reservoir Operations Manual (EID 2005) identifies a ramping rate from the reservoir such that changes in Weber Creek in-stream depth would not exceed 0.5 feet per hour as measured at Weber outlet gage W-3. This rate was approved by CDFW as being suitable for minimizing or preventing stranding or displacement of those fish species present below Weber Dam. The water transfer would follow this specified ramping rate. Further, potential effects of ramping would be ameliorated with distance downstream from the release point.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS ON WEBER RESERVOIR

The maximum water transfer from Weber Reservoir of up to 850 AF would be released at rates equal to or less than the observed maximum flow (15 cfs) that has occurred during the past 10 years (since 2010) in Weber Creek. A minimum of 200 AF would be maintained in Weber Reservoir as of September 1 per SWRCB, Division of Water Rights Order WR 2007-0035-DWR. Traditionally, Weber Reservoir easily refills as evident even during the historically dry periods of 2014 and 2015 when the reservoir refilled. Actual refill during winter 2020 would be subject to a refill/conveyance agreement to be entered into with Reclamation and/or DWR as appropriate. EID would be able to meet applicable obligations under these agreements and also meet all applicable water right requirements.

WATER TRANSFER EFFECTS BELOW FOLSOM RESERVOIR

Transfer water is not anticipated to influence the temperature of the water entering Folsom Reservoir given the small volume of water being transferred as compared to total SFAR inflow. Folsom Reservoir has a capacity of 977,000 acre-feet (AF). Average annual inflow into Folsom Reservoir is about 2.7 million AF. The transfer amount of the proposed project is up to 8,000 AF, which represents approximately 0.3 percent of annual inflow and 0.82 percent of the maximum capacity of Folsom Reservoir. As such, the proposed water transfer would not be expected to have a direct impact on the coldwater pool within the reservoir, regardless of when water is transferred into Folsom Reservoir.

Release of the transfer water would be coordinated with Reclamation and the regulatory agencies in compliance with all applicable requirements for flow and temperature in the LAR to protect aquatic resources. Releases from Folsom Reservoir first enter the LAR which in turn flows into the Sacramento River. During summer months, stream flows in the American River, Sacramento River, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are typically dominated by CVP and SWP deliveries, as well as temporary water transfers. This is largely related to the fact that the normal, historical unimpaired hydrology of the American and Sacramento rivers, as well as those of the Delta and its tributaries, would typically support a declining hydrograph during these summer months. Benefits to the aquatic environment downstream of Folsom Reservoir as a result of the water transfer are anticipated to be nominal even in a year like 2020 when CVP/SWP deliveries may be significantly reduced.

SUMMARY

In total, up to 8,000 AF would be transferred from Caples and Silver lakes, and Weber Reservoir, through release into Caples Creek, Silver Fork, Weber Creek, SFAR, LAR, and into the Sacramento River and Delta from June through November. Differences in wetted channel width and wetted area along the stream margins between the proposed water transfer and historic (over the past 10 years) conditions would be minimal to negligible, as maximum water depth is expected to increase by less than 5 inches in Weber Creek, with no change in the maximum depth in Caples Creek and in Silver Fork. Such changes in depths and water velocities to microhabitats (riffles, pools, runs) would not significantly affect existing cover values for fish, or negatively affect the quality of food-producing (BMIs) riffles in those habitats. Direct adverse effects to aquatic resources would also be negligible, as potential effects to existing instream habitats would be minimal to negligible. Isolated pools of relatively small size have the potential to form in reaches immediately below the Weber Reservoir and SFAR release points during the down-ramping phase, but they would be expected to have negligible effects on aquatic resources given that all ramping rates would be followed for the water transfer. Potential changes to channel width and wetted area, and formation of isolated pools, are further reduced with distance downstream from the release point, and in particular, are negligible downstream from Folsom Reservoir.

The relatively small changes in streamflow during the proposed water transfer and the required ramping rates would likely have a negligible effect on resident populations of rainbow and brown trout, hardhead minnow, and other fish and aquatic species in SFAR below Kyburz Diversion Dam and El Dorado Powerhouse, Weber Creek below Weber Reservoir, Weber Reservoir, Silver Fork below Silver Lake, Silver Lake, Caples Creek below Caples Lake, Caples Lake, and Jenkinson Lake, as well as Folsom Reservoir, LAR, and areas downstream of LAR.

Therefore, all impacts to aquatic resources from the proposed transfer, in particular to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, would be **less than significant**.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less-than-Significant Impact. Because the proposed project would be temporary and would not result in fluctuations in the reservoir and streamflow levels that are outside of historic range, the potential for adverse effects on riparian habitat would be minimal. Such potential impacts would be limited primarily to vegetation immediately adjacent to Jenkinson Lake and Weber Reservoir; however, vegetation would not be substantially affected by the proposed single-year water transfer because water levels typically fluctuate based on precipitation and the transfer would occur during the summer and fall when the reservoirs are typically drawn down on an annual basis. Habitats, including plant assemblages, that occur within the affected stream reaches and reservoir high water lines are acclimated to historic fluctuations in water levels. Temporary increases in the downstream areas also would not result in levels that are greater than historic conditions and would not cause adverse effects on riparian habitat. The impact would be **less than significant**.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The proposed project would not result in any construction activities or fill of wetlands or Waters of the U.S. Reservoir releases would be consistent with historic patterns the potential for adverse effects on wetlands would be minimal. Therefore, the impact would be **less than significant**.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The proposed project would provide slightly more water (up to 8,000 AF total) in Weber Creek, SFAR, LAR, lower Sacramento River, and into the Delta. This slight increase in flow from June through November would have negligible effects on river flows and resulting movements or migrations of any fish or wildlife species. Reduced reservoir elevations in Weber Reservoir would also not significantly affect movements or migrations of any fish or wildlife species, especially given that Weber Reservoir typically has little to no inflow during the June to November timeframe of the proposed water transfer. Adherence to minimum pool requirements (Division of Water Rights Order WR 2007-0035-DWR) would further protect habitat for those fish species that are resident to Weber Reservoir. Reduced reservoir elevations in Jenkinson Lake would also not significantly affect movements or migrations of any fish or wildlife species. Therefore, the proposed transfer project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The impact would be **less than significant**.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. **No impact** would occur.

- f) **Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with a habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. **No impact** would occur.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

Native American and Euro-American peoples have inhabited and traveled through present-day El Dorado, Amador, Alpine counties and the Buyers' service areas for thousands of years. Their long record of occupation and activities has left numerous prehistoric and historic-era remains on the landscape, including scattered artifacts, the remains of seasonal and long-term occupation, human interments, buildings, structures, and in some cases heavily altered landscapes.

3.5.2 Discussion

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

No Impact. No new ground-disturbing activities are proposed with the project. It is not anticipated that the proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource given that changes in lake and reservoir water levels and streamflow levels as a result of the water transfer would be within historical ranges, water would be transferred using existing waterways and infrastructure, and water delivered to the Buyers would be used to maintain existing agricultural activities and supply existing M&I water users. There would be **no impact** on historical resources.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

No Impact. No new ground-disturbing activities are proposed with the project. It is not anticipated that the proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource given that changes in lake and reservoir water levels and streamflow levels as a result of the water transfer would be within historical ranges, water would be transferred using existing waterways and infrastructure, and water delivered to the Buyers would be used to maintain existing agricultural activities and supply existing M&I water users. There would be **no impact**.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. No new ground-disturbing activities are proposed with the project. It is not anticipated that the proposed project would disturb any human remains given that changes in water would be transferred using existing waterways and infrastructure, and water delivered to the Buyers would be used to maintain existing agricultural activities and supply existing M&I water users. There would be **no impact**.

3.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.6.1 Environmental Setting

ENERGY FACILITIES AND USAGE

EID uses utility grid power throughout its service area through approximately 168 different Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) service connections to provide drinking water, wastewater, recycled water, and recreational services. EID also operates the 21-megawatt El Dorado Hydroelectric Project, which is located on the SFAR and receives inflow from Silver Lake and Caples Lake, among other upstream reservoirs. Power generated at the El Dorado Powerhouse is delivered to the PG&E transmission system at the Powerhouse switchyard.

The Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant lift water into the California Aqueduct and the Delta Mendota Canal, respectively, which deliver water to the Buyers' service areas south of the Delta. Both Pumping Plants are operated by electric pumps through a computerized network to maximize efficiency. Pumping is minimized during on-peak hours, when electricity prices are highest. Maximum pumping is scheduled during off-peak periods (nights, weekends, and holidays), when electricity costs are lower (DWR 2019).

No natural gas is directly consumed to operate the EID reservoirs or the Banks or Jones Pumping Plants.

3.6.2 Discussion

- a) **Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

Less-than-Significant Impact. The project would not include construction that would result in any short-term increases in energy or fuel consumption. Water released from Weber Reservoir, Caples Lake, and Silver Lake flows downstream from higher elevations and therefore would not require electricity or pumping to facilitate the transfer of water. A small increase in the overall pumping at the Banks and/or the Jones Pumping Plants would be required to pump the transfer water into the California Aqueduct and/or Delta Mendota Canal for distribution. If the project does not occur, it is likely that the Buyers would purchase water from a different seller, which would require pumping at the Banks or Jones Pumping Plants; would use groundwater pumping to replace the shortfall in surface water with groundwater; or possibly fallow some area of irrigated agriculture. These actions would be consistent with historic operations in the Buyers' service areas. Furthermore, the energy being consumed is for the conveyance of water, which is a necessary resource for agriculture, manufacturing, and drinking water. Any additional electricity needs would be minimal and would be within the range of typical demands because the project is intended to partially make up for water that typically flows through the pumps but is otherwise not available for transfer this year. The

project would not result in any significant short- or long-term increases in natural gas or fuel use. Therefore, the proposed project's energy consumption during operation would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. This impact would be **less than significant**.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less-than-Significant Impact. Relevant plans include the State's 2019 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) and Senate Bill (SB) 100, which focus on energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, and energy provisioning reliability and infrastructure (CEC 2020). Policies regarding these areas relate to commercial and residential energy use or electricity and natural gas provisioning and are not directly applicable to public services like water transfers. In addition, although operation of the project would require electricity for pumping water, transferring the water from Silver and Caples lakes and down the SFAR instead of directing consuming or storing the water in Jenkinson would generate additional hydroelectric power. The electricity would be sold to PG&E, which would replace electricity that PG&E would otherwise need to acquire from other sources and would be consistent with PG&E's mandate to shift electricity generation to renewable and carbon free sources under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. This impact would be **less than significant**.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. Geology and Soils.				
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.7.1 Environmental Setting

The EID service area is located in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province, which consists of a northwest-trending mountain range approximately 400 miles long and 40–100 miles wide. Portions of the Buyers' service areas are located in the Great Valley, Southern Coastal Ranges, Transverse Ranges, Peninsular Ranges, Colorado Desert, Mojave Desert, and Basin and Range geomorphic provinces. Active faults are present within all of the geomorphic provinces in EID and the Buyers' service areas.

The fossil yielding potential of a particular area is highly dependent on the geologic age and origin of the underlying rocks, which vary in distribution and surface exposure throughout the service areas.

3.7.2 Discussion

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)

No Impact. Surface fault rupture is most likely to occur on active faults (i.e., faults showing evidence of displacement within the last 11,700 years). While there are active faults within the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province, no Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones are mapped within the EID service area and no active faults are located in the vicinity of the EID reservoirs. Portions of the Buyers' service areas are within Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones and are adjacent to active faults; however, land uses would not change in the Buyers' service areas and no new structures would be constructed as part of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects from fault rupture. There would be **no impact**.

- ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact. No modification to EID dams and no new structures within the Buyers' service areas are proposed. Each dam is included in an ongoing dam safety program by DWR's Division of Dam Safety to ensure the facility meets all current dam safety standards. Caples Lake Dam and Silver Lake Dam are additionally regulated through the Project 184 Dam Safety Program under FERC's authority. The proposed project would not expose people or structures to strong seismic ground shaking. The dams would be operated in a manner consistent with historical operations. There would be **no impact**.

- iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact. No modification to EID dams and no new structures within the Buyers' service areas are proposed. In addition, EID and the Buyers' service areas are not in mapped liquefaction zones. The proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects from seismic-related ground failure. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

- iv) Landslides?

No Impact. The proposed project would not include construction of any structures or modification of existing structures, and the water transfer would not increase the potential for landslides. Therefore, the proposed project does not have the potential to expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects from landslides. **No impact** would occur.

- b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. No activities are proposed that could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The lakes, reservoirs, and waterways affected by the project would be operated within the range of historical conditions. Water would be transferred with the proposed project via existing waterways and infrastructure and would be used for continued agricultural irrigation and existing M&I uses in the Buyers' service areas. Therefore, there would be no increased potential for erosion with the project. There would be **no impact**.

- c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

No Impact. None of the facilities involved with the proposed project are located within geologic units or on soil that would be unstable or would become unstable as a result of the project. In addition, the transfer of water within existing systems would not cause any geologic areas to become unstable. **No impact** would occur.

- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. The proposed project would not create substantial risks to life or property as a result of expansive soils because the proposed temporary water transfer would use existing waterways and infrastructure, and no new structures would be constructed. **No impact** would occur.

- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The proposed project would not include septic tanks or wastewater treatment. **No impact** would occur.

- f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. No new ground-disturbing activities are proposed with the project. It is not anticipated that the proposed project would directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or a unique geologic feature given that changes in lake or reservoir water levels and streamflow levels as a result of the water transfer would be within historical ranges, water would be transferred using existing waterways and infrastructure, and water delivered to the Buyers would be used to maintain existing agricultural activities and supply existing M&I water users. There would be **no impact**.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.8.1 Environmental Setting

Certain gases in the earth's atmosphere, classified as greenhouse gases (GHGs), play a critical role in determining the earth's surface temperature. GHGs are responsible for "trapping" solar radiation in the earth's atmosphere, a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. Prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are believed responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the earth's climate, known as global climate change or global warming. Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with on-road and off-road transportation, industrial/manufacturing, electricity generation by utilities and consumption by end users, residential and commercial on-site fuel usage, and agriculture and forestry. Emissions of CO₂ are, largely, byproducts of fossil fuel combustion.

The quantity of GHGs in the atmosphere that ultimately result in climate change is not precisely known but is enormous; no single project alone would measurably contribute to an incremental change in the global average temperature, or to global, local, or microclimates. From the standpoint of CEQA, GHG impacts relative to global climate change are inherently cumulative.

Although there is strong scientific consensus that global climate change is occurring and is influenced by human activity, there is less certainty as to the timing, severity, and potential consequences of the climate phenomena. Scientists have identified several ways in which global climate change could alter the physical environment in California (CNRA 2012, DWR 2006, IPCC 2007). These include:

- ▶ increased average temperatures;
- ▶ modifications to the timing, amount, and form (rain vs. snow) of precipitation;
- ▶ changes in the timing and amount of runoff;
- ▶ reduced water supply;
- ▶ deterioration of water quality; and
- ▶ elevated sea level.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Any single project would be unlikely to create a significant GHG impact. However, the cumulative effect of human activities has been clearly linked to quantifiable changes in the composition of the atmosphere, which in turn have been shown to be the main cause of global climate change (IPCC 2013). Therefore, the environmental effects of GHG emissions from the proposed project are addressed cumulatively in this document.

3.8.2 Discussion

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

No Impact. No construction-related activities are proposed and no GHG emissions would be directly generated by the proposed project. Agriculture and M&I operations generate GHG emissions; however, given that the purpose of the proposed project is to provide the Buyers with water to offset shortages due to a reduced allocation of CVP and SWP water for uses south of the Delta, the proposed project would not increase normal farming or M&I activities and would not increase GHG emissions compared to baseline conditions.

The proposed project would not involve long-term maintenance or operational activities and the proposed project would not substantially increase the use of electricity or generation of water, wastewater, or solid waste. Additionally, the proposed project would have a beneficial effect associated with GHG emissions because it would result in increased generation of hydroelectric power associated with the Caples Lake and Silver Lake water releases that would otherwise not be used for hydroelectric generation purposes. The power would be sold to PG&E, which would replace power that PG&E would otherwise need to acquire from other sources that could generate GHG emissions. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations prepared or established to reduce GHG emissions. For the reasons discussed above under a), the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact of increasing atmospheric levels of GHGs would not be cumulatively considerable. There would be **no impact**.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.9.1 Environmental Setting

Schools within 2 miles of the EID lakes and reservoirs include Camino Elementary School, located approximately 1.5 miles north of Weber Reservoir; Pleasant Valley Middle School, located approximately 1.5 miles south of Weber Reservoir; and Sierra Ridge Middle School, located approximately 1.5 miles north of Jenkinson Lake. Numerous schools are located within the Buyers' service areas.

The nearest public airports and private airstrips to the EID reservoirs are Placerville Airport, approximately 4 miles northwest of Weber Reservoir; Perryman Airport, approximately 3 miles southwest of Weber Reservoir; and Lake Tahoe Airport, approximately 13 miles north of Caples Lake. There are numerous public airports and private airstrips in the Buyers' service areas.

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List (Cortese List) is compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in accordance with Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. A search of the Cortese List and a search for sites with reported hazardous material spills, leaks, ongoing investigations, and/or

remediation near the EID reservoirs that are part of the project were performed using the DTSC online EnviroStor database (DTSC 2020). In addition, a search was conducted using the SWRCB's GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2020). The searches identified two sites immediately west of Jenkinson Lake with completed cleanup and closed cases: Sly Park Resort (a Leaking Underground Storage Tank [LUST] Cleanup Site, RB Case #090030) and Sly Park Ranger Station (a Cleanup Program Site). The searches also identified three sites near Silver Lake with completed cleanup and closed cases: Kay's Silver Lake Resort (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #030048), Silver Lake Family Camp (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #030065), and Bear River Lake Resort (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #030064) as well as three sites near Caples Lake with completed cleanup and closed cases: Caples Lake Maintenance Station (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #020010), Kirkwood Service Center (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #090107), and Ham's Station (a LUST Cleanup Site, RB Case #030060).

3.9.2 Discussion

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

No Impact. The proposed water transfer would not require use of acutely hazardous materials or substances. Agricultural activities could involve the use and storage of hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, fertilizers, insecticides), but use and storage of these materials would not increase as a result of the proposed project. Additionally, use of agricultural chemicals would be required to comply with the county Agricultural Commissioner's Office requirements. Compliance with the usage, safe handling, and disposal requirements identified by the manufacturer along with compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations would limit the potential for an accident to occur that involves the release of hazardous materials into the environment. For these reasons, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public related to hazardous materials. There would be **no impact**.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

No Impact. For the reasons discussed above under a), the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public involving the release of hazardous materials. There would be **no impact**.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. No existing or proposed schools are located within 0.25 mile of the EID lakes or reservoirs. Schools are located throughout the Buyers' service areas, but the proposed water transfer would not emit hazardous emissions or involve the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. There would be **no impact**.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. Several cleanup sites are located near the EID lakes and reservoirs that are part of the project; however, these sites are all designated as closed and the project would not be on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. While it is likely that LUST and other cleanup sites are located in the Buyers' service areas, proposed land uses would not change as a result of the proposed project, and the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. There would be **no impact**.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. No airports are located within 2 miles of the EID lakes and reservoirs. Several airports are located within the Buyers' service areas. However, the proposed project would not create a hazard associated with airport operations for people residing or working in the area of the proposed project. **No impact** would occur.

- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. Land-based emergency response routes and plans would not be affected by the proposed project and in-water navigation would not be interrupted by the proposed project because the project would not involve construction- or any changes in operations-related traffic. Implementation of the proposed project would not significantly impair or interfere with emergency access to local roads and evacuation routes, or significantly reduce emergency response. **No impact** would occur.

- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) classifies the areas near the EID lakes and reservoirs as high to very high fire hazard severity zones. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones are mapped within the Buyers' service areas (CAL FIRE 2019). The proposed project would not include construction of any structures that could be exposed to fire risk. In the event of a fire, existing access roads could be used to accommodate fire-fighting crews and equipment. No features of the proposed project would increase the fire danger in the EID or Buyer's service areas. **No impact** would occur.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Hydrology and Water Quality.				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.10.1 Environmental Setting

HYDROLOGY

Without the water transfer, water from Caples and Silver Lakes would flow into Caples Creek and Silver Fork, respectively, and would be diverted at the Kyburz diversion dam just downstream of the Silver Fork confluence with SFAR for immediate treatment and consumption by EID customers and/or storage in Jenkinson Lake. With the proposed transfer, the water from Caples and Silver lakes would instead be sent to the El Dorado Powerhouse and returned to the SFAR and then Folsom Reservoir. In the last 10 years, a maximum release rate of 429 cfs has been recorded in Caples Creek downstream of Caples Lake, and 175 cfs has been recorded in Silver Fork downstream of Silver Lake. Water from Weber Reservoir flows down Weber Creek, which confluent with SFAR, thence Folsom Reservoir. In the last 10 years, a maximum release rate of 15 cfs has been recorded in Weber Creek downstream of

Weber Reservoir during the timeframe of the proposed project (spillway flows are not included in the available gage data due to site configuration. See Tables 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4 and Figure 3-1 in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources," for additional information.

Terms in Water Right License 2184 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EID and CDFW require maintenance of a minimum of 200 AF of reserve storage in Weber Reservoir on September 1 to have enough reserve storage for minimum instream flow releases into Weber Creek until winter rainfall sets in. When storage is greater than 200 AF, the required instream flow is greater than or equal to 1 cfs and is determined by a formula using the monthly average inflow for the previous calendar month. When storage is equal to or less than 200 AF, the required instream flow is 1 cfs. When storage is equal to or less than 80 AF (which is the dead pool, when water surface in the reservoir is at or below the outlet pipe elevation), the outlet valve remains open and reservoir releases are equal to inflow unless the reservoir level falls below the level of the outlet works (EID 2005).

WATER QUALITY

SWRCB requires water providers to conduct a source water assessment to help protect the quality of water supplies. The assessment describes where a water system's drinking water comes from, the types of polluting activities that may threaten the quality of the source water, and an evaluation of the water's vulnerability to the threats.

Updated assessments of EID's drinking water sources were most recently completed in 2018. EID source water is considered most vulnerable to recreation, residential sewer, septic system, and urban runoff activities, which are associated with constituents detected in the water supply. EID source water is also considered most vulnerable to illegal activities, dumping, fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide application, forest activities, and wildfires. EID's water quality monitoring program includes taking samples of raw and treated water throughout the year from many locations in EID's service area. Analyses cover more than 100 different constituents. No maximum contaminant level violations were detected in the most recent reported samplings (EID 2018a).

3.10.2 Discussion

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

No Impact. The project would not include construction activities that could temporarily degrade surface or groundwater. The proposed water transfer would use existing lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers operating within all applicable requirements. Given the relatively small amount of transfer water released, there would not be any existing water quality standards or waste discharge requirements that would not be met. The small amount of the transfer (up to 8,000 AF) being added to Folsom Reservoir would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. No groundwater would be pumped or recharged as a result of the project. In addition, agricultural activities and M&I water uses in the Buyers' service areas would not change as a result of the proposed project, and the project would not result in any violations to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. There would be **no impact**.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. No substantial effects on groundwater hydrology would occur from the proposed project. Flows in the affected waterways would be within typical ranges normally experienced during the June to November transfer period and would not have a noticeable impact on either accretion from or depletion from the stream than would occur absent the transfer. EID participates and directs groundwater monitoring, management, and banking operations within their service area to improve groundwater levels. The proposed project would not increase groundwater usage within EID or the Buyers' service areas. **No impact** would occur.

- c) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**

- i) **Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;**

Less-than-Significant Impact. The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. The proposed water transfer would use existing lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers, and flows from the water transfer would be well within stream bankfull conditions.

The Weber Reservoir water transfer would be up to 850 AF, would occur in June through November, and storage and releases would generally be consistent with historical flow patterns and operations. However, the actual flow schedule could vary from what is presented in Table 3-4 presented in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources" and would depend on hydrologic conditions at the time of the transfer, date when all agreements and authorizations are received, amount of and timing for water requested by the Buyer(s), and operational and flow requirements.

The maximum release from Weber Reservoir would be similar to the maximum summer release rate seen in the past 10 years of 15 cfs, and would result in a temporary increase in average water depth in Weber Creek of less than 5 inches as measured at a point located immediately downstream of Weber Reservoir. In Caples Creek, a maximum release of approximately 40 cfs from Caples Lake in July and August would be well below the maximum release rate seen during summer in the last approximately 10 years of approximately 429 cfs, and would result in an average water depth in line with average summer releases as measured at a point located downstream of Caples Lake (typical depths in this period are as high as 3.6 feet which is greater than the 1.9 feet planned during the transfer). In the Silver Fork, a maximum release of approximately 28 cfs from Silver Lake and 40 cfs from Caples Lake would be well below the maximum release rate seen during the last 10 years of approximately 672 cfs and 429 cfs, respectively (see Tables 3-2 and 3-3 in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources"), and would not alter water depth over minimum releases as measured at a point located downstream of Silver Lake (with average stream widths of approximately 15 to 30 feet).

Because the volume and flow rates of transfer water released would be relatively small, there would not be any substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation. The small amount of the transfer (up to 8,000 AF) would not alter any drainage patterns or the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation. Agricultural activities and M&I usage in the Buyers' service areas would not change as a result of the proposed project, and no new on- or off-site erosion or siltation would occur. The impact would be **less than significant**.

- ii) **Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;**

No Impact. The proposed project would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding and would not increase flood flows or impose additional flood hazards. The proposed project would release a relatively small amount of water during the summer and fall months in the Buyers' service areas. As discussed under a) in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources," the proposed project would temporarily provide slightly more water in Weber Creek, SFAR, Folsom Reservoir, LAR, lower Sacramento River, and into the Delta. The proposed water transfer would occur during summer and fall, use existing lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers, and flows from the water transfer would be well within stream bankfull conditions and would not result in on- or off-site flooding. There would be **no impact**.

- iii) **Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or**

No Impact. The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems and, therefore, would not affect any stormwater drainage systems. In addition, the proposed project would not provide any substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. **No impact** would occur.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The proposed project would not include construction of any structures within the floodplain that could impede or redirect flood flows. Existing lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers, and conveyance facilities would be used for the water transfer. Flows from the water transfer would be well within stream bankfull conditions and within historic water levels in the facilities used for the transfer. The project would have **no impact** on flood flows.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. **No impact** would occur.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The project would not include construction activities that could temporarily degrade water quality and the proposed water transfer would not result in degradation of existing water quality in any of the reservoirs or waterways affected by the transfer. No groundwater would be pumped or recharged as a result of the project. In addition, agricultural activities and M&I water uses in the Buyers' service areas would not change as a result of the proposed project, and the project would not result in any violations to water quality standards. Use of the surface water from the proposed project in the Buyers' service areas would not increase groundwater pumping and may result in a decrease in groundwater pumping. Therefore, the project would not interfere with implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. **No impact** would occur.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning.				
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

Land use in the EID service area is varied and includes residential, commercial, industrial, public facilities, research and development, agricultural lands, open space, and recreational areas (EID 2013). Similar to land uses in EID's service area, land uses in the Buyers' service areas include agriculture, residential, commercial, industrial, public facilities, agricultural lands, open space, and recreational areas.

3.11.2 Discussion

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. Implementing the proposed project would use existing facilities to transfer water and would not result in changes in land use or construction of any new structures. Therefore, the project would not physically divide an established community. **No impact** would occur.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in a change in land use and would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. **No impact** would occur.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Mineral Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.12.1 Environmental Setting

Within EID's service area, mineral resource areas are mapped in the vicinity of Jenkinson Lake (DOC 2003). Various mineral resources are mapped within the Buyers' service areas including sand, gravel, and oil (DOC 2015).

3.12.2 Discussion

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

No Impact. Although mineral resources are mapped in the vicinity of Jenkinson Lake, no ground-disturbing activities are proposed near Jenkinson Lake and the lower Jenkinson Lake water level as a result of the proposed project would not affect mineral resources. Mineral resources in the vicinity of the Buyers' service areas would not be affected by the water transfer. The proposed project would not require the use of mineral resources and would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. **No impact** would occur.

- b) **Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?**

No Impact. Although mineral resources are mapped in the vicinity of Jenkinson Lake, no ground-disturbing activities are proposed near Jenkinson Lake and the lower Jenkinson Lake water level as a result of the proposed project would not affect mineral resources. Mineral resources in the vicinity of the Buyers' service areas would not be affected by the project. No loss of locally important minerals would occur with the proposed project. **No impact** would occur.

3.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII.Noise.				
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

Typical noise sources in the vicinity of the EID lakes, reservoirs, and waterways used to convey the water are dominated by vehicular traffic on local area roadways, recreational activities, and natural sources (i.e., flowing water, wildlife vocalizations, wind, and birds). Typical noise sources in the Buyers' service areas include equipment for agricultural production and road and air traffic.

3.13.2 Discussion

- a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?**

No Impact. No increase in ambient noise levels would occur in the EID service area as a result of the proposed project. Since no construction would result from the project and there would be no changes in land use practices, noise sources would not change relative to current conditions within the Buyers' service areas.

The proposed project would not introduce any new temporary or permanent noise sources. In addition, it would not alter the local environment, such as by increasing the noise production/exposure associated with existing, permanent sources of noise in the area of the proposed project. **No impact** would occur.

- b) **Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

No Impact. No temporary or permanent increase in groundborne vibration would result from the proposed project compared to existing conditions. **No impact** would occur.

- c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed project would not affect any airport operations and would not expose people on- or off-site to excessive noise levels. The proposed project would not affect any airstrip operations. Thus, implementing the proposed project would not expose people on- or off-site to excessive noise levels. **No impact** would occur.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Population and Housing.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.14.1 Environmental Setting

EID serves approximately 126,000 residents in El Dorado County, including residential, commercial, industrial, and agriculture users. The Buyers serve thousands of acres of farmland as well as M&I uses south of the Delta.

3.14.2 Discussion

- a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in a long-term or permanent water supply that would allow construction of new homes or businesses or extension of roadways or other infrastructure that could increase the population in the vicinity of the proposed project. Implementing the proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth. The proposed project could prevent agricultural land from becoming fallowed, but it would not expand agricultural activities beyond existing levels. **No impact** would occur.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not displace existing people or housing or necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere. **No impact** would occur.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

The EID reservoirs relevant to the proposed project are located within unincorporated areas of El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties, and are within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's departments and fire protection districts of those counties. CAL FIRE, county sheriff, and city police departments, and fire protection districts provide emergency services in the Buyers' service areas.

School districts in the vicinity of the EID lakes and reservoirs include Pollock Pines Elementary School District, Camino Union School District, and Gold Oak Elementary School District. Numerous school districts are located in the Buyers' service areas.

EID owns and operates several recreational facilities, including facilities at Jenkinson Lake (Sly Park Recreation Area), Caples Lake, and Silver Lake. Weber Reservoir has no recreation facilities or public access. There are also a number of recreational areas located in the Buyers' service areas.

3.15.2 Discussion

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

No Impact. The proposed project would not generate new residents and it would not include construction of any structures that would increase the demand for fire protection services. **No impact** would occur.

Police protection?

No Impact. The proposed project would not involve any activities that would result in an increase in demand for law enforcement services. The proposed water transfer would not result in the construction of any new housing, businesses, or other development that would increase demand for police protection services and facilities. **No impact** would occur.

Schools?

No Impact. The proposed project would not provide any new housing that would generate new students in the community. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase the demand for school services and facilities. **No impact** would occur.

Parks?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The proposed project would not provide any new housing that would generate new residents who would require new or expanded park facilities. The proposed project would temporarily draw down water levels in Jenkinson Lake within Sly Park Recreation Area by up to 8,000 AF; however, water levels would not drop below historic levels and any impacts to recreational opportunities at the lake would be minimal. Water levels at Caples Lake and Silver Lake would be the same with or without the project, and Weber Reservoir is not open to the public for recreational uses. No impact on recreational areas in the Buyers' service areas would occur since the project would not provide a permanent supply of water for new park facilities and/or support a permanent change in population increasing the demand for park facilities. The impact would be **less than significant**.

Other public facilities?

No Impact. Because the proposed project would use existing infrastructure and all operations and agricultural and M&I activities would occur within historical ranges, the project would not result in an increase in demand for public facilities. As part of the proposed project, EID and the Buyers would enter into a refill/conveyance agreement with DWR, in coordination with Reclamation, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties. There would be **no impact**.

3.16 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation.				
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.16.1 Environmental Setting

EID owns and operates several recreational facilities, including facilities at Jenkinson, Caples, and Silver lakes. Sly Park Recreation Area at Jenkinson Lake includes 640 surface acres of water, 10 picnic areas, 9 miles of shoreline, hiking and equestrian trails, two boat ramps, 191 individual campsites, and six group camping areas. Water skiing, wake boarding, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, cruising, and sailing are allowed within Jenkinson Lake. In 2018, Sly Park Recreation Area had almost 730,000 visitors (EID 2018b). Day use and hiking trails are also available around Caples and Silver lakes, and fishing and boating are allowed within these lakes.

The SFAR provides rafting, kayaking, and fishing opportunities, and trails in the vicinity provide opportunities for hiking, running, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Several recreational areas are located in the Buyers' service areas including state parks, city and county parks, and wildlife refuges.

3.16.2 Discussion

- a) **Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

No Impact. Implementing the proposed project would not cause physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities. The proposed project could result in temporary lower elevation levels in Jenkinson Lake and Weber Reservoir and slightly increased flows downstream of Weber Reservoir (but within historical levels) between June and November, but primarily spread over July, August, and September (see Tables 3-2, 3-3, 3-4 and Figure 3-1 in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources"). Given the small scale of the project and short-term nature of the water transfer, these temporary changes would not result in significant or permanent impacts to recreational uses. No impact on recreational facilities or uses in the Buyers' service areas would occur. The proposed project would not introduce new housing or employment opportunities, and thus it would not contribute to increased use of existing regional or local parks, marinas, or other recreational facilities, causing their deterioration. There would be **no impact**.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. No recreational facilities are proposed, and the project would not require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. The temporary water transfer would occur during June through November and would result in slightly increased flows downstream of Weber Reservoir and the SFAR downstream of Kyburz Diversion Dam and El Dorado Powerhouse. However such releases would remain within historical levels.

The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on recreation. EID recreation facilities and recreation opportunities downstream of the lakes and reservoirs would continue with the proposed project, and the proposed project would involve a relatively small amount of water that would be transferred over a short duration of time. No impact on recreational areas in the Buyers' service areas would occur. There would be **no impact**.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.17.1 Environmental Setting

Roads in the vicinity of the EID reservoirs include Weber Road near Weber Reservoir; Sly Park Road, Mormon Emigrant Trail, Lakewood Drive, and Lakewood Lane around Jenkinson Lake; State Route 88 near Caples and Silver lakes, and Kit Carson, Kays, West Lake, and Plasse roads around Silver Lake. Numerous interstates, highways, and local roadways are located throughout the Buyers' service areas.

3.17.2 Discussion

- a) **Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, nor would it otherwise decrease the performance of such facilities. **No impact** would occur.

- b) **Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b), which pertains to vehicle miles travelled?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not result in construction activities that would increase vehicle miles travelled (VMT) in the short-term. In addition, the proposed water transfer would not result in long-term changes in land uses or new facilities that would cause increases in VMT. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** related to increases in VMT.

- c) **Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not include any changes to roadway design or introduce incompatible uses. Thus, the project would not increase any roadway hazards or change the safety of the local transportation network. **No impact** would occur.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not require any road closures and no traffic flow would be interrupted on any roadway. The proposed project would not impair or interfere with emergency access to local roads and would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access. **No impact** would occur.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.18.1 Environmental Setting

The EID service area is situated in the ethnographic territory of the Nisenan, Miwok, and Southern Valley Yokuts Tribes. More specifically, the project extends through Eastern Miwok territory and the southern extent of Nisenan territory (Levy 1978: Figure 1; Wallace 1978: Figure 1; Wilson and Towne 1978: Figure 1). Most tribes in central California, including the Miwok and Nisenan, had similar subsistence-settlement patterns, material culture, and social structures. Southern Valley Yokuts had different subsistence patterns than the Miwok and Nisenan, which is not surprising given the different environments, though political units were very similar in size.

AB 52 CONSULTATION

AB 52, signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., in September 2014, established a new class of resources under CEQA: "tribal cultural resources." AB 52, as provided in PRC Section 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, and 21082.3, requires that, within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete, the lead agency undertaking CEQA review shall, upon written request of a California Native American Tribe, formally notify the tribal representative that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation. If consultation is requested, it shall begin prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report.

PRC 21074 states the following:

- a) "Tribal cultural resources" are either of the following:
 - 1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

- A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR.
- B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
- 2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- b) A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.
- c) A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a "nonunique archaeological resource" as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

AB 52 applies to those projects for which a lead agency had issued a notice of preparation of an EIR or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration on or after July 1, 2015. Therefore, the requirements of AB 52 apply to the proposed project.

Under AB 52, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Wopumnes Nisenan-Mewuk Nation of El Dorado County, and Wilton Rancheria have requested that EID, as a CEQA lead agency, formally notify them of any proposed projects within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. EID sent formal notification of the project to all of these tribes on January 23, 2020. A response from Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians was received on February 4, 2020. The Tribe stated that no known resources are in the project area and requested continued coordination and copies of any record searches. No other responses from tribes were received.

3.18.2 Discussion

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

and

- b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

No Impact. No Tribal Cultural Resources have been identified in the project area, and no ground-disturbing activities are proposed with the project. In addition, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource given that changes in lake and reservoir water levels and streamflow levels as a result of the water transfer would be within historical ranges, water would be transferred using existing waterways and infrastructure, and water delivered to the Buyers would be used to maintain existing agricultural activities and supply existing M&I water users. There would be **no impact**.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.19.1 Environmental Setting

EID serves approximately 126,000 residents in El Dorado County and the Buyers serve hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural land as well as M&I uses in various counties. As described above in Section 3.6, "Energy," the 21-megawatt El Dorado Hydroelectric Project is located on the SFAR and its tributaries, and on Echo Creek, a tributary to the Upper Truckee River, in El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties, and includes Silver Lake and Caples Lake. Power generated at the El Dorado Powerhouse is delivered to the PG&E transmission system at the El Dorado Powerhouse switchyard.

3.19.2 Discussion

- a) **Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

No Impact. The proposed project would not include changes to water treatment requirements for EID or the Buyers. The proposed project would not require wastewater service. Thus, expansion of existing or construction of new water or wastewater facilities would not be required. In addition, the project would not increase demand for natural gas or

telecommunication facilities. As discussed in Section 3.6, "Energy," the proposed water transfer would require pumping to transfer the water. However, the project would not require any new or expanded electrical facilities. There would be **no impact**.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Less-than-Significant Impact. No new water supplies would be required for the proposed project. In addition, the proposed project would not include any new development that would require public water supplies. Thus, no new or expanded water supply entitlements would be needed. The proposed project would provide up to 8,000 AF to the Buyers in 2020 to augment their water supply based on the reduced allocation of their CVP and SWP contract water and/or other water supply shortages. The water would be used within the Buyers' service areas in support of ongoing agricultural and M&I uses. EID would enter into a refill/conveyance agreements with DWR and Reclamation, as appropriate, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties to ensure the proposed project would have minimal or no effect on EID's ability to meet future water demand obligations. The impact would be **less than significant**.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. The proposed project would not increase wastewater generation. Thus, the proposed project would not exceed a wastewater treatment provider's capacity. **No impact** would occur.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

No Impact. The project is not expected to result in an increase in solid waste generation such that local standards or the capacity of local infrastructure would be exceeded. The project would not otherwise impair attainment of solid waste reduction goals. **No impact** would occur.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The project is not expected to generate solid waste that would need to comply with regulations and reduction statutes. **No impact** would occur.

3.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?				
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.20.1 Environmental Setting

The CAL FIRE classifies the areas near the EID lakes and reservoirs that are part of the project as high to very high fire hazard severity zones. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones are mapped within the Buyers' service areas (CAL FIRE 2019).

3.20.2 Discussion

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not require any road closures and no traffic flow would be significantly interrupted on any roadway. The proposed project would not impair or interfere with emergency access to local roads and would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access. In addition, the project would not alter potential emergency evacuation routes or impair an adopted emergency plan. **No impact** would occur.

- b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. The proposed project does not include any new housing or other land uses where the public would congregate; there would be no new project occupants that could be exposed to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. **No impact** would occur.

- c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact. In the event of a fire, existing access roads could be used to accommodate fire-fighting crews and equipment. No other infrastructure (such as roads, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment are proposed. **No impact** would occur.

- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact. The proposed project does not have the potential to expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects from post-fire flooding, landslides, or slope instability. The water transfer would not require construction of any new structures. The lakes, reservoirs, and waterways involved would be operated within the range of historical conditions. Water would be transferred with the proposed project via existing waterways and infrastructure and would be used for continued agricultural and M&I uses in the Buyers' service areas. Therefore, it would not place people or structures in an area with risks related to post-wildfire flooding, landslides, slope instability, or drainage changes. **No impact** would occur.

3.21 PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCES

Under the public trust doctrine, certain resources are held to be the property of all citizens and subject to continuing supervision by the State. Public trust resources may include, but are not limited to, fish, wildlife, other aquatic dependent species, riparian areas, and recreation. This IS evaluates potential impacts from the proposed water transfer on public trust resources. All impacts were found to be less than significant, or there would not be any impact at all. No mitigation measures are required because the water transfer has been proposed according to existing laws and regulations and no impacts (direct, indirect, or cumulative) were found to be significant or potentially significant. The ability to transfer water from a user with temporary water supplies to another user in need of additional water supplies has been recognized and encouraged by the State of California. The proposed project can be implemented without causing any unreasonable impacts to fish, wildlife, and other instream beneficial uses. Therefore, the proposed project is compatible with and complies with the public trust doctrine.

3.22 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXII. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.22.1 Discussion

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The analysis conducted in this IS concludes that implementation of the proposed project would not have a significant impact on the environment. As evaluated in Section 3.4, "Biological Resources," impacts on biological resources would be less than significant. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; or reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species.

As discussed in Section 3.5, "Cultural Resources," the proposed project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory and there would be no impact on cultural resources. Overall, this impact would be **less than significant**.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Less-than-Significant Impact. As discussed in this IS, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts or no impacts on aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and services systems, and wildfire.

The temporary nature of the proposed project, with short-term, minimal changes in hydrology and no construction activities or long-term operations and maintenance activities, would result in no impact or less-than-significant impacts on the physical environment. None of the proposed project’s impacts make cumulatively considerable, incremental contributions to significant cumulative impacts. To the contrary, the proposed project provides benefits to agricultural production by keeping more highly productive farmland in production while providing slightly higher flows in several streams within the American River watershed. Overall, these are beneficial effects and can be conducted without significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts. This impact would be **less than significant**.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts and would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The impact would be **less than significant**.

4 REFERENCES

1 Introduction

No citations were used in this chapter.

2 Project Description

California Department of Water Resources. 2019 (November 22). Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Long-Term Operation of the California State Water Project. State Clearinghouse No. 2019049121. Sacramento, CA.

California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2016 (December). *Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Waterfix Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement*. Figure ES-1. Available:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/california_waterfix/exhibits/exhibit102/exhibit102_vol1.html. Prepared by ICF International. Sacramento, CA. Accessed: February 2020. DWR. See California Department of Water Resources.

DWR and Reclamation. See California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

League to Save Sierra Lakes. 2004. Settlement Agreement and Release for All Claims between the League to Save Sierra Lakes and Aligned Parties and the El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Water Agency, and AKT Development Corporation.

Water Education Foundation. 2019. Aquapedia background: State Water Project. Available: <https://www.watereducation.org/aquapedia/state-water-project>.

Young, Greg. Principal. Tully & Young. Sacramento, CA. March 11, 2020—Email to Andrea Shephard of Ascent Environmental regarding modeling results, including figures and tables for the proposed EID 2020 Temporary Water Transfer.

3 Environmental Checklist

California Air Resources Board. 2018. State and National Area Designation Maps. Available: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/maps-state-and-federal-area-designations>. Accessed February 26, 2020.

California Department of Conservation. 2003. Important Mineral Resource Areas. Figure CO-1 in El Dorado County General Plan, Adopted July 19, 2004. Available: <https://www.edcgov.us/government/planning/adoptedgeneralplan/figures/documents/CO-1.pdf>. Accessed March 2, 2020.

———. 2015. Mineral Lands Classification Mapper. Available: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed February 26, 2020.

———. 2016a. California Important Farmland Mapper. Available: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed February 24, 2020.

———. 2016b (December). *The California Land Conservation Act of 1965: 2016 Status Report*. Available: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa/Documents/stats_reports/2016%20LCA%20Status%20Report.pdf. Accessed February 24, 2020.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2019 (December). *Volume II: Program Environmental Impact Report, As Revised. California Vegetation Treatment Program*. Figure 1-2. State Clearinghouse # 2019012052. Sacramento, CA.

- California Department of Water Resources. 2006 (July). *Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources*. Available: https://water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/climatechange/docs/CCprogress_nov06.pdf. Accessed March 5, 2020.
- . 2019 (November 22). *Draft Environmental Impact Report for Long-Term Operations of the State Water Project: Volume II*. State Clearinghouse No. 2019049121. Sacramento, CA.
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2020. Envirostor Database. Available: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed February 25, 2020.
- California Department of Transportation. 2019 (August). List of Eligible and Officially Designated State Scenic Highways. Available: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed February 27, 2020.
- California Energy Commission. 2020 (January). *Final 2019 Integrated Energy Policy Report*. Available: https://www2.energy.ca.gov/2019_energy_policy/. Accessed February 25, 2020.
- California Native Plant Society. 2020. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Available: <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>. Accessed February 25, 2020.
- California Natural Diversity Database. 2020. Results of electronic records search. Sacramento: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed February 26, 2020.
- CNDDb. See California Natural Diversity Database.
- CNPS. See California Native Plant Society.
- CNRA. See California Natural Resources Agency.
- California Natural Resources Agency. 2012. *Our Changing Climate 2012, Vulnerability and Adaptation to the Increasing Risk from Climate Change in California*. Available: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-007/CEC-500-2012-007.pdf>. Accessed March 5, 2020.
- California Natural Resources Agency. 2020 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. American (Lower), California. Available: <http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/american-lower.php>. Accessed March 5, 2020.
- ECORP Consulting, Inc. 2003. Weber Creek Benthic Macroinvertebrate Program: Results from 2001 and 2002 Sample Collection. Prepared for El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville, CA.
- . 2012 (February). 2011 Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Monitoring Plan Survey Results El Dorado Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 184. Prepared for El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville, CA.
- . 2013 (February). FERC Project No. 184 Rainbow Trout Monitoring 2012. Prepared for El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville, CA.
- El Dorado Irrigation District. 2005 (November). *Weber Dam and Reservoir Operations Manual*. Placerville, CA.
- . 2013 (March 31). *Integrated Water Resources Master Plan*. Prepared by HDR. Walnut Creek, CA.
- . 2018a. El Dorado Irrigation District 2018 Water Quality Report. Available: <https://www.eid.org/our-services/water/water-quality-report>. Accessed February 27, 2020.
- . 2018b. *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017*. Available: <https://www.eid.org/home/showdocument?id=12803>. Accessed February 4, 2020.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. 2006 (October). El Dorado Irrigation District Project No. 184-065 Order Issuing New License.
- Garcia and Associates. 2017a (February). *2016 Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Monitoring. El Dorado Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 184*. Prepared for El Dorado Irrigation District. Placerville, CA. Available: <file:///P:/2019/19010108.01%20-%20EID%20-%20TO#1%20->

- %202020%20Temp%20Water%20Transfer/3_Project%20library/References/Chapter%203/EID%202016.pdf. Accessed March 12, 2020.
- _____. 2017b (March). *2017 Rainbow Trout Monitoring El Dorado Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 184)*. Prepared for El Dorado Irrigation District. Placerville, CA. Available: <https://www.eid.org/home/showdocument?id=9785>. Accessed March 12, 2020.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2007 (February). *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC. Geneva, Switzerland.
- _____. 2013. *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis Working Group I Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Available: http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_ALL_FINAL.pdf. Accessed March 4, 2020.
- Levy, R. 1978. Eastern Miwok. In *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8, edited by Robert F. Heizer, 398-461. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, D.C.
- Pacific Gas & Electric. 2018. 2018 Power Mix. Available: https://www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/your-account/your-bill/understand-your-bill/bill-inserts/2019/1019-Power-Content-Label.pdf. Accessed February 25, 2020.
- State Water Resources Control Board. 2020. Geotracker Database. Available at: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed February 25, 2020.
- Wallace, William J. 1978. Southern Valley Yokuts. In *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8, edited by Robert F. Heizer, 448-461. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, D.C.
- Wilson, N.L. and A.H. Towne. 1978. Nisenan. In *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8, edited by Robert F. Heizer, 387-397. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, D.C.

This page intentionally left blank.

5 REPORT PREPARERS

El Dorado Irrigation District (Lead Agency)

Brian Deason Environmental Resources Supervisor

Dan Corcoran Director of Operations

Ascent Environmental (Environmental Consultant)

Gary Jakobs, AICP Principal

Andrea Shephard, PhD Project Manager

Stephanie Rasmussen Environmental Planner

Allison Fuller Biologist

Dan Krekelberg Climate Planning Specialist

Corey Alling Graphics

Gayety Lane Publishing Specialist

Tully & Young, Inc (Water Planning Consultant)

Greg Young Principal

Kris Olof Resource Planner/Engineer

This page intentionally left blank.