

MOJAVE WATER AGENCY PROPOSED MULTI-YEAR WATER TRANSFER TO KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY AND DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT

Initial Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Prepared for
Mojave Water Agency

February 2021



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

As lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) has prepared this Draft Initial Study (IS) and Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) to address the environmental consequences of the proposed Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District (proposed project). Current projections of future water supply reliability through State Water Project (SWP) and groundwater supplies show that MWA has the flexibility during average and wet years to transfer unused water deliveries from the SWP to Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) and Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) to offset some of MWA's costs associated with delivery of its SWP Table A water.

This document includes the:

1. IS with completed Environmental Checklist (consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines); and,
2. Proposed Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a ND to satisfy CEQA requirements.

This document will be available for public comment from February 24, 2021 to March 26, 2021 on the Mojave Water Agency website: <http://www.mojavewater.org/environmental-compliance.html>. Comments will be accepted in writing and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time on March 26, 2021. Following completion of the required public comment period, and before approving the proposed project, MWA will consider the ND together with any comments provided during the public comment period and will adopt the ND if, based on the whole of the record: (1) there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment; and (2) that it represents MWA's independent judgement and analysis.

1.1 Purpose of the Initial Study

This IS was prepared in accordance with the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. (CEQA) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq. (CEQA Guidelines). The purpose of this IS is to: (1) determine whether project implementation would result in potentially significant or significant effects to the environment; (2) incorporate mitigation measures into the proposed project design, as necessary, to eliminate the project's potentially significant or significant project effects or reduce them to a less-than-significant level; or, (3) determine whether there are any impacts that require mitigation measures.

1.2 Incorporation by Reference Information from the State Water Project Water Supply Contract Amendments for Water Management Final Draft Environmental Impact Report

This IS incorporates by reference, relevant information from the State Water Project Water Supply Contract Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (Water Management Tools EIR), State Clearinghouse Number 2018072033. The Water Management Tools Contract Amendment proposed to add, delete, and modify provisions of the State Water Project Contracts (Contracts) and to clarify certain terms of the Contracts that would provide greater water management for transfers and exchanges of SWP water within the SWP service area (including MWA's service area and the Westside Districts' service areas). The proposed Water Management Tools Contract Amendment would not build new or modify existing SWP facilities nor change any of the Contractors' Annual Table A amounts (including MWA, KCWA and DRWD). It would also not change the water supply delivered by the SWP, because SWP water would continue to be delivered to the SWP Contractors consistent with current Contract terms and all regulatory requirements. The Water Management Tools Final EIR was certified and approved by DWR, as the lead agency, on August 28, 2020. As described in the Water Management Tools Final EIR, the EIR may also be used by the Contractors, as responsible agencies under CEQA, in their discretionary approval processes within their jurisdictions to meet the CEQA requirements for their specific transfers or exchanges.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, each resource topic in Chapter 3 of this IS includes a summary of relevant SWP environmental setting information and impact conclusions presented in the Chapter 5, *Environmental Analysis*, of the Water Management Tools Final EIR.

1.3 Summary of Findings

Based on the analysis in Chapter 3, *Initial Study and Environmental Checklist*, implementation of the proposed project would result in no impacts on the following resources:

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Land Use and Land Use Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Less-than significant impacts on the following issue areas:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

CHAPTER 2

Project Description

2.1 Background

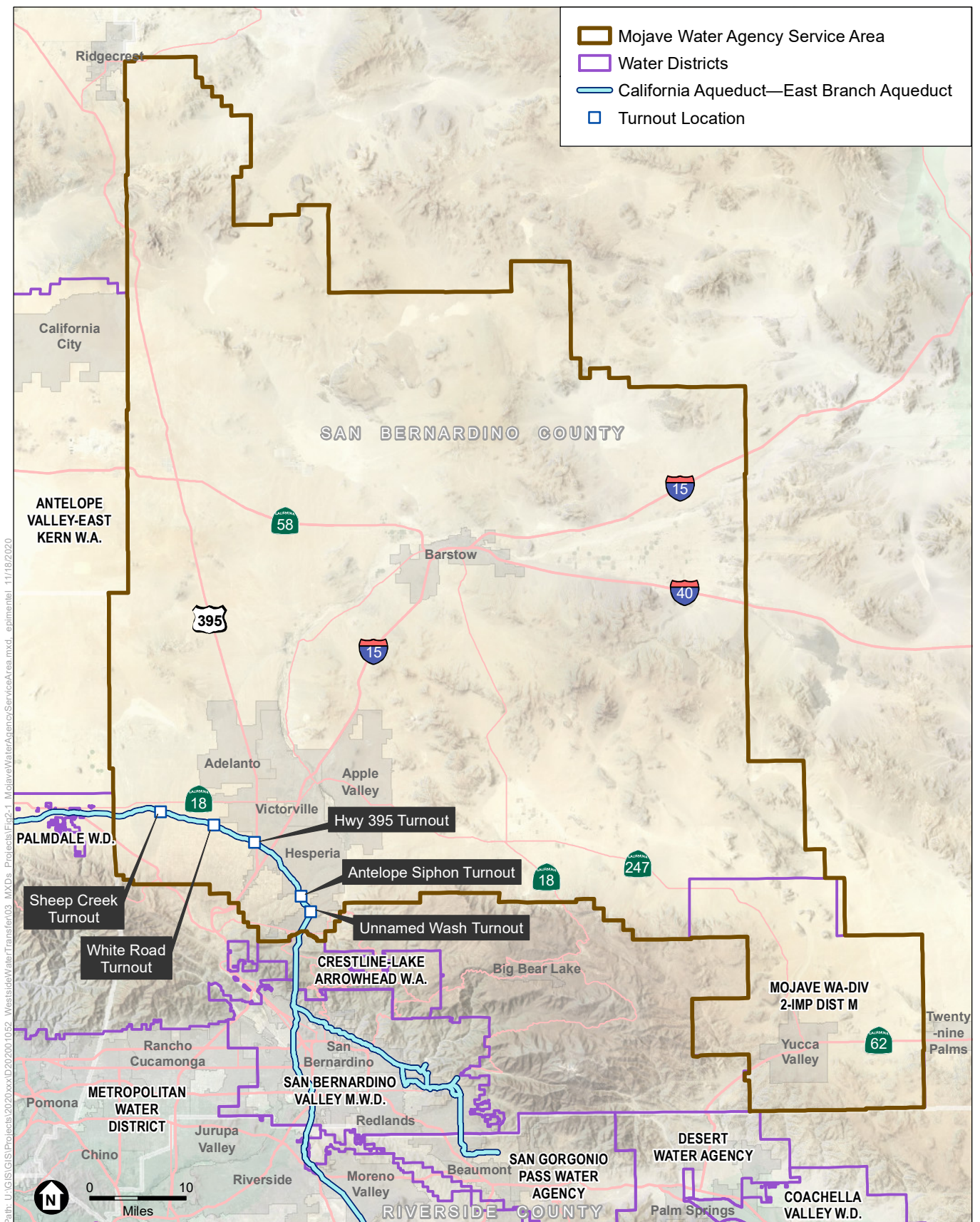
The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) was founded July 21, 1960, due to concerns over declining groundwater levels. MWA was created for the explicit purpose of doing “*any and every act necessary, so that sufficient water may be available for any present or future beneficial use of the lands and inhabitants within the Agency's jurisdiction.*”¹ The MWA is one of 29 State Water Project (SWP) Contractors (Contractors) that together provide Californians with drinking water and irrigation water for 750,000 acres of farmland. MWA serves an area of 4,900 square miles of the High Desert in San Bernardino County as shown on **Figure 2-1**. MWA supplies wholesale untreated water to water purveyors within its service area for municipal and industrial water uses.

Current water supplies to meet demand in MWA’s service area are from local surface water, groundwater, and surface water from the SWP. Surface water supplies in the MWA service area include natural runoff, unused water returned to the groundwater aquifer, and imported treated wastewater. Groundwater supply comes from direct pumping within the MWA-managed Mojave Basin Area. To supplement local groundwater supplies, MWA contracted with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for delivery of SWP water, providing an imported water to recharge or bank water in the groundwater basins. However, the variability in SWP deliveries affect the ability of MWA to meet the overall water supply needs for its service area. This annual variability is managed by the use of the groundwater aquifer for pre-storing, or banking, SWP water in the aquifer, when it is available. This conjunctive use of SWP water and other water in MWA’s portfolio help to recharge the groundwater basin average or wet years so that water is available to meet demands in dry years, as documented in MWA’s Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The projected demand compared to available supply documented in MWA’s UWMP show that during average water years, demand is met for the next 20 years with an excess of existing supplies leftover. During dry years, demand is met for every year in the next 20 years.²

Current projections of future water supply reliability through SWP and groundwater supplies shows that MWA has the flexibility during below average and wetter conditions to transfer unused water deliveries from the SWP to other Contractors (Contractors) to offset some of MWA’s costs associated with delivery of SWP Table A water. The Water Management Amendment to the SWP Water Supply Contract would allow Contractors to enter into water

¹ MWA Law, Chapter 97-1.5, dated July 21, 1960.

² Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. 2016. *2015 Urban Water Management Plan*. Adopted by MWA on June 9, 2016.



Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-Year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District

SOURCE: Esri, 2018; Mojave Water Agency, 2020; ESA, 2020



Figure 2-1
Mojave Water Agency Service Area

transfers, as primarily defined in the pending Water Management Amendment to the SWP Water Supply Contracts, subject to DWR's approval. The transfer provisions facilitate the Contractors' abilities to:

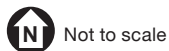
- transfer SWP water for multiple years without permanently relinquishing that portion of their Annual Table A amounts;
- negotiate cost compensation and duration among the Contractors on a willing seller-willing buyer basis for water transfers;
- request DWR approval of Transfer Packages; and
- transfer carryover water in San Luis Reservoir.

All these transfer provisions provide the Contractors with increased flexibility for short-term and long-term planning and management of their SWP water supplies and do not change Contractors' permanent Annual Table A amounts. As noted above, subject to the Water Management Amendment to the SWP Water Supply Contracts being executed between DWR and each of the Contractors, DWR approval of the water transfer would be required.

In the effort to recapture a portion of fixed costs paid for delivery of SWP water, MWA has negotiated a multi-year transfer of a portion of its annual allocation SWP Table A water above its total annual water demand to the following five water districts: Berrenda Mesa Water District (BMWD), Belridge Water Storage District (BWSD), Lost Hills Water District (LHWD), Wheeler Ridge–Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSD), and DRWD, collectively referred to in this document as the Westside Districts. All of the Westside Districts, except DRWD, are KCWA Member Units; along with MWA, both KCWA and DRWD are Contractors. The water transfer (proposed project) would be based on MWA transferring a minimum quantity of SWP Table A water to the Westside Districts based on the annual allocations from DWR and additional SWP Table A water to the Westside Districts if MWA has additional SWP Table A water to transfer and Westside Districts request delivery of all or a portion of the additional water. The proposed project would commence in 2021 after the Water Management Amendment to the SWP Water Supply Contract have been executed between DWR and the Contractors, CEQA has been complied with, an agreement between MWA and the Westside Districts has been executed, and all other regulatory approvals have been obtained. The proposed project would terminate in 2035. Details of the proposed project are provided in Section 2.5, Project Description.

2.1.1 State Water Project

Managed by DWR, the SWP is the largest state-owned, multi-purpose, user-financed water storage and delivery system in the United States. SWP facilities deliver water through contracts between DWR and the 29 Contractors, including the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD. The Contractors receive water service from the SWP in exchange for paying all costs that are associated with the planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the SWP facilities that are attributable to water supply. See **Figure 2-2** for a map of the SWP primary water delivery facilities and **Figure 2-3** of SWP Contractors' Service Areas. The Contractors include local water agencies and districts legislatively enabled to serve irrigation, municipal, and industrial water supply customers or retail

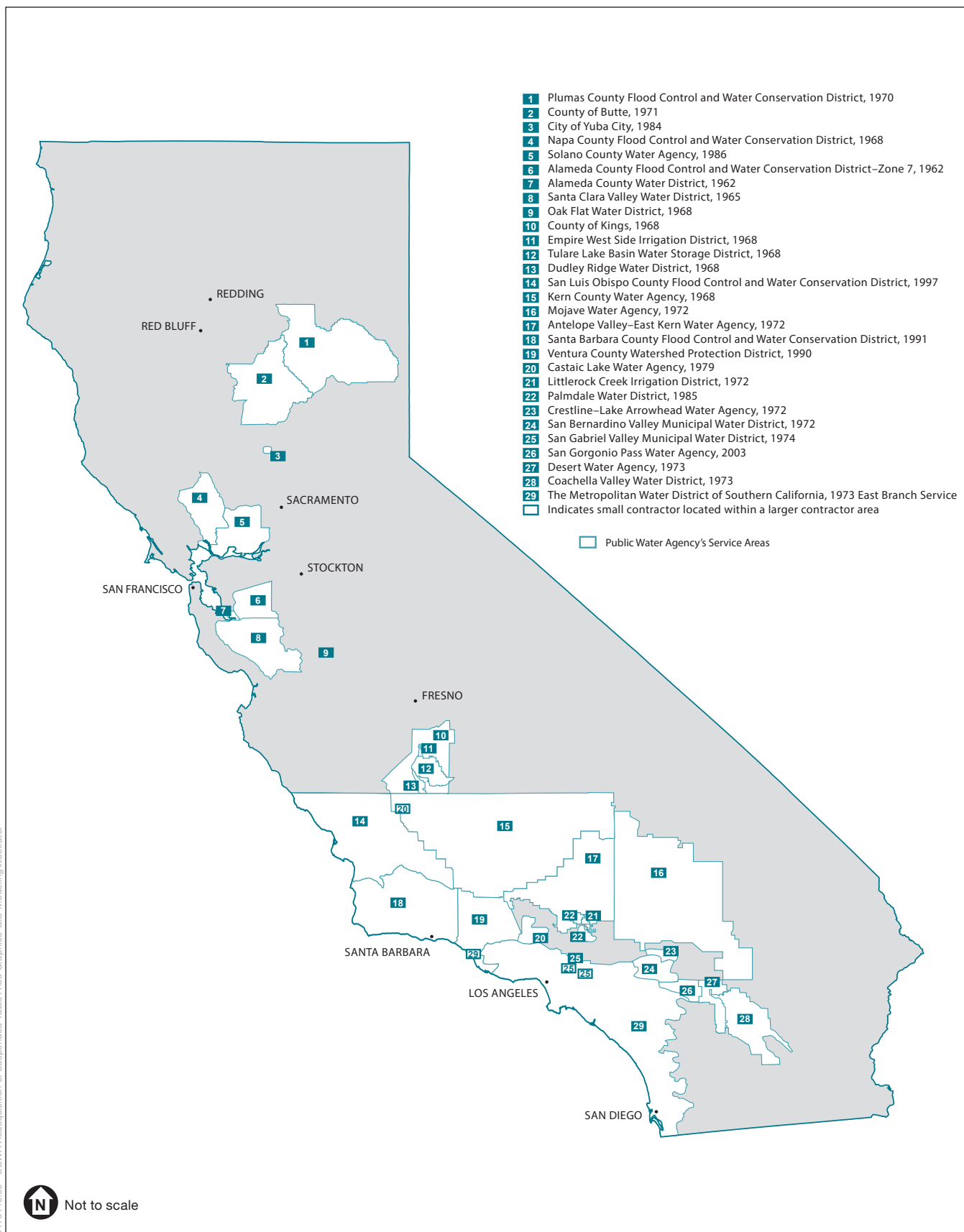


Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-Year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District

SOURCE: California Department of
Water Resources, Bulletin 132-16,
June 2017



Figure 2-2
Primary State Water Project Water Delivery Facilities



Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-Year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District

SOURCE: California Department of
Water Resources, Bulletin 132-16,
June 2017



Figure 2-3
Contractors' Service Areas

water supply agencies throughout Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. For most Contractors, SWP water supplements supplies from other sources within each Contractor's respective service areas, including groundwater, local surface water, other imported water supplies, recycled water, and desalinated water.

State Water Project Deliveries

The SWP Table A amount is specified in each Contractor's contract in a schedule that sets forth the maximum annual amount of water that may be requested to be delivered (Annual Table A amount) (see **Table 2-1**). The Contractor contracts were structured to reflect anticipated increasing population and water demand, estimated by DWR and the Contractors, and completion of SWP facilities. The current combined maximum annual Table A amount for all Contractors is 4.172 million acre-feet per year (AFY), although the average yield for the SWP is currently about 2.414 million AFY.

Whenever the available supply of Table A water determined by DWR is less than the total of all Contractors' requests, the available supply of Table A water is allocated among all Contractors in proportion to each Contractor's annual Table A amount relative to the total annual Table A amounts pursuant to Article 18 of the Water Supply Contracts.

Contractors have the opportunity to carry over, or retain, a portion of their allocated Table A water in SWP conservation reservoirs (historically San Luis Reservoir) from one year into the following year(s), subject to conservation reservoir operations including reservoir levels and filling cycles. Carrying over water allows the Contractors to make the most beneficial use of allocated water by not losing such supply at the end of the year, and for contingency planning in case the next year is dry.

Under Article 56(c) of the Water Supply Contracts, Contractors may store SWP and non-SWP water in SWP conservation reservoirs when the storage capacity is not needed by the SWP for SWP purposes. Historically, this water has been stored in San Luis Reservoir and can be "carried over" from one year to the next. DWR allocates available storage among requesting Contractors in proportion to their annual Table A amounts, as specified in the article. As DWR needs the storage space for SWP purposes, the carryover water stored for Contractors starts to "spill". In other words, the carryover water stored for Contractors reverts to SWP supply at the same rate DWR would otherwise have been able to fill that storage.

As mentioned previously, the SWP Water Supply Contract Article 56 provisions allow Contractors to transfer water based on terms they establish for cost compensation and duration. A water transfer can be as long as the remainder of the term of a Contractor's Water Supply Contract. In addition, upon implementation of the Water Management Amendment, a Contractor is able to store and transfer water in the same year, and transfer up to 50 percent of its carryover water that is stored in San Luis Reservoir, but only for a single-year transfer (i.e., a future or multi-year commitment of transferring carryover water is not allowed).

TABLE 2-1
MAXIMUM ANNUAL TABLE A AMOUNTS

SWP Contractors	Table A Amount (AF)	Type
Alameda County FC&WCD, Zone 7	80,619	M&I ¹
Alameda County WD	42,000	M&I
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	144,844	M&I/Agricultural ²
Butte County	27,500	M&I
Santa Clarita WA (formerly Castaic Lake WA)	95,200	M&I
Coachella Valley WD	138,350	M&I
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA	5,800	M&I
Desert WA	55,750	M&I
Dudley Ridge WD	41,350	Agricultural
Empire West Side ID	3,000	Agricultural
Kern County WA	982,730	Agricultural/M&I ³
Kings County	9,305	Agricultural
Littlerock Creek ID	2,300	M&I
Mojave WA	89,800	M&I
Metropolitan WDSC	1,911,500	M&I
Napa County FC&WCD	29,025	M&I
Oak Flat WD	5,700	Agricultural
Palmdale WD	21,300	M&I
Plumas County FC&WCD	2,700	M&I
San Bernardino Valley Metropolitan WD	102,600	M&I
San Gabriel Valley Municipal WD	28,800	M&I
San Geronio Pass WA	17,300	M&I
San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD	25,000	M&I
Santa Barbara County FC&WCD	45,486	M&I
Santa Clara Valley WD	100,000	M&I
Solano County WA	47,756	M&I
Tulare Lake Basin WSD	87,471	Agricultural
Ventura County FCD	20,000	M&I
Yuba City	9,600	M&I
Total	4,172,786	

NOTES:

¹ Municipal and Industrial.² Approximately 25 percent of Antelope Valley-East Kern WAs SWP water is used by agriculture.³ Approximately 15 percent of Kern County WA's Annual Table A amount is classified as municipal and industrial (M&I).

SOURCE: California Department of Water Resources – State Water Project Analysis Office

The following is an example of a multi-year transfer: Two Contractors could enter into a long-term transfer agreement for 15 years where Contractor1 would allocate a portion of their Table A water to Contractor2 beginning in 2021, and Contractor1 would not take delivery of that portion of their Table A water for 15 years. In 2035, when the long-term transfer term expires, Contractor1 would reclaim that portion of their Table A water. Contractor2 would be able to use a portion of Contractor1's Table A water for the 15 year period, but would not permanently rely on that water because it is not a permanent transfer of Contractor1's annual Table A amounts. This is just one example of an allowable water transfer and does not represent all the various ways transfer agreements can be prepared.

Table 2-2 shows deliveries to all Contractors for the period 1996 to 2019.

TABLE 2-2
STATE WATER PROJECT 1996–2019 HISTORICAL WATER ALLOCATIONS AND DELIVERIES (AF)

Year	Initial Table A Requests	Final Allocation Percentage	SWP Water Deliveries ¹	Other Water Deliveries ²	Total Deliveries
1996	2,708,157	66%	2,545,224	29,791	2,575,015
1997	2,977,246	73%	2,285,385	94,721	2,380,106
1998	3,191,045	78%	1,745,897	99,252	1,845,149
1999	3,214,259	78%	2,896,960	26,302	2,923,262
2000	3,616,645	90%	3,487,292	97,375	3,584,667
2001	4,124,136	39%	1,627,436	414,682	2,042,118
2002	3,913,698	70%	2,717,798	132,417	2,850,215
2003	4,126,926	90%	3,065,241	102,363	3,167,604
2004	4,128,811	65%	2,864,342	255,236	3,119,578
2005	4,125,686	90%	3,558,339	68,665	3,627,004
2006	4,126,831	100%	3,594,688	96,880	3,691,568
2007	4,066,854	60%	2,490,970	505,659	2,996,629
2008	4,165,931	35%	1,246,969	703,999	1,950,968
2009	4,166,376	40%	1,427,733	506,002	1,933,735
2010	4,158,246	50%	2,039,332	621,628	2,660,960
2011	4,172,126	80%	3,268,263	328,486	3,596,749
2012	4,172,256	65%	2,593,699	254,383	2,848,082
2013	4,172,396	35%	1,623,212	484,360	2,107,572
2014	4,172,536	5%	477,477	602,362	1,079,839
2015	4,172,686	20%	847,237	528,299	1,375,536
2016	4,172,786	60%	2,025,210	274,469	2,299,679
2017	4,172,786	85%	3,403,278	329,249	3,732,527
2018	4,172,786	35%	1,569,626	415,097	1,984,723
2019	4,172,786	75%	2,818,259	231,249	3,049,508

NOTES:

¹ Includes Table A, Carryover Water, Article 21, Pool Water Program and other SWP water.

² Includes Water Bank Recovery, Delivery of Backup Water, Dry Year Purchase and Temporary Transfer, and Other Non-SWP Water delivered through SWP facilities.

2.1.2 SWP Aqueduct Water Delivery Facilities

SWP water is delivered to the MWA from the California Aqueduct via the East Branch Aqueduct at five turnouts (see Figure 2-1). The East Branch Aqueduct extends from the Tehachapi Afterbay to Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County and terminates at Lake Perris. In addition to the turnouts, MWA takes water delivery from Cedar Springs Dam at Silverwood Lake, for groundwater recharge beginning at the headwaters of the Mojave River. SWP water is delivered to the Westside Districts from turnouts located along the California Aqueduct and the Coastal Branch Aqueduct for BMWD alone. Five turnouts serve SWP water to DRWD in Kings County, while the rest of the Westside Districts are served SWP water through a total of 34 turnouts in Kern County as KCWA Member Units. **Figure 2-4** shows the location of the California Aqueduct and the Coastal Branch Aqueduct in relation to the locations of the Westside Districts' service areas.

2.2 Need for Project

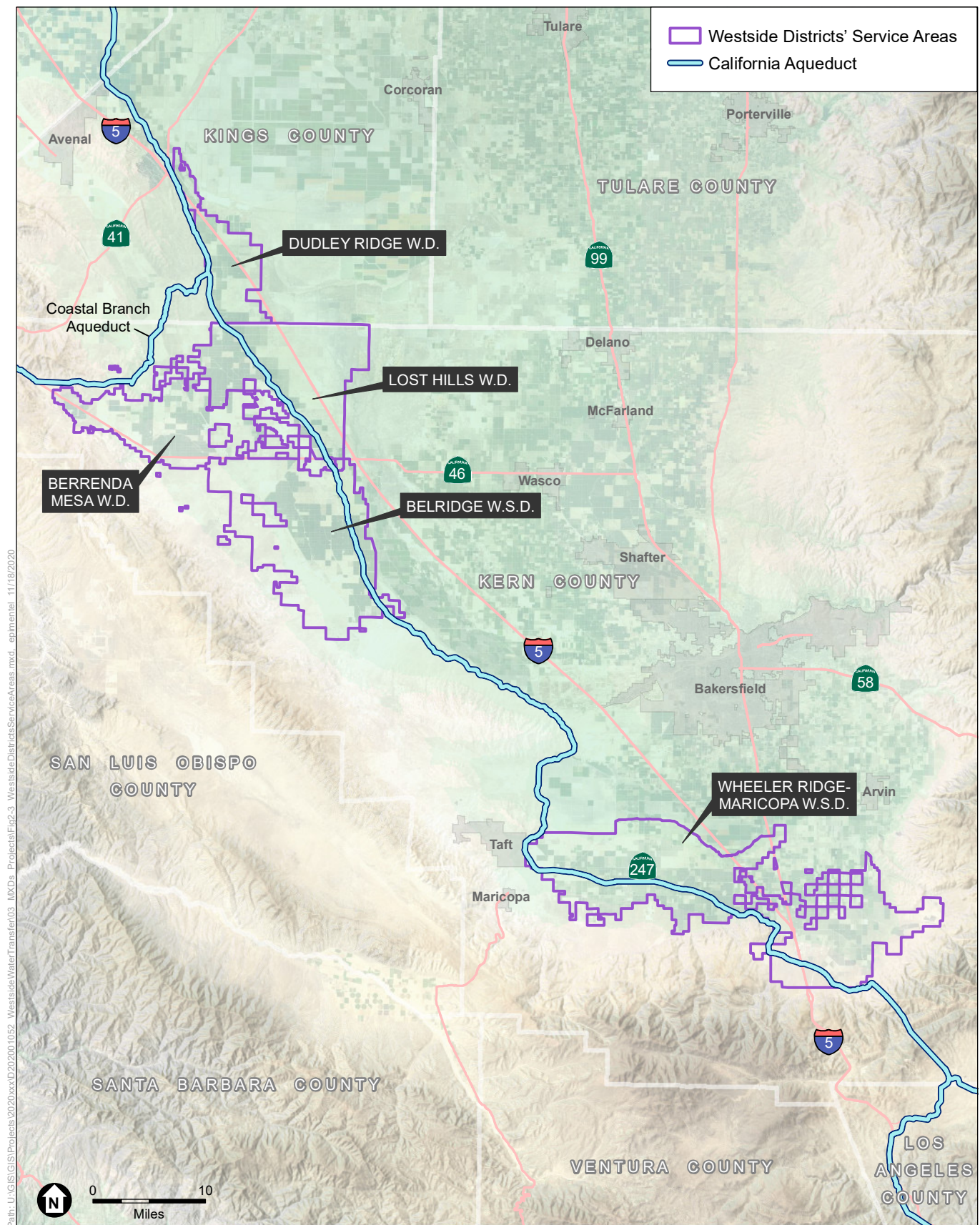
Operational constraints of the SWP (demand, design capacity, hydrology, water rights, and regulatory and other environmental protection constraints) affect how much and when water can be exported and delivered through the system. Each year DWR determines the percent allocation of the Table A amount that will be delivered based upon a number of variables including hydrologic and regulatory constraints, reservoir storage, accretions, and transportation losses. For the years 1996 through 2015, average SWP water supply deliveries to MWA range from a high of 46,109 AF to a low of 3,581 AF. MWA did not take delivery of its full annual allocation in a number of years during this period. While, the long-term reliability of the Table A water is 58 percent (current average annual reliability), future reliability of SWP deliveries will continue to be influenced by factors such as climate change and operational pumping restrictions, which in turn are anticipated to reduce SWP delivery reliability further.³ Based on the current average annual reliability, MWA's average allocation of Table A is 52,084 AFY. MWA has determined that under average water years this amount of water can exceed the water needed to meet current and future demands for the next 20 years.⁴ The proposed project would provide MWA payments from the Westside Districts for transferred water to offset MWA's fixed costs for its Table A water. In addition, the Westside Districts need additional water supplies to maintain their customer demands that were established when SWP deliveries were higher and more reliable.

2.3 Study Area

The study area for the proposed project is the SWP service area, which includes the water delivery facilities and service areas of all 29 Contractors (see Figure 2-3). Within the SWP service area is MWA's service area and the Westside Districts' service areas.

³ DWR. 2020. *The Final State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2019*. Approved August 26, 2020.

⁴ Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. 2016. *2015 Urban Water Management Plan*. Adopted by MWA on June 9, 2016.



Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-Year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District

SOURCE: Esri, 2018; Mojave Water Agency, 2020; ESA, 2020



Figure 2-4
Westside Districts' Service Areas

2.4 Project Objectives

The proposed project would establish a water transfer agreement between MWA and the Westside Districts to meet the following project objectives:

1. Provide a legal means to establish a multi-year water transfer agreement under Article 56 of the pending Water Management Amendment to the SWP Water Supply Contract with DWR.
2. Establish a method, in coordination with MWA's annual Table A allocation notification from DWR, for MWA to make transfer water available to the Westside Districts and for the Westside Districts to request additional water should MWA make additional water available in any given year.
3. Provide transfers of available MWA water to the Westside Districts to help meet their existing agricultural demands.
4. Establish an agreement on cost compensation and duration between MWA and the Westside Districts on a willing seller-willing buyer basis for water transfers.
5. Increase the Westside Districts' future water supply reliability to meet current customer demands.

2.5 Project Description

The proposed project is a multi-year water transfer agreement between MWA (Seller) and the Westside Districts (Buyers) based on DWR's annual notification of delivery allocation of Table A water on the first of May as shown in **Table 2-3**. If more Table A water is available above the minimums shown in Table 2-3, MWA would have complete discretion on how much water would be offered for transfer to the Westside Districts after first priority is given to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) under an existing agreement with MWA. Under the existing agreement between MWA and MWD, MWD can request up to 18,812 AF of water. After the delivery of the 18,812 AF is completed, MWA is no longer obligated to deliver water to MWD. The Westside Districts would be obligated to pay for the minimum quantity of Table A water made available by MWA for transfer, whether or not the Westside Districts take delivery of the water. Table A water not delivered to the Westside Districts would not be carried over for delivery from MWA into another year.

TABLE 2-3
MINIMUM CONTRACTUAL DELIVERY QUANTITY

SWP Allocation Range (%)	Minimum Quantity (AF)
60 to 100	25,000
55 to 59	30,000
45 to 54	25,000
40 to 44	20,000
35 to 39	15,000

Based on MWA's finalized quantity of transfer water to be made available, MWA, DRWD, and KCWA would notify DWR of the transfer and preliminary delivery schedule. The Westside Districts would decide annually how the water would be distributed between their districts, but typically 14.34 percent would be allocated to DRWD and 85.66 percent would go to the four KCWA Member Units. In some years, particularly in wetter years, all of the available transferred water from the MWA could be delivered to the Westside Districts within KCWA. The point of delivery to the Westside Districts would be from the Banks Pumping plant in Reach 1 of the California Aqueduct to the existing turnouts for delivery to each of the Westside Districts in Kings County (DRWD) and Kern County (KCWA Member Units), including turnouts off the California Aqueduct to any groundwater banking projects used by the Westside Districts and their landowners for storage and use of non-native groundwater supplies. The water transferred to the Westside Districts may be used for: (1) deliveries directly to growers in the then-current year; (2) deliveries to groundwater banking facilities for use in future years; and/or (3) carrying over in SWP facilities (e.g., San Luis Reservoir) for use in the following year. The transfer and use of transferred water would be consistent with the provisions of the SWP Contract water management provisions.

Implementation of the proposed project would decrease the annual Table A amount delivered to MWA and increase the annual Table A amount delivered to the Westside Districts when transfers are executed, but would not change the annual Table A amounts delivered or allocations of any of the other 26 Contractors. **Table 2-4** presents the projected increase in water availability with the proposed project for DRWD and the rest of the Westside Districts based on the proposed distribution noted above, assuming future long-term reliability of the Table A water is 58 percent (current average annual reliability). Should the years be wetter or drier than the average, allocation of Table A water would result in the minimum amount available for transfer at greater or lesser amounts than presented in the Table 2-4. As shown in Table 2-4, if the SWP allocation of Table A is 100 percent, then MWA could transfer the total amount of its Table A to the Westside Districts (e.g., 89,800 AF); this scenario is unlikely, both for the reasons that 100-percent SWP allocations are not anticipated to occur and that MWA would most likely use a portion of its' SWP allocation in any given year. However, this IS/ND assesses this unlikely condition. Further, in any given year, MWA would have the option to transfer its total SWP allocation, even in years where SWP allocations were below 35 percent. Under the proposed project, MWA would meet its projected water demands in its service area prior to determining the amount of water available for transfer to the Westside Districts. If water demands within MWA's service require use of all or a portion of the SWP allocation in a given year, then transfers to the Westside Districts would be reduced accordingly based on MWA's need to first meet its in-agency demand. In order to address potential changes in future supply reliabilities, MWA would review the contractual delivery quantities shown in Table 2-3 every five years to reassess the allocation ranges and minimum quantities.

TABLE 2-4
PROJECTED INCREASE IN WATER AVAILABILITY WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT

District	Maximum Table A Amount (AF)	Average Allocation (AF) ¹	Minimum Amount of Transfer from MWA (AF) ¹	Maximum Amount of Transfer from MWA (AF) ²	Total Allocation with Proposed Project (AF) (Minimum ¹ /Maximum)
DRWD	41,350	23,983	4,302	12,877	28,285/54,227
KCWA Member Units	530,306	307,577	25,698	76,923	333,275/607,229

NOTES:

¹ Using current average annual reliability of 58 percent allocation of Table A.

² Using maximum allocation (100%) of MWA Table A and assuming 0 demand for SWP Table A in a given year.

It is anticipated that the proposed transfer of Table A to the Westside Districts could increase the reliability of their water supply portfolios as follows:

- Increase the quantity of SWP water delivered to their customers in any year;
- Decrease the quantity of non-SWP water needed to be acquired and delivered to their customers in any year;
- Reduce groundwater pumping and further conjunctive management of local groundwater basins, including augmenting non-native groundwater supplies;
- Increase the quantity of SWP water in storage (whether in the SWP, local reservoirs and/or groundwater water banks) to augment water supply reliability during low SWP allocation years; and/or
- Provide an additional buffer against drought.

Actual use of the transferred annual Table A water from MWA to the Westside Districts to increase water supply reliability would be determined by each recipient, however, the use of water within the Westside Districts would be for agricultural purposes. All the water transferred by the proposed project would be used within the service areas of the Westside Districts to serve agricultural water users. The water from the proposed project would not be used to expand agricultural plantings beyond that have been historically cultivated. All transferred water would be received through existing turnouts along the California Aqueduct and Coastal Branch Aqueduct and distributed with the existing distribution systems owned, operated, and maintained by the Westside Districts. Transferred water could be used by the Westside Districts for banking in groundwater storage projects at either the Kern Water Bank, Berrenda Mesa Water Bank, or Pioneer Water Bank.

Implementation of the proposed project does not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas and will not require modification to the operation of any such facilities. The total amount of SWP water available for allocation to all Contractors in any year would not change. The total amount of SWP water pumped by DWR from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) would not change. The SWP Contracts Table A amount for MWA, KCWA, DRWD, or any other SWP contractor would not change.

2.6 Required Permits and Approvals

The proposed project would require the approval of MWA as the CEQA Lead Agency, each of the Westside Districts, KCWA, and DWR.

CHAPTER 3

Initial Study

- 1. Project Title:** Mojave Water Agency Proposed Multi-year Water Transfer to Kern County Water Agency and Dudley Ridge Water District
- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** Mojave Water Agency
13846 Conference Center Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** Adnan Anabtawi
(760) 987-6727
- 4. Project Location:** Kings, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties
- 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Mojave Water Agency
- 6. General Plan Designation(s):** Land uses within the Mojave Water Agency and Westside Districts (see below) service areas that receive water from the California State Water Project are primarily designated as agriculture, municipal, and industrial.
- 7. Zoning:** Land uses within the Mojave Water Agency and Westside Districts (see below) service areas that receive water from the California State Water Project are primarily zoned as agriculture, municipal, and industrial.
- 8. Description of Project:** (Describe the whole action involved, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
See project description in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.
- 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.** (Briefly describe the project's surroundings.)
See project description in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.
- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)
Dudley Ridge Water District, Lost Hills Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, and Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District (Westside Districts) as Responsible Agencies for approval of the transfer agreement with Mojave Water Agency. Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) as a Responsible Agency for approval of the

transfer for the four KCWA Member Units. California Department of Water Resources as a Responsible Agency for approval of the transfer under appropriate DWR Contract provisions with Mojave Water Agency, Dudley Ridge Water District, and Kern County Water Agency.

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, has consultation begun?

Yes

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

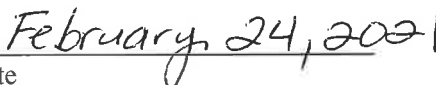
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forest Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input 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 |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study:

- ☒ 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

3.2 Environmental Checklist

Aesthetics

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
1. AESTHETICS — Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, 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 point). 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 daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.2, *Aesthetics* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Visual or aesthetic resources are comprised of both the natural and built features of the landscape that contribute to the public's experience and appreciation of the environment.

SWP conveyance facilities include water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the state of California. These facilities include the use of natural stream channels in Northern California that deliver water to the Delta. Water is then pumped to the California Aqueduct system for delivery to Contractors located south of the Delta. Surrounding land uses include agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and open space uses. Large portions of the California Aqueduct are visible to vehicle travelers on Interstate 5 (I-5) as it winds along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

The MWA service area is located within the High Desert in San Bernardino County. The regions visual character is defined by flat, arid landscape flanked by mountainous terrain to the north, east, and south.

The Westside Districts' service area, located in Kings County and Kern County, consist primarily of cultivated land (i.e., orchards, vineyards, and row crops). The Kings River, located along the Kings County northern border, and the Kern River, located in central Kern County, are the most prominent scenic resources in those counties.

A scenic highway designation by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) through the California Scenic Highway Program is based on the scenic quality of the landscape, the amount of natural landscape that can be seen by travelers, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the landscape. Designated scenic highways within Kings County includes a segment of State Route (SR) 41 (Kings County, 2010). Designated scenic highways within Kern County includes of SR-41, SR-58, SR-14, and State Highway 395 (Kern County, 2009).

Discussion

- a-c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would involve a multi-year transfer of allocated Table A water from MWA to the Westside Districts. The Westside Districts would use the water within the individual service areas to improve water supply reliability for existing agricultural uses. The proposed project would not change the amount of SWP water available for allocation to all other Contractors in any year and would not result in changes to operation of the SWP.

In addition, the proposed project would not include the construction or operation of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP facilities or other water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the MWA or Westside Districts service areas. Therefore, the proposed project would not be anticipated to result in changes to land uses that could affect the existing visual character or quality and resources, including scenic vistas or scenic highways, or public views within the study area, and no impact would occur.

- d) **No Impact.** Because the proposed project would not include the construction or operation of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities within the study area, there would be no new sources of light or glare over existing conditions, and no impact would occur.

References

- Kern County. 2009. *General Plan Kern County*. https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_Complete.pdf. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- Kings County. 2010. *County of Kings 2035 General Plan*. <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>. Accessed November 18, 2020.

Agricultural and Forest Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
2. AGRICULTURAL 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) prepared by the California Dept. 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.3, *Agricultural and Forest Resources* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) administers the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), California's statewide agricultural land inventory. Through this mapping effort, the DOC classifies farmland into four categories: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance. The study area includes large areas of the State that include all of the farmland categories. Approximately 750,000 acres of agricultural land, primarily in the San Joaquin Valley, is irrigated with water delivered by the SWP. Both the MWA and Westside Districts service area has Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance (DOC, 2016). However, while the Westside Districts' service areas are predominantly agricultural-based, the MWA service area has agricultural lands found sporadically throughout in the southwest portion of San Bernardino County.

The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open-space use (DOC, 2019). Both the MWA and Westside Districts' service areas has a number of active Williamson Act contracts in place.

Forest land is defined as native tree cover greater than 10 percent. Timberland is forest land available for harvest and has the capacity to be harvested over a long period of time. The study area includes timberland in the watersheds that are part of the SWP system. There is no forest land located within the service areas of the Westside Districts or MWA.

Discussion

- a-e) **No Impact.** Under existing conditions, only a minor fraction of water customers of the Westside Districts are municipal, with the majority of water supplied to agricultural water users. The proposed project would involve a multi-year transfer of allocated Table A water from MWA to the Westside Districts. The Westside Districts would use the water within the individual service areas to improve water supply reliability for existing agricultural uses and deliver the transferred water to agricultural users only. The proposed project would not change the amount of SWP water available for allocation to all other Contractors in any year and would not result in changes to operation of the SWP. The water delivered under the proposed project to the Westside Districts would fluctuate based on allocations that would be based on operation of the SWP in response to hydrological conditions and regulatory compliance. However, while the proposed project provides more reliability to continue meeting the demands of existing agricultural farmland, it would not be anticipated to support a change in agricultural production, or the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Additionally, the proposed project would not include the construction or operation of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment in the Westside Districts' service areas. As a result, there would be no ground disturbing activities or change in land use that could convert farmland to non-agricultural uses.

There are also no forest lands in the service areas of the Westside Districts or MWA. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in a conversion of existing agricultural land, or, forest or timberland, or conflict with existing agriculture or forestry land policies or zoning, no impact would occur.

References

- California Department of Conservation. (DOC). 2016. *California Important Farmland Finder*. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- _____. 2019. *Williamson Act Program*. <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa>. Accessed November 18, 2020.

Air Quality

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
3. AIR QUALITY —				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.4, *Air Quality* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Air Quality is influenced by the rate, amount, and location of pollutant emissions and the atmosphere's ability to transport, transform, and dilute such emissions. Factors that affect pollutant movement and dispersal include meteorological conditions such as terrain, atmospheric stability, sunlight, wind, and wind directions. Within the study area, air quality conditions are influenced by topographic, meteorologic, and climate conditions, as well as the types and quantities of emissions released by air pollutant sources.

The MWA service area is located in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) in which the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management (MDAQM) District has jurisdiction over air quality issues and regulations. The MDAQM District is the second largest of California's 35 air districts and has approximately 20,000 miles of jurisdiction which includes the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and a portion of Kern (MDAQMD, 2020). The Mojave Desert is the primary topographic feature of the MDAQM District and is considered an arid rain-shadow desert and the driest desert in North America. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated portions of San Bernardino as moderate, serious, and extreme for nine nonattainment areas (EPA, 2020).

Both Kings County and a portion of Kern County are located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPC) District. The SJVAPC District contains six other counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, and Tulare. The general climate and meteorology within the SJVAPC district help attribute to the entrapment and creation of air pollution because it experiences long periods of inversions, light wind flows, and long days of

sun exposure. The CARB and EPA have designated portions of Kings and Kern County as moderate, serious, and extreme for 13 nonattainment areas (EPA, 2020).

Discussion

- a-d) **Less Than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed project would result in a multi-year transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water to the Westside Districts located in Kings and Kern County. The proposed project would use existing SWP, MWA, and Westside Districts conveyance and distribution facilities. In addition, the proposed project would not result in changes to operation of the SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts' facilities. As discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Because there would be no increase in agricultural land or operations, and because the proposed project would not result in any construction activities or change in operations of either the SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts, air quality emissions would be the same compared to existing conditions. The Westside Districts could experience a minor increase in activities to maintain facilities that would be conveying more water than under current conditions that could result in a slight increase in equipment emissions. However, there would be no cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant and no exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. For these reasons, there would be no conflict with the implementation of any air quality plans and impacts would be less than significant.

References

- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). 2020. *District Boundaries*. <https://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/about-us/district-boundaries>. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2020. Current Nonattainment Counties for All Criteria Pollutants. <https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/ancl.html>. Accessed November 21, 2020.

Biological Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
4. 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 Game or 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, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.5, *Biological Resources* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

SWP conveyance facilities include water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the state of California. As a result, the SWP service area covers a range of topography, vegetation, and weather which support numerous and varied habitat types (i.e., riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and terrestrial habitats).

The Westside Districts' service areas include Kings County and western parts of Kern County and are located in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. Natural communities in this area have historically supported a diverse assemblage of plant and animal species. Human activities (i.e., agricultural development, dam construction, urbanization) have significantly reduced habitat available to wildlife and plant species. The conversion of these habitats has resulted in the extirpation of several species, both plants and animals, and the significant decline in other species populations. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as directed by state and federal legislation,

have identified many southern San Joaquin Valley species as candidate, sensitive, or special-status.

Discussion

- a,c,d) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in multi-year transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Permit). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase the reliability of water supplies in the Westside Districts' water portfolio, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in the development of agricultural land. The Westside Districts could experience a minor increase in activities to maintain facilities that would be pumping more water than under current conditions resulting in a slight increase in activities adjacent to biological resources. However, activities would not be substantially more than under current conditions and there would be no substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by CDFW or USFWS. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- b) **No Impact.** For the reasons described above, the proposed project would not affect riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified by CDFW or USFWS and would not impact the movement of biological species, including migratory fish species, and there would be no impact.
- e-f) **No Impact.** For the reasons stated above, the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or conservation plans protecting biological resources (i.e., tree preservation policy or ordinance) in the study area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

References

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2017. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta/SF Bay Species. <https://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/EndangeredSpecies/Species/Home/index.htm>. Accessed November 23, 2020.

Cultural Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §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 §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 formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.6, *Cultural Resources* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Cultural resources are indigenous and historic-era sites, structures, districts, and landscapes, or other evidence associated with human activity considered important to a cultural, subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or reasons. CEQA-defined resources include historical resources, archaeological resources, and human remains. Within the state of California, these resources include any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant.

Kings County has numerous reordere cultural resources that are primarily located in the northern and eastern part of the County in the Stratford area and west of Alpaugh. Kings County is also the home of the Tachi Yokut Tribe that once lived throughout the region along the shores of Tulare Lake. The lake region contains numerous archaeological artifacts and a significant archaeological site called the Witt site in the southern portion of the County (near Dudley Ridge) (Kings County, 2010).

Kern County's historical development was largely shaped by several Native American tribes that lived along the Kern River Valley. These tribes include the Yokuts of the San Joaquin Valley and foothills, the Chumash of the Coastal Ranges, and the Shoshonean tribes, from the Uru-Aztekan language family, that inhabited parts of the Sierra Nevada Ranges and the eastern desert areas of Kern County (Kern County, 2004). Known areas of sensitivity in Kern County include the Tehachapi Mountains, undeveloped desert areas, and the southern Sierra Nevada Areas, Buena Vista Lake area, and Grapevine/Frazier Park area.

San Bernardino County historical development was largely shaped by several Native American tribes that occupied various regions. The Serrano occupied territories that ranged from low or moderately low desert to the mountain regions of the Transverse and Peninsular ranges. The Serrano were organized into clans, with the clan being the largest autonomous political entity. They lived in small villages where extended families lived in circular, dome-shaped structures

made of willow frames covered with tule thatching. The Chemehuevi, a branch of the Southern Paiute, had a territory that stretched from the Colorado River to the San Bernardino Mountains. Chemehuevi material culture and subsistence was similar to the Serrano. Tataviam territory was concentrated along the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River drainage, east Piru Creek, and along the southern slopes of Sawmill and Liebre Mountains; and extending north into the southern end of the Antelope Valley. Tataviam villages varied in size from larger centers with as many as 200 people, to smaller villages with only a few families. The Kitanemuk were the northern neighbors of the Tataviam, and occupied a territory that extended from the Tehachapi Mountains into the western end of the Antelope Valley.

More detailed information on Native American tribes in the Westside Districts and MWA service areas are provided in Checklist Item 18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*.

Discussion

- a-c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including the DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural developed land. Because the proposed project would result in no construction activities, changes in agricultural practices, or physical changes to the environment in the study area, there would be no substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic or archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5 and there would be no disturbances to potential burial sites or cemeteries. Therefore, no impact would occur to cultural resources.

References

- Kern County. 2004. Kern County Revised General Plan Update Recirculated Draft Program EIR. https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_RPEIR_vol1.pdf. Accessed November 22, 2020.
- Kings County. 2010. *County of Kings 2035 General Plan*. <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>. Accessed November 18, 2020.

Energy

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
6. 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.7, *Energy* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

In 2016, the SWP generated a total of 3,075,218 megawatt hours of energy and a total of 4,108,601 megawatt hours of energy was received from other power resources and firm agreements and exchanges (DWR, 2019). The net SWP power consumption in 2016 was approximately 6,603,883 megawatt hours.

SWP conveyance facilities span more than 705 miles from Northern California to southern California and includes 36 storage facilities, 21 pumping plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, four pumping-generating plants, and approximately 700 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines (DWR, 2020a). The San Joaquin Field Division is responsible for four of the 21 pumping plants (i.e., Buena Vista, Teerink, Chrisman, and Edmonston Pumping Plants) that operate in a series of sequential lifts in Southern San Joaquin Valley to convey water to and over the Tehachapi Mountains. The highest of these is the Edmonston Pumping plant, which lifts water nearly 2,000 feet up the Tehachapi Mountains.

In 2016, the SWP delivered 51,480 AF, 27,210 AF, and 589,638 AF of Table A water to the MWA, DRWD, and KCWA, respectively. These deliveries were approximately 60 percent of maximum Table A amounts and nearly equivalent to the current average allocation based on the current reliability of SWP water supplies. The cost in energy for allocating water from the Delta to the Edmonston Pumping Plant is approximately 3,846 kilowatt hours per acre-foot.

Discussion

- a-b) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Permit). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP,

MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural demand for energy.

The Edmonston Pumping Plant is located within the southern portion of Kern County and is one of the four pumps that convey Table A water over the Tehachapi Mountains to MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a reduction in energy for the water that is transferred to the Westside Districts. This is because the most energy used in the San Joaquin Field Division, is through the conveyance of water at the Edmonston Pumping Plant lift over the Tehachapi Mountains to the MWA service area. With the proposed project, the amount of Table A water transferred to the Westside Districts would reduce the amount of water lifted up the Tehachapi Mountains thereby reducing energy use for pumping water for MWA's annual Table A allocation, up to 89,800 AF. Although approximately half of the transferred water would be delivered by gravity at the Westside Districts' turnouts, diversion of more water by Westside Districts' facilities could potentially increase energy use for conveyance throughout the service areas, but only by a fraction because existing facilities are used at or near grade and do not consume energy lifting water to higher elevations to the extent that is done by the Edmonston Pumping Plant. Further, there would be a considerable reduction in total energy use because MWA would not pump the transferred SWP water off of the California Aqueduct via Edmonston Pumping Plant, thereby more than offsetting the relatively small incremental increase in use of energy by the Westside Districts. Overall, the proposed project would result in a potential reduction of energy consumption. SWP facilities would continue to be operated efficiently based on DWR adopted plans, policies, and legislative mandates requiring increased reliance on renewable resources and energy efficiency. Water would be distributed at the lowest possible pressure to minimize friction losses, which would reduce the energy needed for pumping. If additional energy is required for SWP facilities, it may be provided through increases in renewable energy procurement. Therefore, there would be no wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency and impacts would be less than significant.

References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2019. Management of the California State Water Project Bulletin 132-17 January 2019. <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/State-Water-Project/Management/Bulletin-132/Bulletin-132/Files/Bulletin-132-17-r.pdf?la=en&hash=ED141F1E77778255A08BCE4EF20BE94D31007ED0>. Accessed November 23, 2020.

_____. 2020a. SWP Facilities. <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/SWP-Facilities>. Accessed November 23, 2020.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
7. 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 Division of Mines and Geology 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), 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.8, *Geology, Soils and Minerals* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

SWP conveyance facilities include water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the state of California. These facilities are located in areas that include a wide range of geological conditions that range from conditions with low seismic activity to areas with more seismic activity. Geological conditions are considered by agencies when approving projects to reduce risks associated with the local geological characteristics.

SWP facilities experience different climate, topography, land uses, and underlying soil materials that have different physical and chemical characteristics. Landforms include floodplains, basin rim/valley floor, terraces, foothills/mountains. Alluvial floodplain soils associated with rivers and

streams are often very fertile and used for crop production. At higher elevations, mountains with steep slopes are present and bedrock may underlie shallow soils. In addition, coastal regions are located within Central and Southern California. Soils in these areas may be associated with heavily urbanized environments or sensitive coastal and estuarine ecosystems.

The MWA service area is located within San Bernardino County which is subject to numerous seismic and geologic hazards such as seismic activity (earthquake-induced phenomena, such as fault rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, seismically-generated subsidence, landslide/mudslide (or mudflow), non-seismic subsidence, and erosion (San Bernardino County 2014).

Kern County is located in one of the more seismically active areas of California and may, at any time, be subject to moderate-to-severe ground shaking (Kern County, 2009). Small landslides are common in the County's mountain areas as loose material moves naturally down slope or fires have caused loss of soil-stabilizing vegetative cover. In addition, many human activities tend to make the earth materials less stable and, thus, increase the chance of ground failure (Kern County, 2009). The Westside Districts in Kern County are not located in areas of known subsidence (Kern County, 2009).

Kings County has no known major fault systems within its territory. The greatest potential for geologic disaster in Kings County is posed by the San Andreas Fault, which is located approximately four miles west of the Kings County line boundary with Monterey County. The potential for ground shaking in this area ranges from 40-50%g (percent probability of exceeding peak ground acceleration (% g) in the next 50 years) to 70-80% g at the southwestern county line (Kings County, 2010). Generally, the risk from landslide, expansive or unstable soils are low.

Discussion

- a.i-iv) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the temporary transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Permits). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in activities that would cause direct or indirect adverse effects related to earthquakes, seismic activities, or landslides, there would be no impact.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on

- existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in exposure of soils to erosion or loss of topsoil, there would be no impact.
- c,d) **No Impact.** The study area encompasses many areas subject to unstable or expansive soils under existing conditions. However, for the reasons described previously, implementation of the proposed project would not result in new structures or activities located on unstable or expansive soils and there would be no impact.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems and there would be no impact.
- f) **No Impact.** As described previously, the proposed project would not result in any ground disturbing activities, and, therefore, there would be no impact on paleontological resources.

References

Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan. September 22, 2009.

Kings County. 2010. 2035 Kings County General Plan. January 26, 2010.

San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. As Amended April 24, 2014.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.9, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR, including information from DWR’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (GGERP) Update 2020 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

“Global warming” and “global climate change” are common terms used to characterize the increase in the average temperature of the earth’s near-surface air and oceans since the mid-20th century and its projected continuation. Natural processes, such as solar radiation and volcanoes, contribute to the creation of this warming and is typically referred to as the natural greenhouse effect. This effect is the result of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that trap heat in the atmosphere and prevent the reflection of solar radiation back into space. While some of these GHGs occur naturally, over the past 100 years, human activities have substantially increased the concentration of GHGs in our atmosphere which has increased average global temperatures.

These human activities have resulted in the release of Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) largely from, but not limited to, the combustion of fossil fuels, off-gassing, natural gas leaks from pipelines and industrial process, and incomplete combustion, agricultural practices, landfills, energy providers, and other facilities.

CO₂ is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant GHG emitted. The effect that each of the aforementioned gases can have on global warming is a combination of the mass of their emissions and their global warming potential (GWP). GWP indicates, on a volume basis, how much a gas contributes to global warming relative to how much warming would be predicted to be caused by the same mass of CO₂. CH₄ and N₂O are substantially more potent GHGs than CO₂, with 100-year GWPs of 25 and 298 times that of CO₂, respectively (CARB, 2020).

In emissions inventories, GHG emissions are generally reported in metric tons of CO₂ equivalents (MTCO₂e). CO₂e is calculated as the product of the mass emitted of a given GHG and its specific GWP. While CH₄ and N₂O have much higher GWPs than CO₂, CO₂ is emitted in such vastly higher quantities that it accounts for the majority of GHG emissions, both from residential developments and from human activity.

Discussion

- a-b) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Permit). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta, including DRWD, KCWA, and MWA. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP (including implementation of the GGERP), MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities that could increase GHG emissions. The Westside Districts could experience a minor increase in activities to maintain facilities that would be pumping more water than under current conditions resulting in a slight increase in air quality emissions. However, as described previously in the Checklist items for *Air Quality* and Item 6, *Energy*, the proposed project would result in overall potential reduction in energy use compared to existing energy use. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in an increase in energy use, the proposed project would not result in an increase in GHG emissions, nor would the proposed project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions and the impacts would be less than significant.

References

- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2020. 2000-2018 GHG Inventory (2020 Addition). <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/ghg-inventory-data>. Accessed November 23, 2020.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
9. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.11, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

The proposed project study area includes the SWP service area, which includes MWA's and the Westside Districts' service areas. The SWP service area includes water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the state of California in environments ranging from rural to urban with a wide range of use of various hazardous materials.

Materials and waste may be considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxicity), can be ignited by open flame (ignitability), corrode other materials (corrosivity), or react violently, explode or generate vapors when mixed with water (reactivity). The term "hazardous material" is defined in law as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the

environment.⁵ In some cases, past uses can result in spills or leaks of hazardous materials to the ground, resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. The use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials are subject to numerous federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

The Westside Districts are located within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) where Kern and Kings Counties are responsible for fire suppression within their respective counties. The MWA is located within an area mixed with LRA and Federal Responsibility Area. The proposed project is generally located in areas with lower wildfire risk (CAL FIRE, 2020).

Discussion

- a-d) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., existing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Permit). The proposed project would not result in an increase of water delivered by the SWP to Contractors south of the Delta. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. However, the proposed project could result in an incremental increase in maintenance activities for the increase in use of facilities to pump the transferred water by the Westside Districts. The increase in maintenance activities could result in an increase in the routine transport of hazardous materials, the emission of hazardous emissions, and reasonably foreseeable risk of accidental release of hazardous materials compared to existing operations and maintenance. However, the increase in use of hazardous materials would not be substantial and impacts would be less than significant.
- e) **No Impact.** Numerous airports are located throughout the study area. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in workers or other populations near airports and the proposed project would not result in an increase in

⁵ State of California, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Section 25501(o).

safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working near airports compared to existing conditions and there would be no impact.

- f) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Numerous rural private airports are located throughout and nearby the study area. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on emergency response and evacuation plans.
- g) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Numerous rural private airports are located throughout and nearby the study area. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase of people or structures within the study area exposed to an increase in risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, compared to existing wildfire risks and there would be no impact.

References

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2020. California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Available: <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414>. Access November 20, 2020.
- Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan. September 22, 2009.
- Kings County. 2010. 2035 Kings County General Plan. January 26, 2010.
- San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. As Amended April 24, 2014.
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Hydrology and Water Quality

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY — Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Sections 5.10, *Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality* and 5.16, *Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

SWP conveyance facilities include water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the State of California. These facilities include the use of natural stream channels in Northern California that deliver water to the Delta. Water is then pumped to the California Aqueduct system for delivery to Contractors located south of the Delta. The SWP facilities are located in the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region, San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region, the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, the Delta Region (including the San Francisco Bay area watersheds), Central Coast Hydrologic Region, and the Southern California region (including the Colorado River, Lahontan, and South Coast hydrologic regions). More than 70 percent of California's groundwater extraction occurs in the Central Valley from Tulare Lake, San Joaquin River, and

Sacramento River hydrologic regions combined. Regional and statewide surface and groundwater quality are monitored and regulated through numerous State regulatory agencies.

Variability and uncertainty are the dominant characteristics of California's water resources. Precipitation is the primary source of California's water supply. Precipitation in California varies greatly from year to year, by season, and geographically throughout the State. To cope with this hydrologic variability and also manage floods during wet years, State, federal, and local agencies have constructed a vast interconnected system of surface reservoirs, aqueducts, and water diversion facilities over the last hundred years. These projects have worked together to make water available at the right places and times and to move floodwaters. In the past, this system has allowed California to meet most of its agricultural and urban water management objectives and flood management objectives (DWR, 2018).

The Westside Districts are located within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The region is bounded to the east by the Sierra Nevada crest and by the Temblor Range to the west. The area includes several rapidly growing cities, which include Bakersfield, Fresno and Visalia. In the sparsely populated areas on the west side of the valley, industrial water demands for petroleum recovery and production exceed municipal water demands. The region has 12 distinct groundwater basins and seven subbasins of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin which crosses north into the San Joaquin River Hydrological Region. The Kern River is the largest river in the area, although flows typically do not continue beyond Bakersfield.

The MWA service area is located within the High Desert in San Bernardino County. Groundwater is the principal source of water supply in the region and is used conjunctively with natural runoff, unused water returned to the groundwater aquifer, and imported treated wastewater (San Bernardino County, 2014).

The Westside Districts use the Kern Water Bank Project, Berrenda Mesa Project, and Pioneer Banking Project for storage of non-native groundwater, generally in wetter years. Specifically, DRWD and WRMWSD are participating in the Kern Water Bank, along with certain lands within BWSD, BMWD, and LHWD, and all but DRWD participate in the Pioneer and Berrenda Mesa Banking Projects. The Westside Districts use the stored non-native groundwater to meet water supply demands in drier years. These groundwater banks are operated within areas covered by existing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that were approved under the regulatory oversight of DWR in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Operation of the groundwater banks require groundwater extractions from storage not to exceed 90 percent of the quantity of recharge water delivered to the banking facilities to ensure a positive effect on the groundwater basins. The Westside Districts have banked 88,500 AFY, on average over the past 16 years (2005-2020) including over 470,000 AF in 2017 (a year with an 80-percent SWP allocation) (Melville, pers. comm., 2021).

Discussion

- a) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance

- (e.g., Biological Opinions and water quality regulations). Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. The proposed project could result in an increase in maintenance activities for the increase in use of facilities to pump the transferred water by the Westside Districts. The increase in maintenance activities could result in an increase in the use of hazardous materials. However, the increase in use would not be substantial and because the proposed project would not result in construction or changes to operations in the study area, impacts on water quality, if any, would be less than significant.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., Biological Opinions, Incidental Take Permit, and water quality regulations). Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not use groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge there would be no impact.
- c.i-iv) **No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in construction, there would be no change to existing drainage patterns, including the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, and there would be no impact.
- d) **Less Than Significant.** The study area includes areas that are exposed to flood hazards, tsunami, and seiches. The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary

based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. The proposed project would not alter the operation and maintenance of SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities. The proposed project could result in an increase in the use of hazardous materials for increased maintenance activities in the Westside Districts' service areas (see Checklist Item 10, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*). However, the increase in use of hazardous materials would be minimal compared to existing conditions and the proposed project would not change the storage conditions within the Westside Districts. Therefore, there would be no change in risk of hazardous materials release from a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, or risk release of pollutants due to project inundation and impacts would be less than significant.

- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., Biological Opinions, Incidental Take Permit, and water quality regulations). Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities.

Collectively, the Westside Districts have sufficient capacity to store water in the groundwater banks described above in excess of the maximum amount that could be transferred from MWA (i.e., 100-percent of MWA's Table A). The amount of water banked by the Westside Districts in this extreme case would amount to 19 percent of non-native water that the Westside Districts banked in 2017 in these three groundwater banks (note that 2017 had an 80-percent SWP allocation, which would have been 71,840 AF for MWA's SWP allocation, equating to 15 percent of what the Westside Districts recharged in 2017) (Melville, pers. comm., 2021). The percentage increase in banking would be relatively low compared to existing banking deliveries. In addition, recovery from the groundwater banks cannot exceed 90 percent of what has been banked. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan and there would be no impact.

References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2018. California Water Plan Update 2018.

Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan. September 22, 2009.

Kings County. 2010. 2035 Kings County General Plan. January 26, 2010.

Melville, PE, Dale. Manager-Engineer, Dudley-Ridge Water District, Fresno, CA. February 12, 2021 – email to Erick Cooke of ESA regarding description of groundwater banks and operations.

San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. As Amended April 24, 2014.

Land Use and Planning

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
11. 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.12, *Land Use and Planning* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

The SWP conveyance facilities are located throughout the state of California and have varying land use designations. Land uses within the MWA service area are primarily designated Resource Conservation (RC) and residential uses. The Westside Districts' service areas have land use designations for agricultural purposes, as well as minor areas of municipal and industrial land uses.

The *Kings County 2035 General Plan* designates land uses within the County as several types of land uses such as Agricultural (90.18% of land use), Residential (0.36% of land use), Commercial (0.10% of land use), Mixed Use (0.02% of land use), Industrial (0.31% of land use), and Other Uses (9.03% of land use). Several land use designations have been updated since the previous 1993 General Plan and are listed in Table LU-3 Summary of Converted 1993 Land of the *Kings County 2035 General Plan*.

The *Kern County General Plan* designates land uses with the County as Nonjurisdictional Land, Physical Constraints Overlay, Public Facilities and Services, Special Treatment Areas, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Resource (Kern County, 2009). Agriculture is vital to the economy of Kern county with approximately 45% (2,330,233 acres of agriculture within Kern County's 5.224 million acres) (Census of Agriculture, 2012).

The *San Bernardino County 2007 General Plan* designates land uses within the County as residential, retail, industrial, open space, recreation, and public areas (San Bernardino County, 2007). The 18 land use zoning districts within the county are as follows: Resource Conservation (55.98% of land use), Agriculture (3.32% of land use), Rural Living (32.76% of total unincorporated area), Residential (37.92% of land use), Commercial (0.68% of land use), Industrial (1.21% of land use), Institutional (0.48% of land use), Floodway (1.13% of land use), Specific Plan (0.27% of land use), Special Development, and Open Space.

Discussion

- a,b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on

existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance (e.g., Biological Opinions, Incidental Take Permit, and water quality regulations). Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not divide an established community and would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation there would be no impact.

References

- Census of Agriculture. 2012. County Profile: Kern County California. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/California/cp06029.pdf. Accessed December 3, 2020.
- Kern County. 2009. *General Plan Kern County*. https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_Complete.pdf. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- Kings County. 2010. 2035 Kings County General Plan. <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>. Accessed December 3, 2020.
- San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. As Amended April 24, 2014. <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>. Accessed December 3, 2020.

Mineral Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
12. 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.8, *Geology, Soils and Minerals* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

The SWP conveyance facilities are located in a large portion of California that range with varying diverse geological formations and regions. The formations and regions contain many different kinds of valuable mineral resources including gold, silver, iron, clays, bentonite clay, aggregate, feldspar, gemstones, gypsum, iron ore (used in cement manufacturing), lime, magnesium compounds, perlite, pumice, salt, soda ash, and zeolites (DOC, 2014).

The MWA service area is located within San Bernardino County which has many existing mineral resource operations. Some of the area's valuable mineral resources include Volcanic Cinder, Rare Earth, Clays, Sand, Gravel, Limestone, Saline Compounds, Silica, Gold, Silver, Talc, Alumina and others (San Bernardino County, 2016). The DRWD service area is located in Kings County which contains few commercial mining and mineral extraction activities (Kings County, 2010). Existing mineral resources mined within the County include sand and gravel for commercial uses, and occasionally topsoil to facilitate better drainage activities. The Westside District members within the KCWA service area are located in Kern County which contains many existing mineral resource operations. Valuable mineral resources within the County include borax, cement, construction aggregates, as well as other minerals (Kern County, 2010).

Discussion

- a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, the modification of existing SWP, MWA, or Westside Districts facilities, or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service area and would not require modification to the operation of any facilities. Because the proposed project would not result in activities associated with construction (e.g., ground disturbing activities and the use of construction equipment) there would be no loss of a known mineral resource or a locally-important recovery site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts to mineral resources.

References

- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2014. State Mining and Geology Board—Annual Report 2013-2014. p. 20. December 2014.
- Kern County. 2009. *General Plan Kern County*. https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP_Complete.pdf. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- Kings County. 2010. *County of Kings 2035 General Plan*. <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>. Accessed November 18, 2020.
- San Bernardino County. 2016. Surface Mining and Reclamation Mine List. <http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/Mine/MineList.pdf>. Accessed November 18, 2020.
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Noise

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
13. 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 applicable standards of other agencies?	<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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.13, *Noise* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

There are a variety of land uses within the study area (i.e., urban and suburban, institutional uses, agricultural, recreation, and natural habitat/open space) that result in a range of noise sources. Typical major noise sources include roadway traffic, railroads, and airports, with roadway traffic being the most substantial source due to its consistent nature compared to the periodic noise from railroads and airports. There are also stationary sources of noise from industrial, agricultural, and mining operations.

Major roadways within San Bernardino County include Interstate 15 (I-15), I-40, I-215, and State Route 395 (SR-395) and SR-95. Kings County major roadways include I-5, SR-33, SR-269, SR-41, SR-43, and SR-198. Kern County major roadways include I-5, SR-14, SR-33 SR-41, SR-43, SR-58, SR-65, SR-99, SR-119, SR-155, SR-166, SR-178, SR-223 and U.S. Route 395. There are a number of small airports within the counties, with the San Bernardino International Airport being located in San Bernardino County. Railroads also run through all three Counties.

Discussion

- a-c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and*

Forest Resources, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Because there would be no increase in agricultural operations or activities associated with construction, there would be no temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels, groundborne vibration or noise levels that could result in exceeding standards established in a local general plan, noise ordinance, applicable standard of other agencies, or within a private airstrip or an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Population and Housing

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
14. 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.14, *Population, Employment and Housing* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

As of 2019, there were approximately 39.51 million people in the State of California (Census, 2020). Approximately 27 million people receive a portion of their drinking water from the SWP throughout Northern California, the San Joaquin Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Coast Area, and Southern California (DWR 2020b). There are approximately 152,940 and 900,202 people in Kings and Kern County, respectively, and 2.18 million in San Bernardino County.

Discussion

- a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, because the proposed project would not no result in housing being constructed, demolished, or replaced and no displacement of people or population growth would occur, there would be no impact.

References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2020b. State Water Project.
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project>. Accessed November 22, 2020.

United States Census Bureau (Census). 2020. Quickfacts California.
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CA>. Accessed November 22, 2020.

Public Services

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
15. PUBLIC SERVICES —				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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 following public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.15, *Public Services and Recreation* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Public services are those physical assets and community services that are important to maintaining a community's welfare and livability. Public services include police and fire protection, schools, the provisions of parks and recreation facilities. There are numerous public services within the study area, including federal, state, and local police and fire protection stations and units, public and private schools, and parks.

Discussion

- a.i-v) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Because the proposed project would not result in new housing or an increase in population in the study area, there would be no increase in demand for public services and there would be no impact.

Recreation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
16. RECREATION —				
a) Would the project 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) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.15, *Public Services and Recreation* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

There are an abundance of recreational resources and opportunities in the study area including, but not limited to, biking, boating, golfing, hiking, horseback riding, off-road trails, canyoneering, hunting, fishing, camping, bicycling, and swimming.

Discussion

- a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in use of existing recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no impact would occur.

Transportation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
17. 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) Would the project 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.18, *Transportation* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

The study area has a comprehensive transportation system that supports various transportation and circulation conditions and includes state and federal highways, local roads, collector streets, urban arterials, rural highways and streets, railroads, airports, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities.

Discussion

- a-d) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Although the proposed project could result in a minor increase in maintenance activities for Westside Districts' facilities pumping more water that is transferred by MWA, the increase would not substantially affect traffic volumes and would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy, conflict with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), substantially increase hazards to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses, or result in inadequate emergency access, and there would be no impact.

Tribal Cultural Resources

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
18. Tribal Cultural Resources —				
a) 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) 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), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) 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 Resources 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.17, *Tribal Cultural Resources* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC Section 21074, are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are listed, determined to be eligible for listing, on the national, state, or local register of historical resources. These resources can include both prehistoric archaeological sites and Native American human remains and can be found in areas below historic soil disturbance.

MWA and the Westside Districts' service areas were occupied by several Native American tribes, including the Southern Valley Yokuts, Chumash, Serrano, Cahuilla, Kitanemuk, and Gabrielino. Below is a brief description of each of these groups. It should be noted that the information presented herein is related to living tribes who still reside in these counties and who maintain a vested interest in their history, culture, practices, customs, and beliefs.

Portions of Kings and Kern counties are home to the Southern Valley Yokuts of the Penutian language family. They were uniquely egalitarian in their political organization, with self-governing local groups whose members received equal ownership and access to most resources. Archaeological sites tend to be centered around lakes and rivers, where permanent settlements were established on high ground near lakes and rivers (Wallace, 1978a; Arkush, 1993). The Chumash, whose territory extends into the southern part of Kern County, spoke a unique language unrelated to any others in California. They were led by a single chief responsible for the

management and distribution of tribal resources. The Chumash were a complex society with a strict social order, a well-established system of trade, and standardized money exchange in the form of shell beads. The Chumash were master maritime navigators, having developed the split-planked canoe to ferry people and trade goods between the islands and the mainland (Kroeber, 1925). Chumash sites are well-documented in the archaeological literature and range from the Channel Islands to mountain ranges.

Portions of Kern and San Bernardino counties are home to the Serrano, Cahuilla, Kitanemuk, and Gabrielino (Gabrieleño, Tongva, Kizh) groups of the Uto-Aztecan language family. The Serrano were hunter-gatherer-fishers who exploited local resources such as acorns, pinon nuts, yucca roots, mesquite, cacti fruits, chia seeds, deer, mountain sheep, antelope, rabbits, small rodents, and birds (primarily quail). Organized into clans, the Serrano lived in small villages with extended families residing in circular, dome-shaped structures made of willow frames covered with tule thatching (Bean and Smith 1978). Archaeological investigation of Serrano sites indicates a long period of occupation in the region (Sutton and Earle 2017). Cahuilla social structure revolved around clans and exogamous moieties (components connected through intermarriage). Interaction between clans was limited to trade, intermarriage, and performing ceremonies. Individual clans had villages, or central places, and territories they considered theirs for purposes of hunting game, gathering food and other necessary resources (Schaefer et al., 2010). The Kitanemuk were primarily mountain dwellers and appear to have common traits with neighboring groups, such as the Serrano and Cahuilla (Blackburn and Bean, 1978). Gabrielino settlement followed the availability of water and natural resources, with more permanent settlements located near major waterways and food sources. Acorns, sage, and yucca were gathered throughout the inland areas whereas shellfish and fish, as well as a variety of plants and animals were exploited within the marshes and along the coast (Bean and Smith, 1978). Archaeological investigations of Gabrielino sites have revealed a diverse, complex, and rich cultural record.

Discussion

a.i-ii) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. MWA consulted with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians under the Assembly Bill 52 tribal consultation regulations on December 7, 2020. As of the late January publication date of this IS/ND, no response from the tribes has been received.

Because the proposed project would not include ground disturbance activities or result in new or increased activities in areas not already developed for agricultural uses, there would be no physical disturbance or changes to the environment that could cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resource Code section 21074 or be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. Therefore, impact to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

References

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- . “Serrano”. In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 570-574, Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, W. C. Sturtevant, general editor, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1978.
- Blackburn, Thomas C. and Lowell John Bean. “Kitanemuk”. In *California*, edited by Robert F. Heizer, pp. 564-569, Handbook of North American Indians, vol.8, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1978.
- Kroeber, A. L., Handbook of Indians of California. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1925.
- Schaefer, Jerry, Michael D. Richards, and James T. Daniels, *A Class III Cultural Resources Survey for the Dos Palmas Oasis Tamarisk Removal Project, Riverside County, California*, prepared by ASM, submitted to the BLM Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, April 2010.
- Sutton, Mark Q. and David D. Earle. “The Desert Serrano of the Mojave River”. In *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 53(2&3):1-61, 2017.
- Wallace, W. Southern Valley Yokuts. In *California*, edited by Robert F. Heizer, pp. 462–470. Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 8, William C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1978.

Utilities and Service Systems

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Sections 5.19, *Utilities and Service Systems* and 5.20, *Water Supply* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

SWP conveyance facilities include water delivery facilities and service areas throughout the state of California that provide drinking water and irrigation water. These facilities include the use of natural stream channels in Northern California that deliver water to the Delta. Water is then pumped to the California Aqueduct system for delivery to Contractors located south of the Delta.

Water supply in the MWA and Westside Districts service areas is provided by local surface water, groundwater, and water from the SWP. Local surface water supplies in the MWA service area include natural runoff, unused water returned to the groundwater aquifer, and imported treated wastewater. Groundwater supply comes from direct pumping within the MWA-managed Mojave Basin Area. SWP water is delivered to the Westside Districts from turnouts located along the California Aqueduct and, for BMWD, the Coastal Branch Aqueduct. Five turnouts serve SWP water to DRWD in Kings County, while the rest of the Westside Districts are served SWP water through a total of 34 turnouts in Kern County as KCWA Member Units. SWP water is delivered to the MWA from the California Aqueduct via the East Branch Aqueduct at five turnouts. All of the Westside Districts serve water to agricultural and municipal and industrial water users.

Kern County has 7 landfills, with the Shafter-Wasco, Taft, and Bena landfills being the closest to the project area. Kings County has 5 solid waste facilities with two of them being landfills. The City of Avenal Landfill is the closest landfill to the project area in Kings County. San Bernardino County has 14 solid waste facilities. The Barstow Landfill is the closest landfill to the MWA service area.

Discussion

- a-c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. All transferred water would be received through existing turnouts along the California Aqueduct and Coastal Branch Aqueduct and distributed with the existing distribution systems owned, operated, and maintained by the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. Because the proposed project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater treatment capacity, storm water drainage facilities, or electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities and would not require additional water supplies there would be no impact.
- d,e) **No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. Therefore, because the proposed project would not result in changes to solid waste demand compared to current operation and maintenance of the SWP, MWA, and the Westside Districts there would be no impact.

References

Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan. September 22, 2009.

Kings County. 2010. 2035 Kings County General Plan. January 26, 2010.

San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. As Amended April 24, 2014.

Wildfire

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
20. WILDFIRE — If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
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 or maintenance 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"/>

This discussion incorporates by reference and summarizes relevant SWP environmental setting information presented in Section 5.11, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* of the Water Management Tools Final EIR. In addition, specific environmental setting information for the MWA, KCWA, and DRWD is presented.

Environmental Setting

Wildfire is the outcome of several variables, primarily weather (temperature, humidity, and wind), vegetation, topography, and human influences, which combine to produce regional and local severity zones. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) developed a fire hazard severity scale that considers vegetation, climate, and slope to evaluate the level of wildfire hazard, and identifies three levels of fire hazards severity (moderate, high, and very high) to indicate the severity of fire hazards in a particular geographic area.

Within the SWP service area, wildland fire poses a threat to both persons and property throughout a majority of California. However, within the MWA service area wildfire severity falls entirely in an Unzoned Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone and are typically not impacted by wildfires (CAL FIRE, 2019). The Westside Districts' service areas wildfire hazards range from moderate to very high, with a few areas falling within an Unzoned FRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE, 2019).

Discussion

- a-d) **No Impact.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP, MWA or Westside Districts facilities or any

water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. All transferred water would be received through existing turnouts along the California Aqueduct and Coastal Branch Aqueduct and distributed with the existing distribution systems owned, operated, and maintained by the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. For these reasons, the proposed project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, exacerbate wildfire risks, or expose people or structures to runoff caused by post-fire slope instability or drainage changes to areas located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. Therefore, no impact would occur.

References

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2019. Is Your Home In a Fire Hazard Severity Zones? Fire Hazards Severity Zone data designated by Cal Fire. Available <https://forestwatch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Styleer/index.html?appid=5e96315793d445419b6c96f89ce5d153>. Accessed November 13, 2020.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
19. 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 a rare or endangered plant or animal 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 which 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"/>

Discussion

- a-c) **Less Than Significant.** The proposed project would result in the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A allocation to the Westside Districts in amounts that would vary based on existing SWP operational limitations of hydrology and regulatory compliance. Implementation of the proposed project would not include the construction of any new facilities, modification of existing SWP facilities or any water supply conveyance or treatment facilities in the Westside Districts' service areas. The proposed project would not result in changes to operations of the SWP, MWA or Westside Districts. All transferred water would be received through existing turnouts along the California Aqueduct and Coastal Branch Aqueduct and distributed with the existing distribution systems owned, operated, and maintained by the Westside Districts. Further, as discussed previously in Checklist Item 2, *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, the transfer of a portion of MWA's annual Table A water would be used to serve only existing developed agricultural land to increase reliability of water supplies, and therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in agricultural activities. While there could be an increase in maintenance of Westside Districts' facilities due to an increase in pumping the transferred water, impacts would be less than significant. For the reasons discussed previously in this IS/ND, the proposed project would have no 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 a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Further, the proposed project

would not result in cumulative impacts or substantial adverse effects on human beings and impacts would be less than significant.

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