

Notice of Availability of the 2026-2027 North to South Water Transfers Initial Study and Addendum to the Final Long-Term Water Transfers EIR

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) has released for a 30-day public review for informational purposes under the California Environmental Quality Act an Initial Study (IS) and draft Addendum to the Final Long-Term Water Transfers EIR. The IS evaluates a range of potential single-year water transfers of up to a total of 250,000 acre-feet (AF) per year from Sellers to Buyers, made available from groundwater substitution and reservoir release actions. Transfers of water would occur from Sellers primarily upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to Buyers that primarily receive water conveyed through the Delta. SLDMWA, its member agencies, Contra Costa WD, and East Bay MUD (collectively referred to as the Buyers) may experience water shortages in 2026 and 2027 and are soliciting willing Sellers that may transfer surface water to them. The interested Buyers would negotiate with these interested Sellers to identify potential volumes of water that could be made available for transfer and the specifics of each transfer arrangement through single-year agreements for 2026 and 2027. Proposed project effects would occur within the Buyer Service Area and Seller Service Area and at the reservoirs used for reservoir release transfers. The transfers could originate from Sellers in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The transfer Buyers could be in Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus counties.

The documents are available for review at <https://sldmwa.org/water-transfers/>. Please contact Pablo Arroyave at (209) 832-6200 if you encounter difficulty accessing the documents or would like to request a CD copy. Written comments on the environmental document should be received by close of business May 17, 2025, and should be sent to Pablo Arroyave, SLDMWA, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, CA 93635, or via e-mail to pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org. For additional information, please contact Pablo Arroyave at (209) 832-6200 or pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org.

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Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: rosaa



Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2011011010

Project Title: 2026-2027 North to South Water Transfers**Lead Agency:** San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority**Contact Person:** Pablo Arroyave**Mailing Address:** 842 6th St**Phone:** 209-832-6200; pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org**City:** Los Banos**Zip:** 93635**County:** Merced**Project Location:** County: Multiple- See project description City/Nearest Community: Multiple- See project description**Cross Streets:** N/A - Multi-agency water transfer**Zip Code:****Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):** ° ' " N ° ' " W **Total Acres:** N/A**Assessor's Parcel No.:** N/A - Multi-agency water transfer**Section:****Twp.:****Range:****Base:****Within 2 Miles:** State Hwy #:**Waterways:****Airports:****Railways:****Schools:****Document Type:****CEQA:**☐ NOP☐ Early Cons☐ Neg Dec☐ Mit Neg Dec☐ Draft EIR☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR

(Prior SCH No.)

Other: Initial Study and Addendum to Final LTWT EIR**NEPA:**☐ NOI☒ EA☐ Draft EIS☐ FONSI**Other:**☒ Joint Document☐ Final Document☐ Other:**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ General Plan Amendment☐ General Plan Element☐ Community Plan☐ Specific Plan☐ Master Plan☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Site Plan☐ Rezone☐ Prezone☐ Use Permit☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☐ Annexation☐ Redevelopment☐ Coastal Permit☒ Other: water transfer**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units

Acres

☐ Office: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Commercial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Industrial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Educational:☐ Recreational:☐ Water Facilities: Type

MGD

☐ Transportation: Type☐ Mining: Mineral☐ Power: Type

MW

☐ Waste Treatment: Type

MGD

☐ Hazardous Waste: Type☒ Other: Multi-agency water transfer**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual☒ Agricultural Land☒ Air Quality☐ Archeological/Historical☒ Biological Resources☐ Coastal Zone☐ Drainage/Absorption☐ Economic/Jobs☐ Fiscal☐ Flood Plain/Flooding☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☒ Geologic/Seismic☐ Minerals☒ Noise☐ Population/Housing Balance☒ Public Services/Facilities☒ Recreation/Parks☐ Schools/Universities☐ Septic Systems☐ Sewer Capacity☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☐ Solid Waste☐ Toxic/Hazardous☐ Traffic/Circulation☒ Vegetation☒ Water Quality☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Wetland/Riparian☐ Growth Inducement☐ Land Use☒ Cumulative Effects☐ Other:**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Seller actions would occur on primarily agricultural land and be transferred to agricultural and municipal Buyers.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

SLDMWA, its member agencies, Contra Costa WD, and East Bay MUD are soliciting willing Sellers that may transfer surface water to them. The interested Buyers would negotiate with these interested Sellers to identify potential volumes of water that could be made available for transfer and the specifics of each transfer arrangement through single-year agreements for 2026 and 2027. The EA/IS and Addendum evaluate a range of potential single-year water transfers of up to 250,000 acre-feet (AF) per year from Sellers to Buyers, made available from groundwater substitution and reservoir release actions. Transfers of water would occur from Sellers primarily upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to Buyers that primarily receive water conveyed through the Delta. Proposed project effects would occur within the Buyer Service Area and Seller Service Area and reservoirs used for reservoir release transfers. The counties include: Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>1,2,3,4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date April 17, 2025

Ending Date May 17, 2025

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: CDM Smith

Address: 2295 Gateway Oaks Dr, Suite 250

City/State/Zip: Sacramento, CA 95833

Contact: Anusha Kashyap

Phone: 916-576-7505

Applicant: Pablo Arroyave

Address: 842 6th St

City/State/Zip: Los Banos, CA 93635

Phone: 209-832-6200

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 4/17/2025

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.