



Department of Public Works

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
and NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunctive Use Program

DATE: May 18, 2026
TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties
FROM: San Joaquin County Public Works Department
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California 95205

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Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: samantha.t



Notice is hereby given that San Joaquin County (County), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (MICUP). The Draft EIR is now available for public review and comment.

The Draft EIR may be accessed at County offices located at 1810 East Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California 95205, or at Cesar Chavez Central Library located at 605 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton, California 95202, or on the San Joaquin County webpage at: https://www.sjgov.org/departments/pwk/home/news-and-updates.

Location: MICUP would be implemented within the Place of Use for Water Right Application 29835 (A029835) as shown in Figure 1. The Place of Use is defined as the geographic area where the water diverted under A029835 would be beneficially used, including the lower Mokelumne River and areas immediately adjacent to and within the jurisdictional boundaries of San Joaquin County. There are several hazardous material sites located within the Place of Use, per the lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Figure 1 shows the regional location, and Figure 2 shows the estimated boundaries of MICUP and its components.

Proposed Project and Objectives: The County, as lead agency, proposes to implement MICUP together with the following Partner Agencies: North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), Stockton East Water District (SEWD), and City of Stockton. Partner Agencies are defined as users of surface water developed through MICUP, or participants in the delivery of surface water for beneficial use.

MICUP is a proposed coordinated effort to put unappropriated Mokelumne River water to beneficial use in the Subbasin through approval of A029835. MICUP would implement a comprehensive set of project components and actions to assist in meeting the adopted goals and objectives of the 2024 Amended Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (ESJ GSP). The proposed MICUP goals include:

- Develop a supplemental Mokelumne River surface water supply to meet existing demands;
Use surface water and groundwater conjunctively to respond to drought and climate change;

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- Increase groundwater levels in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin;
- Achieve integrated water supply and environmental benefits in the lower Mokelumne watershed.

MICUP would entail diverting unappropriated Mokelumne River water either to serve existing beneficial uses, such as agricultural irrigation and municipal and industrial water supply demands, or to recharge surface water to underground storage for later extraction from existing production wells to meet existing demands. Under A029835, as amended, MICUP would divert up to 110,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), at a rate of up to 620 cubic feet per second (cfs) between December 1 and June 30, using a combination of existing and proposed infrastructure. In addition, up to 48,000 AFY of water stored in Camanche and/or Pardee Reservoir by East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) under existing operations could be allocated to MICUP if EBMUD determines it has stored water in excess of EBMUD's needs and legal and/or operational obligations, including contract obligations to Woodbridge Irrigation District and NSJWCD. The additional up to 48,000 AFY of MICUP stored water would be released from storage and available for rediversion by the MICUP Partner Agencies between July 1 and October 31. In years when EBMUD determines there is stored water available for MICUP, the MICUP Partner Agencies would need to release and use that stored water prior to October 31st of the same year. MICUP stored water cannot remain in storage after October 31st or be carried over in storage to the next year. The proposed MICUP diversions would be junior to all existing water rights on the Mokelumne River. Additional operational criteria related to MICUP diversions are explained in the Draft EIR.

The existing and proposed infrastructure associated with MICUP for each Partner Agency is shown in Figure 2. There are several methods that may be used to recharge MICUP water. The methods being considered are based on available facilities, land use and crop type, and near surface soil conditions and hydrogeologic conditions. The methods include direct surface recharge (basins and dry wells), aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells, in-lieu recharge, and flood managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR).

**Public Comment Period:** The Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment during a 45-day period as specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15105. **The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR will begin on May 18, 2026 and end on July 10, 2026.**

The County requests that Responsible and Trustee Agencies and interested parties provide comments pertaining to the content of the Draft EIR and the potential environmental impacts that may result from implementation of MICUP. Comments may be submitted by mail or email through **5:00 p.m. on July 10, 2026**. Please include the name of the contact person and contact information for your agency or organization, and direct your comments to:

Ashley Couch, PE, CFM, Water Resources Manager  
San Joaquin County, 1810 East Hazelton Ave/PO Box 1810, Stockton, CA 95201  
acouch@sjgov.org

**Public Meeting:** During the 45-day review period, the County will hold a public meeting to provide additional opportunity for public comment on the Draft EIR. The public meeting will occur in-person at the following time and location:

Time: May 26, 2026, at 5:30 PM  
Location: Lodi Grape Festival Grounds – Burgundy Hall  
413 East Lockeford Street, Lodi, California 95240

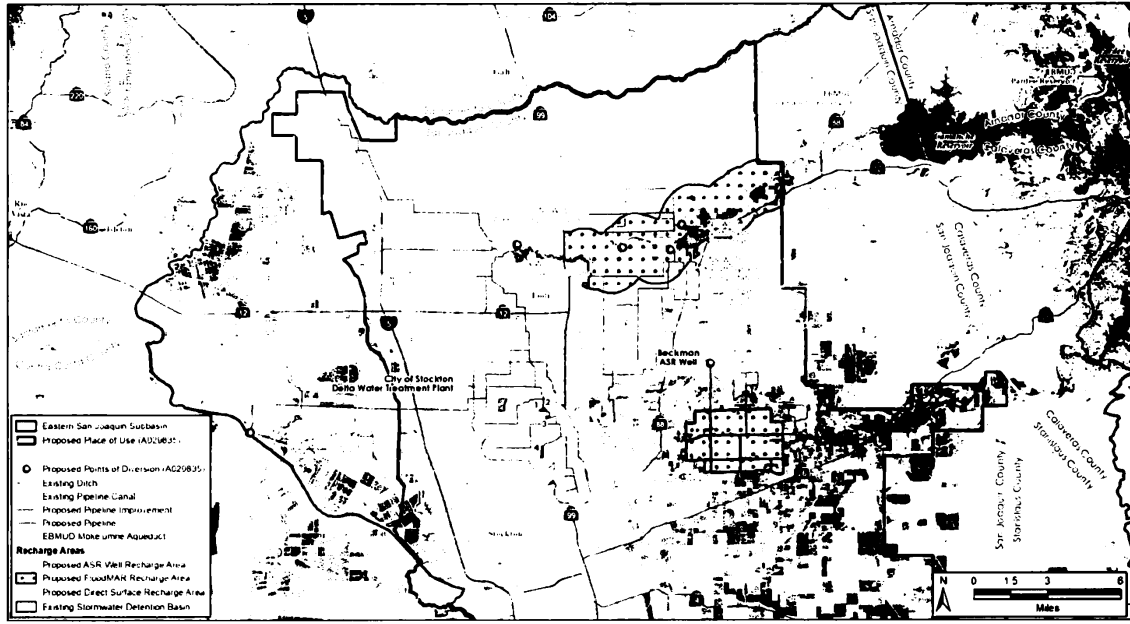
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**To participate in this meeting remotely via Zoom, go to: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86253398396> or call (669) 444-9171 and enter Meeting ID: 862 5339 8396.**

**Environmental Impacts:** The Draft EIR prepared for MICUP identifies and discusses potential impacts for all environmental topics included in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist. For most topics, impacts were determined to be either less than significant or reduced to a less than significant level with incorporation of mitigation measures. However, significant and unavoidable effects on the environment are anticipated with respect to Agricultural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Noise.



Figure 2 Proposed MICUP Components



Source: GEI, 2026