

Response to Comments and Minor Revisions

Initial Study/ Negative Declaration

El Dorado Irrigation District Temporary Reservoir Re-operation Water Transfer



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1. Response to Comments

Introduction

This document addresses written comments received during the public review period for the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID or District) Temporary Reservoir Re-operation Water Transfer (project) Initial Study / Negative Declaration (IS/ND). During the public review period (May 12 – June 12, 2026), EID received two comment letters – one from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and one from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR or Department). Although CEQA does not require the lead agency to prepare written responses to comments received on a Negative Declaration (see 14 C.C.R. §§ 15073, 15074), EID has elected to prepare written responses to the comments received, for consideration by the public and the EID Board of Directors. This document contains EID’s written responses to comments received and a copy of each comment letter is included in Attachment A.

Summary

The comments received do not require a substantial revision of the IS/ND because no significant effects were identified and no mitigation measures or project revisions need to be added in order to reduce significant effects to a less-than-significant level. Additionally, no substantial revisions to the IS/ND are necessary as a result of comments received. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

Response to DWR Comments

COMMENTS 1a and 1b

2.1 Project Overview and 2.4 Proposed Project

Although the proposed transfer volume not to exceed 5,000 AF are listed in Section 2.1, Project Overview, and Section 2.4, Proposed Project, it is worth noting that the summation of "up to 620 AF available from Weber Reservoir and up to 4,880 AF combined available from Caples and Silver Lakes" results in 5,500 AF maximum available transfer volume. This comment letter states 5,500 AF (the actual available transfer volume) as the potential increased inflow into Folsom Reservoir in the Project Description section above. The IS/ND Chapter 2, Project Description, needs to change the maximum available transfer volume from 5,000 AF to 5,500 AF update so Chapter 2 states accurately the available water for transfer.

1a

In addition, these two Sections further explain that the proposed project's releases from Weber Reservoir and Caples and Silver lakes would be coordinated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Department for CVP and SWP water system operations, respectively. For transfers from Weber Reservoir, EID is seeking from the State Water Resources Control Board a temporary (1 year or less) change in Place of Use and Point of Rediversion (PORD) pursuant to EID Water Right License 2184 (Application 1692) and consistent with the California Water Code Sections 1725-1732. The proposed PORD would add the SWP Banks pumping plant as a PORD. Section 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer explains EID's plans for the proposed transfer water should state and federal approvals be completed.

1b

EID RESPONSE 1a

This comment suggests that the maximum transfer volume needs to change from 5,000 acre-feet (AF) to 5,500 AF because the summation of potential reservoir releases (i.e., up to 620 acre-feet (AF) from Weber Reservoir and up to a combined total of 4,880 AF from Caples and Silver lakes) described in the IS/ND equals 5,500 AF. The IS/ND states "EID proposes to transfer up to a maximum of 5,000 acre-feet (AF)" and then acknowledges that "The total potential quantity available from the three reservoirs exceeds the maximum transfer volume of 5,000 AF, with up to 620 AF available from Weber Reservoir and up to 4,880 AF combined available from Caples and Silver Lakes" (Section 2.1 Project Overview; page 2-1). The IS/ND also discloses that actual releases and transfer volumes could vary and would depend on various factors including "flexible management of Silver Lake, Caples Lake, and Weber Reservoir during the transfer period as EID decides how best to meet its consumptive demands and transfer objectives while still meeting all operational and flow requirements" (Section 2.4.1 Weber Reservoir Re-Operation; page 2-12 and Section 2.4.2 Caples Lake/Jenkinson Lake and Silver Lake/Jenkinson Lake Re-Operations; page 2-13).

This comment did not identify potentially significant effects and does not require any substantial revisions to the IS/ND. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

EID RESPONSE 1b

The commentor provides information from the IS/ND acknowledging the water transfer would require coordination with the Reclamation and DWR regarding CVP and SWP operations and references elements of the temporary change petition EID is seeking from the State Water Resources Control Board. The statement also references the Section 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer. The statement regarding conditions Absent an Approved Transfer is not accurately described in the commentor's letter because Section 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer describes EID's operational plans if state and federal approvals are not completed.

This comment does not address the adequacy of the IS/ND's analysis and does not raise significant environmental issues, therefore, no further response is necessary. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

COMMENT 2:

2.6 Regulatory Requirements, Permits and Approvals

The IS/ND describes the Department and Reclamation in 2.6 as agencies that may have approval or review authority over portions of the proposed project. Specifically, the IS/ND explains that conveyance agreements would be needed between EID and the buyers of the transfer water in coordination with Reclamation or the Department depending on which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. This proposed EID drawdown of Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake storage for meeting transfer objectives would result in a lower than planned end-of-season storage absent the transfer and would require a refill agreement.

The Department agrees with EID's determination that a refill agreement is needed, as the water vacated from Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake for this transfer may impact the water rights and operations of the SWP and CVP. The Department requests that all coordination is with both the Department and Reclamation, independent of which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. The refill agreement would include conditions, criteria, and procedures to account and mitigate injuries to SWP and CVP operations from future EID refill following the release of the transfer water, and both the Department and Reclamation would be signatories to any refill agreement. The Department requests that any order approving EID's temporary change contain a term requiring a signed and executed refill agreement with both the Department and Reclamation.

2

EID RESPONSE 2

This comment agrees with EID's determination in the IS/ND that a refill/conveyance agreement with DWR in coordination with Reclamation for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake would be required. EID acknowledges DWR's request that the preparation of a refill agreement should be coordinated with both DWR and Reclamation. This approach is consistent with previous EID

reservoir re-operation water transfers. EID agrees that the transfer will be subject to the refill criteria specified in a refill agreement between EID, DWR, and Reclamation.

This comment did not identify potentially significant effects and does not require any substantial revisions to the IS/ND. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

COMMENTS 3a and 3b:

3.4.2 Discussion of Water Transfer Effects on Caples and Silver Lakes and Weber Reservoir Releases

Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 in Section 3.4.2 present the potential transfer release patterns for Caples and Silver Lakes and Weber Reservoir, respectively. These tables include the monthly historical maximum, minimum, and average release rates for each lake, along with the proposed transfer release flow rates. To provide accurate information for the impact analyses, the December release flows for without and with transfer conditions are outside of the transfer period and need to be removed from the Tables. If the removal of the December releases changes an impact analysis conclusion or mitigation measures, the impact analysis is flawed and will need to be re-done.

3a

In addition, it is important to provide the breakdown of the approximate daily average flow rates for minimum releases, discretionary releases, and transfer releases in Tables 3-1 and 3-2. This breakdown will ensure that the cumulative volume of releases over the transfer period are sufficient to not exceed the maximum transfer volumes identified in the Project Description (620 acre-feet from Caples Lake and 4,880 acre-feet from Silver Lake). Absent this information, the document is insufficient to inform the public and decision makers of necessary information on potential impacts of the project.

3b

EID RESPONSE 3a

The comment suggests that revisions to tables contained in the IS/ND are needed because they depict December releases with and without the transfer and December is outside of the transfer period. EID acknowledges that while Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 do clearly show the transfer period between July and November with shading, the tables do incorrectly include December with and without transfer conditions. Corrected versions of Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 are provided in this document in Section 2 – Minor Revisions to Initial Study / Negative Declaration. The removal of December releases does not affect the impact analysis or significance determinations in the IS/ND. These corrections are an insignificant modification to the IS/ND and do not change the adequacy of the analysis.

EID RESPONSE 3b

The comment suggests that a breakdown of the daily average flow rates for minimum releases, discretionary releases, and transfer releases are necessary to inform the public and decision makers on the potential impacts of the project. Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 provide clear information regarding the releases from EID's reservoirs with and without the transfer. A further breakdown of minimum releases and discretionary releases would not be informative and would not alter the impact analysis or significance determinations in the IS/ND. As stated at various locations throughout the IS/ND, "with or without the transfer water would be released from [Weber Reservoir, Silver Lake, and Caples Lake] in compliance with all regulatory requirements (e.g., minimum streamflows, lake levels, ramping rates) and at a magnitude within the range of minimum and maximum releases provided during the transfer period over the past 15 years [Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3]. The quantity of water released and overall seasonal timing of releases into [Weber Creek, Silver Fork, and Caples Creek]... would be the same with or without the water transfer." Because all releases to facilitate the transfer would be within the range of currently authorized operations, no additional breakdown to describe minimum streamflows or other discretionary releases is needed to adequately evaluate the potential impacts associated with the project. The IS/ND meets the CEQA requirements for consideration and discussion of potential environmental impacts and no changes to the IS/ND are required to address this comment.

COMMENTS 4a and 4b:

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems impact analysis and 3.19.2 Discussion

For 3.19.2(b), the IS/ND concludes a less than significant impact. The discussion explains that EID would enter into the refill/conveyance agreements with the Department and Reclamation, as appropriate, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties to ensure the proposed project would have minimal or no effect on EID's ability to meet future water demand obligations. EID should ensure that with executed refill agreements with the Department and Reclamation, the impacts would remain less than significant.

4a

To improve coordination and to facilitate the transfer of the latest information, the Department requests that EID submit a complete transfer proposal using the Department's Water Transfers Information Management System online database at <https://info.water.ca.gov/wtims/>.

4b

EID RESPONSE 4a

The discussion in 3.19.2(b) states: "EID would enter into a refill/conveyance agreements with DWR and Reclamation, as appropriate, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties to ensure the proposed project would have minimal or no effect on EID's ability to meet future water demand obligations." Because the conditions of any required agreement would need to be acceptable to all parties, EID can ensure that with an executed refill agreement with DWR and Reclamation, the impact would be less than significant.

This comment did not identify potentially significant effects. This comment does not require any substantial revisions to the IS/ND. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

EID RESPONSE 4b

EID acknowledges DWR's request for EID to submit a complete transfer proposal using DWR's Water Transfers Information Management System (WTIMS) online database. This approach is consistent with previous EID reservoir re-operation water transfers. EID agrees to enter the transfer information into WTIMS.

This comment did not identify potentially significant effects and does not require any substantial revisions to the IS/ND. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

Response to CDFW Comments

COMMENT 1:

Folsom Reservoir coldwater pool

The LAR is considered temperature impaired (SWRCB 2024), and Reclamation has identified target temperature requirements for Chinook salmon and steelhead (Reclamation 2019). LAR water temperatures frequently exceed optimal conditions for summer rearing of juvenile steelhead and for fall-run Chinook salmon spawning in October and November. Temperature thresholds for juvenile steelhead and spawning Chinook salmon were exceeded in 2018, 2020, and 2022 when previous EID transfers occurred in the system (SacPAS 2026). Folsom Reservoir operations directly influence conditions in LAR. The ND states that the proposed project will not result in any direct impacts to reservoir water temperatures or subsequent changes to volume of the coldwater pool.

While temperature data from previous transfer periods are provided, these data are insufficient in demonstrating a lack of impacts to the coldwater pool and water temperatures in the LAR.

In order to fully evaluate any potential impacts of the proposed Project to the volume of the coldwater pool and coldwater releases to the Lower American River, CDFW recommends EID consult with Reclamation and conduct a temperature analysis. The temperature analysis should verify that the volume of coldwater habitat available in the reservoir and for downstream releases will not change as a result of this project, and that Reclamation will continue to be able to meet temperature requirements in the Lower American River.

1

EID RESPONSE 1

The comment suggests that the information regarding potential water temperature impacts provided in the IS/ND is insufficient and recommends EID consult with Reclamation and conduct a temperature analysis. The IS/ND contains sufficient information to reasonably conclude that the project would not affect the water temperature of inflows into Folsom Lake and therefore would not affect the coldwater pool volume of Folsom Lake or Reclamation's ability to meet water temperature targets in the Lower American River (Section 3.4.2 Water Transfer Effects Below Folsom Reservoir; pages 3-20 – 3-23).

The IS/ND provides graphical water temperature data from a U.S. Geological Survey streamgage that measures inflow to Folsom Lake on the South Fork American River. The data is provided for previous years when EID conducted water transfers to evaluate whether there is a detectable difference in water temperature when EID was transferring water. As stated in the IS/ND, "This data indicates there is not a distinguishable effect on water temperature in the SFAR during previous transfer deliveries. A key factor to the lack of distinguishable effect during previous transfer deliveries is likely due to the small rate and volume of water being delivered from the three reservoirs relative to the total flow in the SFAR. For the proposed project, water would be released from Weber Reservoir, Caples Lake, and Silver Lake at rates similar to these prior water transfers. As such, implementation of the proposed project is not expected to adversely affect water temperature or coldwater pool storage in Folsom Reservoir."

The IS/ND also acknowledges that "[W]ater temperature is also a primary parameter of concern for the LAR [Lower American River]" and provides reasonable rationale for why the proposed transfer would not affect Reclamation's ability to meet temperature goals in the LAR. The IS/ND provides a comparison of the proposed transfer volume to the storage in Folsom Lake and reasonably concludes that there would not be an impact on the coldwater pool in Folsom Lake:

"Releases from Caples Lake, Silver Lake, and Weber Reservoir are not anticipated to influence the temperature of the water entering Folsom Reservoir given the small volume of water being transferred as compared to total SFAR inflow. Folsom Reservoir has a capacity of 977,000 acre-feet (AF). Average annual inflow into Folsom Reservoir is about 2.7 million AF. The transfer amount of the proposed project is up to 5,000 AF, which represents less than 0.2 percent of annual inflow and 0.4 percent of the maximum capacity of Folsom Reservoir. As such, the proposed water transfer would not be expected to have a direct impact on the coldwater pool within the reservoir, regardless of when water is transferred into Folsom Reservoir."

The IS/ND meets the CEQA requirements for consideration and discussion of potential environmental impacts and no changes to the IS/ND are required to address this comment. Based on the information provided within the IS/ND, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project or any of its aspects may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070).

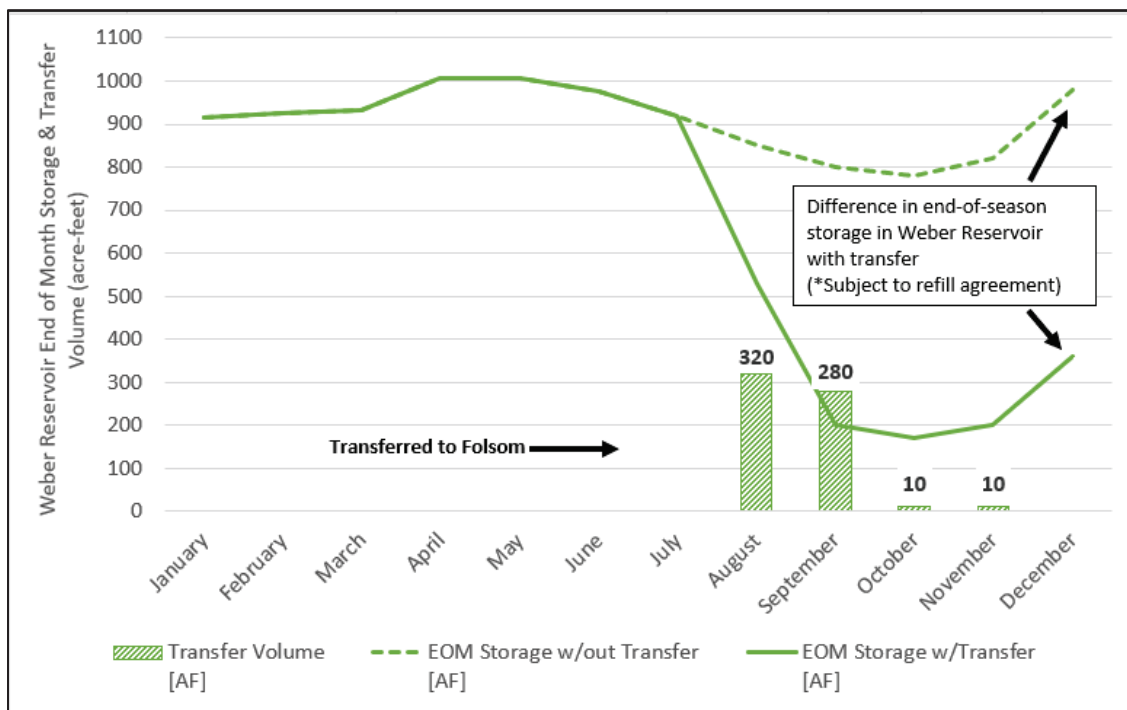
2. Minor Revisions to Initial Study / Negative Declaration

Introduction

This section documents minor revisions to this IS/ND that have been incorporated based on comments received during the public review period. These minor revisions include technical corrections to provide additional clarity and are insignificant modifications to the IS/ND. These revisions do not alter the scope of the proposed project, do not introduce new environmental impacts, and do not change the impact analysis or significance determinations in the IS/ND. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15073.5 and 15164, EID has determined that the revisions do not constitute substantial changes requiring recirculation but are provided here to support a more accurate and comprehensive environmental record.

Minor Revisions

1. Figure 2-4 contained in the May 13, 2026 IS/ND (page 2-12) contains a discrepancy in the legend, which mislabeled the end-of-month storage with transfer and without transfer curves. Figure 2-4 is replaced with the following figure that corrects this minor labeling error. The revision to the legend does not affect the impact analysis or significance determinations in the IS/ND. These corrections are an insignificant modification to the IS/ND and do not change the adequacy of the analysis.



2. Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 contained in the May 13, 2026 IS/ND (pages 3-16, 3-17, and 3-19, respectively) show a with transfer and without transfer condition in December, which is outside of the transfer period. The modified Table 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 with December removed are provided below. The removal of December releases does not affect the impact analysis or significance determinations in the IS/ND. These corrections are an insignificant modification to the IS/ND and do not change the adequacy of the analysis.

Table 3-1 Caples Lake Releases* 2010 through 2025 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations with and without the Transfer (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Transfer Period				
							Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Maximum	386	39	136	148	361	429	300	121	89	208	96
Minimum	5	3	5	5	11	14	5	5	5	5	6
Average	28	14	27	31	77	92	56	36	27	10	15
2026 Actual	14	55	31	---							
2026 Planned without Transfer Condition											
Released from Caples Reservoir							20	50	25	8	8
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP							20	50	25	8	8
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand							0	0	0	0	0
2026 Planned with Transfer Condition											
Released from Caples Reservoir (target)							20	50	25	8	8
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP							0	0	0	0	0
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand							20	50	25	8	8

* Releases from Caples Lake include minimum releases and discretionary releases and are measured with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage 11436999 - Caples Creek Release Below Caples Dam Near Kirkwood Ca

Table 3-2 Silver Lake Releases* 2010 through 2025 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations with and without the Transfer (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Transfer Period				
							Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Maximum	613	443	152	359	519	672	287	33	139	518	142
Minimum	6	4	1	5	6	17	13	10	7	5	2
Average	25	24	26	63	127	99	38	17	30	26	19
2026 Actual	48	51	64	---							
2026 Planned without Transfer Condition											
Released from Silver Lake							17	12	15	17	12
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP							17	12	15	17	12
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand							0	0	0	0	0
2026 Planned with Transfer Condition											
Released from Silver Lake							17	12	15	17	12
Routed to Jenkinson or directly to WTP							0	0	0	0	0
Increased Jenkinson release to meet WTP demand							17	12	15	17	12

* Releases from Silver Lake include minimum releases from Silver Lake Dam and leakage from Silver Lake from July – September 15, which are augmented with discretionary releases from September 16 through November; flow data from USGS gage 11436000 - Silver Lake Outlet Near Kirkwood CA and USGS gage 11436510 - Oyster Creek Near Kirkwood CA.

Table 3-3 Weber Reservoir Releases 2010 through 2025 Historical Data and Planned Reservoir Operations with and without the Transfer (All Values in CFS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Transfer Period				
							Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Maximum	49	32	50	35	15	6	12	14	15	13	5
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Average	6	6	9	7	4	2	2	3	4	2	2
2026 Actual	5	6	5	---							
2026 Planned without Transfer Condition											
Released from Weber Reservoir							1	1	1	1	1
2026 Planned with Transfer Condition											
Released from Weber Reservoir (target)							2	6	5	1	1

3. Comment Letters

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

715 P Street, P.O. BOX 942836
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**VIA-EMAIL**

June 11, 2026

Brian Deason
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bdeason@eid.org

Subject: State Clearinghouse #2026050621, 2026 El Dorado Irrigation District
Temporary Reservoir Re-Operation Water Transfer Project – CEQA Initial
Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND)

Dear Mr. Deason,

The Department of Water Resources (Department) has reviewed the Initial
Study/Negative Declaration for El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Temporary Reservoir
Re-operation Water Transfer Project. The Department has the following comments.

Project Description

Under the 2026 EID Temporary Reservoir Re-Operation Water Transfer Project (Proposed Project), EID would transfer a maximum of 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of water from July through November 2026 to various Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) Contractor Agencies with water sourced from EID water rights from Weber Reservoir, Silver Lake, and Caples Lake. EID proposes to make the water available by 1) releasing up to 620 AF of transfer water from Weber Reservoir that would have remained in storage in 2026 under a post-1914 water right (License 2184), and/or releasing up to 4,880 AF of water from Silver Lake and Caples Lake under pre-1914 water rights (Statement 015941 and Statement 004708, respectively).

Under the existing operations, releases from Caples and Silver Lakes are added to storage in Jenkinson Lake or used directly to meet summer/fall 2026 consumptive demands. Under the Proposed Project, the existing consumptive demands would be met with water previously stored in Jenkinson Lake in lieu of using water from Caples and Silver Lakes. This re-operation would allow the water stored in Caples and Silver Lakes to be released for transfers to buyers.

The Proposed Project would result in the temporary decreased storage of up to 620 AF in Weber Reservoir and up to 4,880 AF in Jenkinson Lake which could potentially result in an increased inflow of up to 5,500 AF into Folsom Reservoir. No new facilities are required to be constructed to facilitate this proposed transfer.

Mr. Deason

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Comments

Chapter 2 Project Description

2.1 Project Overview and 2.4 Proposed Project

Although the proposed transfer volume not to exceed 5,000 AF are listed in Section 2.1, Project Overview, and Section 2.4, Proposed Project, it is worth noting that the summation of “up to 620 AF available from Weber Reservoir and up to 4,880 AF combined available from Caples and Silver Lakes” results in 5,500 AF maximum available transfer volume. This comment letter states 5,500 AF (the actual available transfer volume) as the potential increased inflow into Folsom Reservoir in the Project Description section above. The IS/ND Chapter 2, Project Description, needs to change the maximum available transfer volume from 5,000 AF to 5,500 AF update so Chapter 2 states accurately the available water for transfer.

In addition, these two Sections further explain that the proposed project’s releases from Weber Reservoir and Caples and Silver lakes would be coordinated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Department for CVP and SWP water system operations, respectively. For transfers from Weber Reservoir, EID is seeking from the State Water Resources Control Board a temporary (1 year or less) change in Place of Use and Point of Rediversion (PORD) pursuant to EID Water Right License 2184 (Application 1692) and consistent with the California Water Code Sections 1725-1732. The proposed PORD would add the SWP Banks pumping plant as a PORD. Section 2.4.4 Absent an Approved Transfer explains EID’s plans for the proposed transfer water should state and federal approvals be completed.

2.6 Regulatory Requirements, Permits and Approvals

The IS/ND describes the Department and Reclamation in 2.6 as agencies that may have approval or review authority over portions of the proposed project. Specifically, the IS/ND explains that conveyance agreements would be needed between EID and the buyers of the transfer water in coordination with Reclamation or the Department depending on which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. This proposed EID drawdown of Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake storage for meeting transfer objectives would result in a lower than planned end-of-season storage absent the transfer and would require a refill agreement.

The Department agrees with EID’s determination that a refill agreement is needed, as the water vacated from Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake for this transfer may impact the water rights and operations of the SWP and CVP. The Department requests that all coordination is with both the Department and Reclamation, independent of which SWP and CVP facilities are utilized to facilitate the transfer. The refill agreement would

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include conditions, criteria, and procedures to account and mitigate injuries to SWP and CVP operations from future EID refill following the release of the transfer water, and both the Department and Reclamation would be signatories to any refill agreement. The Department requests that any order approving EID's temporary change contain a term requiring a signed and executed refill agreement with both the Department and Reclamation.

3.4.2 Discussion of Water Transfer Effects on Caples and Silver Lakes and Weber Reservoir Releases

Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 in Section 3.4.2 present the potential transfer release patterns for Caples and Silver Lakes and Weber Reservoir, respectively. These tables include the monthly historical maximum, minimum, and average release rates for each lake, along with the proposed transfer release flow rates. To provide accurate information for the impact analyses, the December release flows for without and with transfer conditions are outside of the transfer period and need to be removed from the Tables. If the removal of the December releases changes an impact analysis conclusion or mitigation measures, the impact analysis is flawed and will need to be re-done.

In addition, it is important to provide the breakdown of the approximate daily average flow rates for minimum releases, discretionary releases, and transfer releases in Tables 3-1 and 3-2. This breakdown will ensure that the cumulative volume of releases over the transfer period are sufficient to not exceed the maximum transfer volumes identified in the Project Description (620 acre-feet from Caples Lake and 4,880 acre-feet from Silver Lake). Absent this information, the document is insufficient to inform the public and decision makers of necessary information on potential impacts of the project.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems impact analysis and 3.19.2 Discussion

For 3.19.2(b), the IS/ND concludes a less than significant impact. The discussion explains that EID would enter into the refill/conveyance agreements with the Department and Reclamation, as appropriate, for Weber Reservoir and Jenkinson Lake with conditions acceptable to all parties to ensure the proposed project would have minimal or no effect on EID's ability to meet future water demand obligations. EID should ensure that with executed refill agreements with the Department and Reclamation, the impacts would remain less than significant.

To improve coordination and to facilitate the transfer of the latest information, the Department requests that EID submit a complete transfer proposal using the Department's Water Transfers Information Management System online database at <https://info.water.ca.gov/wtims/>.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. If

Mr. Deason

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you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SWP staff at SWPWaterTransfers@water.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Casey Pancaro

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director



June 5, 2026

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Subject: TEMPORARY RESERVOIR RE-OPERATION WATER TRANSFER PROJECT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)
SCH No. 2026050621

Dear Brian Deason:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received and reviewed the Notice of Intent to Adopt an ND from El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) for the Temporary Reservoir Re-Operation Water Transfer Project (Project) pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may need to exercise its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a).) CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (Fish & G. Code, § 1802.) Similarly for purposes of CEQA, CDFW provides, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381.) CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority. (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.) Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), the project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

EID plans to transfer up to 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of water during summer and fall of 2026 to federal and/or state water contractors south of the Delta (collectively, the Buyers). Up to 620 AF of water would be made available from Weber Reservoir and 4,880 AF of water would be made available from Caples and Silver Lakes through reservoir re-operations. EID would rely on water stored in Jenkinson Lake to meet consumptive demands during the transfer period in lieu of water from Caples and Silver Lakes. Exact timing and quantities of water transferred would depend on hydrologic conditions and demand from Buyers leading up to the transfer period; however, the quantity will not exceed 5,000 AF.

The Project would result in the temporary decreased storage of up to 620 AF in Weber Reservoir and up to 4,880 AF in Jenkinson Lake, and increased inflow of up to 5,000 AF into Folsom Reservoir. Once in Folsom Reservoir, the transfer water would be released through Folsom Dam, and then re-operated via Lake Natoma into the Lower American River (LAR). The transfer water released from Folsom Reservoir would be coordinated with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the systemwide operation of the Central Valley and State Water Projects.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The coldwater pool in Folsom Reservoir provides habitat for a variety of coldwater fish species, including rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). In addition, the coldwater pool provides a significant source of cold water in the summer and early fall in the LAR for fall-run Chinook salmon and the federally threatened Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Reclamation manages releases from the coldwater pool for the protection of these species.

The LAR is considered temperature impaired (SWRCB 2024), and Reclamation has identified target temperature requirements for Chinook salmon and steelhead (Reclamation 2019). LAR water temperatures frequently exceed optimal conditions for summer rearing of juvenile steelhead and for fall-run Chinook salmon spawning in October and November. Temperature thresholds for juvenile steelhead and spawning Chinook salmon were exceeded in 2018, 2020, and 2022 when previous EID transfers occurred in the system (SacPAS 2026). Folsom Reservoir operations directly influence conditions in LAR. The ND states that the proposed project will not result in any direct impacts to reservoir water temperatures or subsequent changes to volume of the coldwater pool.

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While temperature data from previous transfer periods are provided, these data are insufficient in demonstrating a lack of impacts to the coldwater pool and water temperatures in the LAR.

In order to fully evaluate any potential impacts of the proposed Project to the volume of the coldwater pool and coldwater releases to the Lower American River, CDFW recommends EID consult with Reclamation and conduct a temperature analysis. The temperature analysis should verify that the volume of coldwater habitat available in the reservoir and for downstream releases will not change as a result of this project, and that Reclamation will continue to be able to meet temperature requirements in the Lower American River.

FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21092 and § 21092.2, CDFW requests written notification of proposed actions and pending decisions regarding the proposed project. Written notifications shall be directed to: California Department of Fish and Wildlife North Central Region, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 or emailed to R2CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov.

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ND for Temporary Reservoir Re-Operation Water Transfer Project to EID in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize and/or mitigate impacts. Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Alyssa Obester, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at alyssa.obester@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Morgan Kilgour

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Morgan Kilgour
Regional Manager

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Arvin Chi, Environmental Scientist, arvin.chi@waterboards.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board

Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

REFERENCES

Reclamation 2019. Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project Central Valley Project, California Mid-Pacific Region, Final Biological Assessment, Chapter 4: Proposed Action.

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State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2024. 2024 California Integrated Report: Surface Water Quality Assessments to Comply with Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b). https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2023_2024state_ir_reports/2024-integrated-report-final-staff-report.pdf