INITIAL STUDY
AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT
WATER TRANSFER TO SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Patterson Irrigation District
Post Office Box 685
Patterson, California 95363

May 16, 2025

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Patterson Irrigation District (PID) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the **PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER TRANSFER TO SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT.**

Project Description: The Project will consist of a five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement between Patterson Irrigation District (PID) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to transfer up to 30,000 acre-feet, but no more than 6,000 acre-feet in any given contract year, of water to Valley Water. The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

1. Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
2. Water pursuant to PID's contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
3. Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

Project Location: The Project is located within the boundaries of PID in Stanislaus County and within the boundaries of Valley Water.

Determination: PID has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources code of the State of California).

Public Review: This Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated from May 16, 2025, through June 18, 2025. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 12:00 noon on June 18, 2025, to:

Patterson Irrigation District
Post Office Box 685
Patterson, California 95363
vlucchesi@pattersonid.org

Comments will be reviewed by PID, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by PID, which is scheduled for June 18, 2025. This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code. A copy of this document may be reviewed/obtained at the offices of Patterson Irrigation District, 948 Orange Avenue, Patterson, California 95363, and at Valley Water, 5750 Almaden Expressway. San Jose, CA 95118-3686.

Vincent Lucchesi, General Manager

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

2. PROJECT NAME: Patterson Irrigation District Water Transfer To Santa Clara Valley Water District

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: The Project will consist of a five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement between Patterson Irrigation District (PID) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), proposing to transfer up to 30,000 acre-feet of water, but no more than 6,000 acre-feet in any given contract year, over the five (5) year period to Valley Water. The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

   - Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
   - Water pursuant to PID's contract with Reclamation for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
   - Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is located within the boundaries of PID in Stanislaus County as shown on ***Figure 1***, and within the boundaries of Valley Water, as shown on ***Figure 2***.

5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Patterson Irrigation District, Post Office Box 685, 948 Orange Avenue, Patterson, California 95363, (209) 892-6233.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None

7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this project is on file at the office of The Patterson Irrigation District set forth above. This study was:

   X Adopted as presented.

   ☐ Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. Patterson Irrigation District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on _____, 2025.

9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- [X] 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

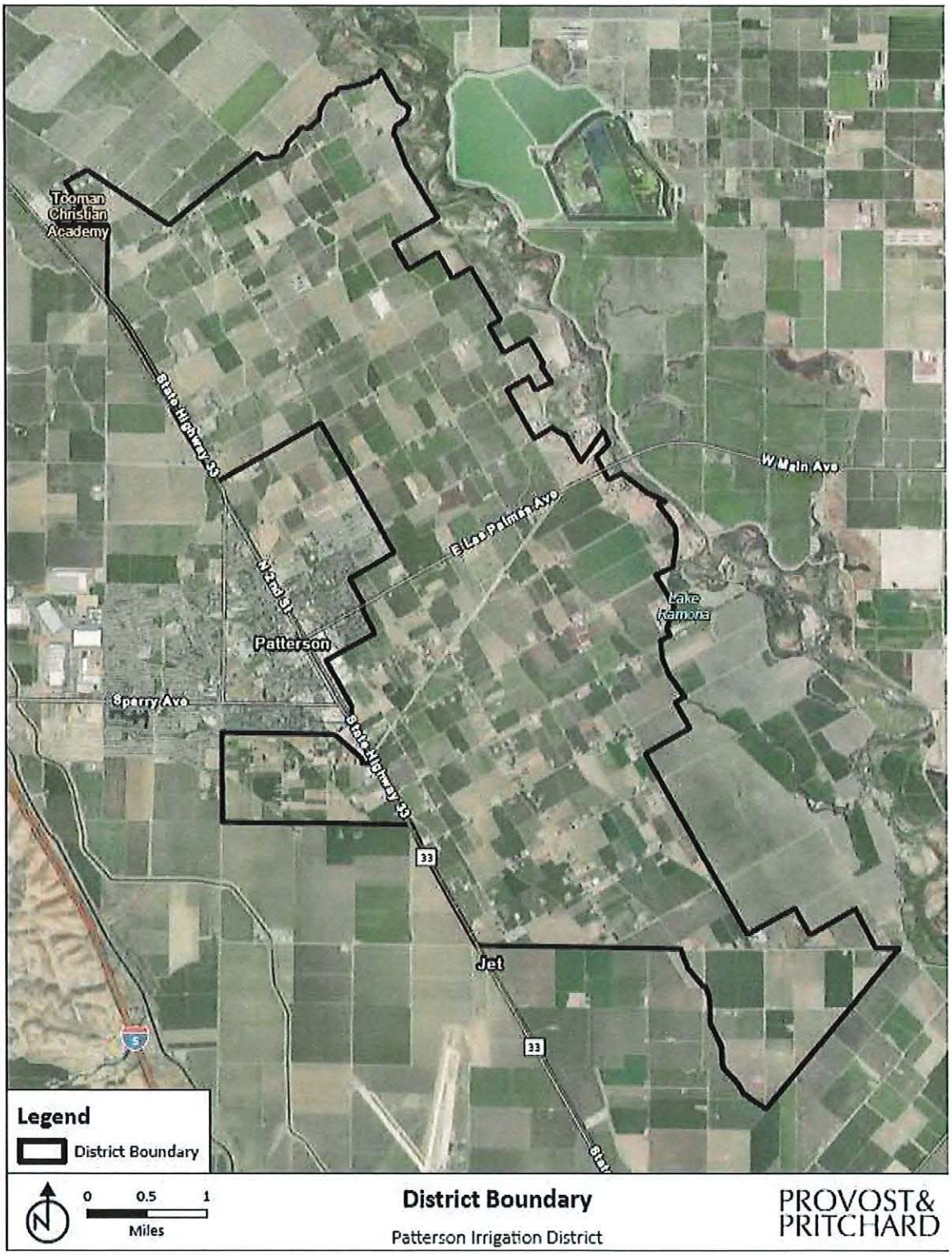


Figure 1 Patterson Irrigation District Boundaries

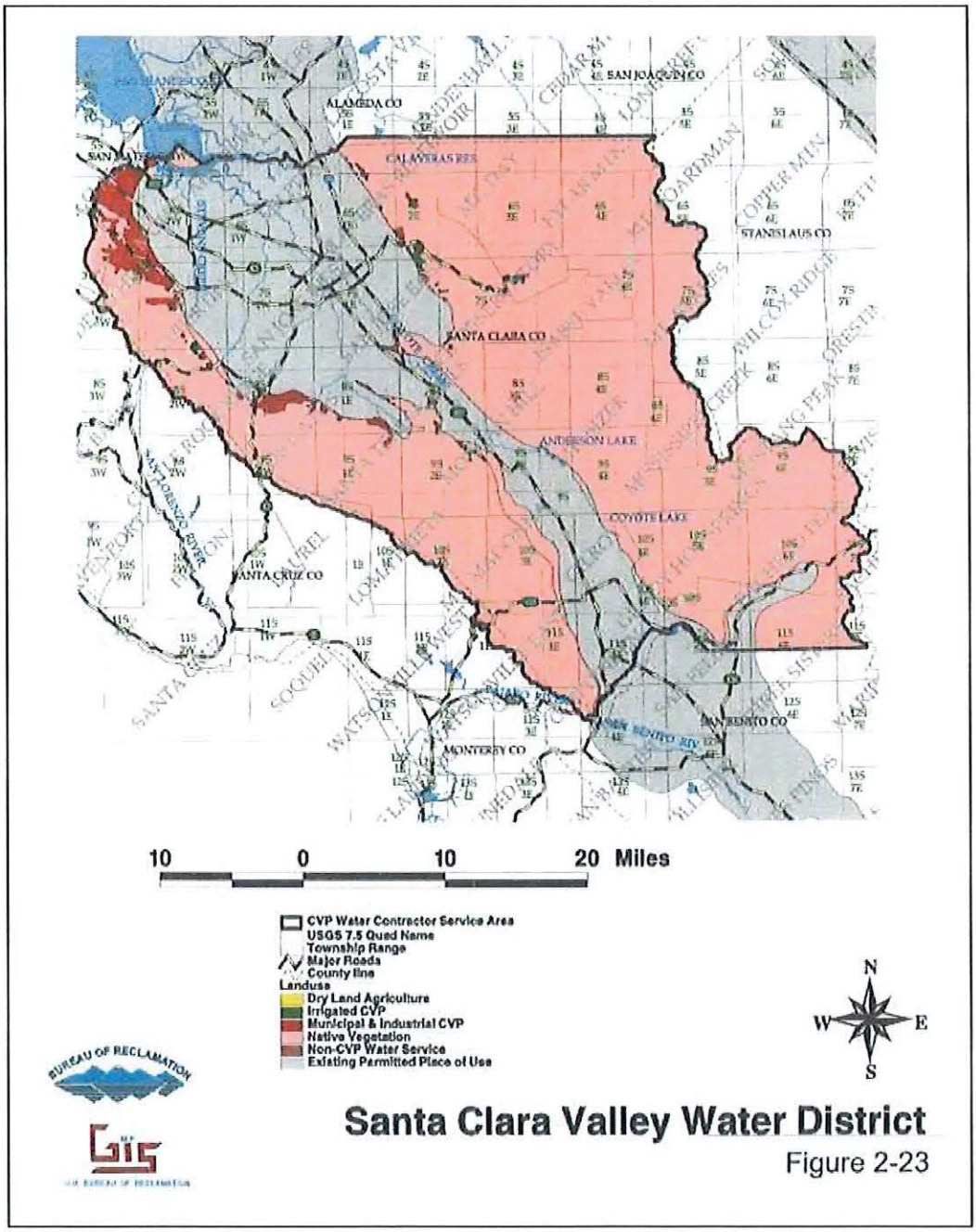


Figure 2 Santa Clara Valley Water District Boundaries

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SUMMARY

Project Title:	Patterson Irrigation District Water Transfer to Santa Clara Valley Water District
Project Location:	Stanislaus and Santa Clara Counties
Lead Agency:	Patterson Irrigation District
Responsible Agency:	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Agency Carrying Out Project:	Patterson Irrigation District
Contact Person:	Mr. Vince Lucchesi Patterson Irrigation District 948 Orange Avenue Post Office Box 685 Patterson, California 95363 (209) 892-6233 Phone (209) 892-4013 Fax

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors listed below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology /Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

2. INTRODUCTION

PID proposes a new five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement between PID and Valley Water to transfer up to 30,000 acre-feet of water, but no more than 6,000 acre-feet in any given contract year, to Valley Water (Project). The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

- Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
- Water pursuant to PID's contract with Reclamation for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
- Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

Due to aggressive conservation practices and the use of reclaimed water, PID has developed water supplies temporarily in excess of the demands within its service boundaries. As a result, for this Project, there will be no increase over historical diversions from the San Joaquin River, and no increase in allocations or use of other surface or groundwater supplies over historical amounts.

PID and Valley Water have executed a series of water transfer agreements dating back to 2010. PID and Valley Water first entered into a 4-year water transfer agreement in 2010 and in 2013 extended that agreement through 2020. In 2019, PID and Valley Water entered into a 5-year water transfer agreement through 2025. This Project, therefore, merely continues the current practice that has been in place since 2010. Because of reduced water supply allocation from the Central Valley Project (CVP), Valley Water has suffered shortages in past years and anticipates that this trend will continue. The proposed Project would not result in an increase in lands farmed within Valley Water, but would provide replacement supplies to offset supply reductions from the CVP. No water will be transferred from PID to lands within Valley Water unless they have been historically cultivated. Consequently, there will be no increase in water supply available to Valley Water over historical amounts, and no change in land use in either district as a result of the Project.

PID holds pre-1914 rights to surface water from the San Joaquin River, pursuant to a public Notice of Appropriation posted on February 10, 1909, by the Patterson Ranch Company to appropriate approximately 400 cfs for irrigation purposes from the westerly bank of San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County, California. The rights held by the Patterson Ranch Company were

subsequently assigned to PID. PID has established a record of water use under "pre-1914 Appropriative Rights" by filing a Statement of Water Diversion and Use with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). The State Board identifies PID's pre-1914 right, citing it as S009320.

PID also obtains surface water pursuant to a contract with Reclamation entitled "Contract between the United States and Patterson Irrigation District Providing for Project Water Service" dated February 28, 2005, Contract No. 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1 ("PID Contract"), pursuant to which PID obtains both project water from the CVP and replacement water, replacing its diminished San Joaquin River supplies.

SCVWD also obtains surface water pursuant to a water supply contract with Reclamation entitled "Amended and Restated Contract between the United States and Santa Clara Valley Water District for Water Service, Facilities Repayment, and for Operation and Maintenance of Certain Works of the San Felipe Division" and dated June 28, 2021, Contract No. 7-07-20-W0023AB-P, (Valley Water Contract).

The PID Board of Directors has found and determined that PID may be able to make a portion of its water supply available to Valley Water for the next five (5) years through conservation and reclamation projects and improvements. The water made available for transfer is expected to be surplus to the needs of PID's customers for that five-year period. PID is willing to modify the releases and diversions from its facilities and operations of its delivery systems in order to make a portion of its water supplies available for transfer to Valley Water, subject to obtaining any and all required approvals for said transfer from Reclamation.

No new conveyance facilities would be constructed for this Project. The conveyance method for water to be transferred pursuant to the Project will depend on the type of water to be transferred. CVP water and replacement water would be transferred within the federally owned Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) and diverted from existing pumping facilities from the DMC, as is currently done. Pre-1914 water would be pumped from the San Joaquin River at PID's existing pumping plant, and be conveyed through PID's existing system and into the DMC, as is currently done.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study contains the following sections:

Chapter 1 – Summary. Provides information about the proposed project location, lead agency, and identification of environmental issues determined to be "Potentially Significant Impacts" as indicated by the Environmental Checklist contained in Section 4.

Chapter 2 – Introduction. Provides background information about the proposed project. This section also described the content of the Initial Study.

Chapter 3 – Project Description. Describes the project location, surrounding land uses, project objectives, and characteristics of the proposed project.

Chapter 4 – Environmental Checklist. Contains the Environmental Checklist presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist is used to describe the impacts of the proposed project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the Checklist.

Chapter 5 – Consultation with Responsible Agencies Summarizes informal consultation with Reclamation.

Chapter 6 - Determination. States the determination by the Lead Agency. In this case, Patterson Irrigation District is proposing that a Negative Declaration be adopted for the proposed project.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Project will consist of a five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement between Patterson Irrigation District (PID) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to transfer up to 30,000 acre-feet of water, but no more than 6,000 acre-feet in any given contract year, to Valley Water. The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

1. Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
2. Water pursuant to PID's contract with Reclamation for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
3. Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

This Project is a continuation of water transfer activity that has been ongoing between PID and Valley Water since 2010 and does not result in any physically changed circumstances.

PROJECT AREA

PID is located near the City of Patterson, in Stanislaus County, California along San Joaquin River, between the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. PID's service area extends about 8 miles long (east-west) and three miles wide (north-south). PID encompasses approximately 12,660.05 acres, most of which is irrigated. PID includes 675 landowners and over 244 water users. *Figure 1* shows the current boundary for PID's service area. Irrigated lands served by PID include a variety of orchards and row crops.

Valley Water is a special district created by the State legislature responsible for water supply, flood protection, and watershed management in Santa Clara County, the southernmost county bordering the San Francisco Bay. Valley Water has the same boundaries as Santa Clara County, covering about 1,300 square miles. Valley Water receives annual allocations of water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) pursuant to its respective water service contracts with Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources, respectively. *See Figure 2.* In addition, Valley Water manages local groundwater and surface water resources.

The Santa Clara Valley runs the entire length of the County from north to south, bounded by the Diablo Range to the east and the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west. The valley is bounded to the northwest by the southern reaches of San Francisco Bay and to the south by the Pajaro River. Most development and water use occurs on the 350-square-mile valley floor. The northern part of the valley, north of the Coyote Narrows, is extensively urbanized and houses over 90 percent of the County's 1.8 million residents and 13 of the County's 15 cities. With the exception of the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, the southern part of the valley remains predominately rural with some low-density residential development.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15162.

The Project merely continues an existing and ongoing water transfer arrangement. Accordingly, CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 applies. That guideline provides:

> § 15162. Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations.
>
> (a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:
>
> (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
>
> (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
>
> (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
>
> (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
>
> (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

(b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.

(c) Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.

(d) A subsequent EIR or subsequent negative declaration shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087 or Section 15072. A subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed.

Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15162 (*see also*, Public Resource Code § 21166)

The negative declaration prepared for the initial 2010 contract is State Clearinghouse Number 2009112091.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND BASELINE

The existing conditions form the environmental setting and baseline for the Project against which impacts are measured. Section 15125, subdivision (a) of the CEQA Guidelines provides: "An EIR must include a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is published, or if no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced, from both a local and regional perspective. This environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a lead agency determines whether an impact is significant." This standard applies equally to EIRs or initial studies. *Communities For A Better Environment v. South Coast Air*

Quality Management Dist. (2010) 48 Cal.4th 310, 321 note 5; *Fat v. County of Sacramento* (2002) 97 Cal.App.4th 1270, 1277.

As the Supreme Court explains, "Neither CEQA nor the CEQA Guidelines mandates a uniform, inflexible rule for determination of the existing conditions baseline. Rather, an agency enjoys the discretion to decide, in the first instance, exactly how the existing physical conditions without the project can most realistically be measured, subject to review, as with all CEQA factual determinations, for support by substantial evidence." *Id.* at p. 328.

Here, PID applies the existing conditions as the baseline against which the Project's impacts will be measured.

Patterson Irrigation District

Water Supply and Use

PID's pre-1914 rights are diverted from the San Joaquin River, in Stanislaus County at approximately river mile 98.5. *See Figure 1.* PID's existing surface water pumping plant is located on the western bank of the San Joaquin River, approximately 3.5 miles east of the City of Patterson and just over a quarter mile north of West Main Street. The existing diversion facility consists of seven pumps with a total diversion capacity of approximately 195 cubic feet per second (cfs). The current river diversion delivery system consisting of a steel pump deck on the west bank of the San Joaquin River supporting pumps and motors connected to steel discharge pipes discharging into an open channel canal. PID has five (5) pumping plants on its Main Canal, each of which is automated utilizing canal algorithms for downstream level control utilizing Allen-Bradley IntelliCENTER motor control centers, variable frequency drives, programmable logic controllers and a SCADA system. This system allows for optimum water and energy use efficiency by reducing unneeded pumping and exact flow requirements at the heads of all laterals and turnouts off the Main Canal.

In addition to its pre-1914 surface water supply, PID receives surface water through a water service contract with Reclamation for service from the DMC. PID's CVP contract provides for two types of water service:

a. **Project Water**. PID's contract provides that Reclamation will provide PID with up to 16,500 acre-feet of project water annually, subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

b. **Replacement Water**. PID's contract provides that Reclamation will provide PID with 6,000 acre feet of replacement water annually in addition to the project water discussed above because CVP water allocations have reduced San Joaquin River flows. The replacement water is to be provided to PID without charge, and is the first water delivered to PID under the contract annually.

Project water and replacement water under PID's contract are diverted from the DMC at PID's existing turn-out at river mile 42.51 L.

PID also appropriates groundwater from groundwater wells, located throughout the district. From 2000 through 2024, PID pumped an average of 3,672 acre feet annually, with a high of 9,592 acre feet occurring in 2015 and a low of 370 acre feet occurring in 2024. PID currently has seven (7) district owned wells, with a combined flow rate of 33.5 cfs. Groundwater pumping within PID during the Project prior would remain within historical levels, and no groundwater is anticipated to be transferred.

In the last fifteen years, the primary crops grown within PID have included alfalfa, corn, almonds, apricots and walnuts. PID is surrounded by dense dairy production areas. PID's proximity to these dairy production areas provides for a large percentage of the district being farmed for forage crops such as alfalfa and silage corn. There is also a trend toward continued conversion from row crops to permanent crops such almonds and walnuts. PID maintains records regarding irrigation methods, indicating that the main irrigation methods used between 1986 and 1996 were primarily furrow/border followed by sprinklers and trickle irrigation. The more recent trending shows a conversion to drip-micro spray of new permanent plantings and some row crops such as tomatoes. Investments in more efficient irrigation and tail water recovery systems have resulted in conserved water available for transfer and/or reductions in groundwater use. In recent years, PID has sought to transfer conserved water to meet regional water needs.

Water Conservation and Reclamation Efforts

Since 1997, PID has aggressively pursued automation and modernization of its pumping, distribution and delivery systems. These automation and modernization efforts will continue into the future and they focus on resource management and efficiency, including water and power. Modernization efforts have included replacing less efficient pumps and motors with more efficient units, and constructing and installing accurate and reliable flow measurement structures and systems, installing and implementing state-of- the-art pumping plant control systems, and a Power Monitoring SCADA system at its five pumping plants on the Main Canal. PID also participated in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) pump testing and pump retrofit/repair program through a funding program provided by Reclamation. PID worked with the Irrigation Training and Research Center at California Polytechnic State University to develop a canal automation system including flow meters and volumetric options for measuring flow rate. As they were implemented, these efforts increased the efficiency of PID's pumping and delivery system.

PID has also constructed and operates two reservoir projects which allow for reclaimed water usage. Tail water and farm drainage water return flows in the district historically either percolated into the groundwater aquifer or were returned to the San Joaquin River via drainage facilities. These two innovative reservoir recovery systems recover the irrigation tailwater before it returns to the San Joaquin River. The projects involved building two small reservoirs to store the tail water, automating key components and installing key SCADA components for effective operation and monitoring. PID also uses advanced hydraulic automation techniques and computerized SCADA systems to better monitor and control its water and energy use.

PID has also been losing irrigated acreage as a result of urban development in the vicinity of the City of Patterson. In 2007 alone, 683 acres were detached from the district and annexed into the City of Patterson for urban development. Over the past decade, PID has also lost irrigated acreage to rural development resulting from parcel splitting. As parcels are divided and sold, homes are built, as well as driveways, outbuildings and yards, resulting in a permanent loss of irrigated acres. Preliminary analysis reveals that up to 5% of district acreage has likely been lost as a result of this process.

Information regarding PID's historical diversions and extensive conservation efforts is available at PID's office and from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Water Supply and Use

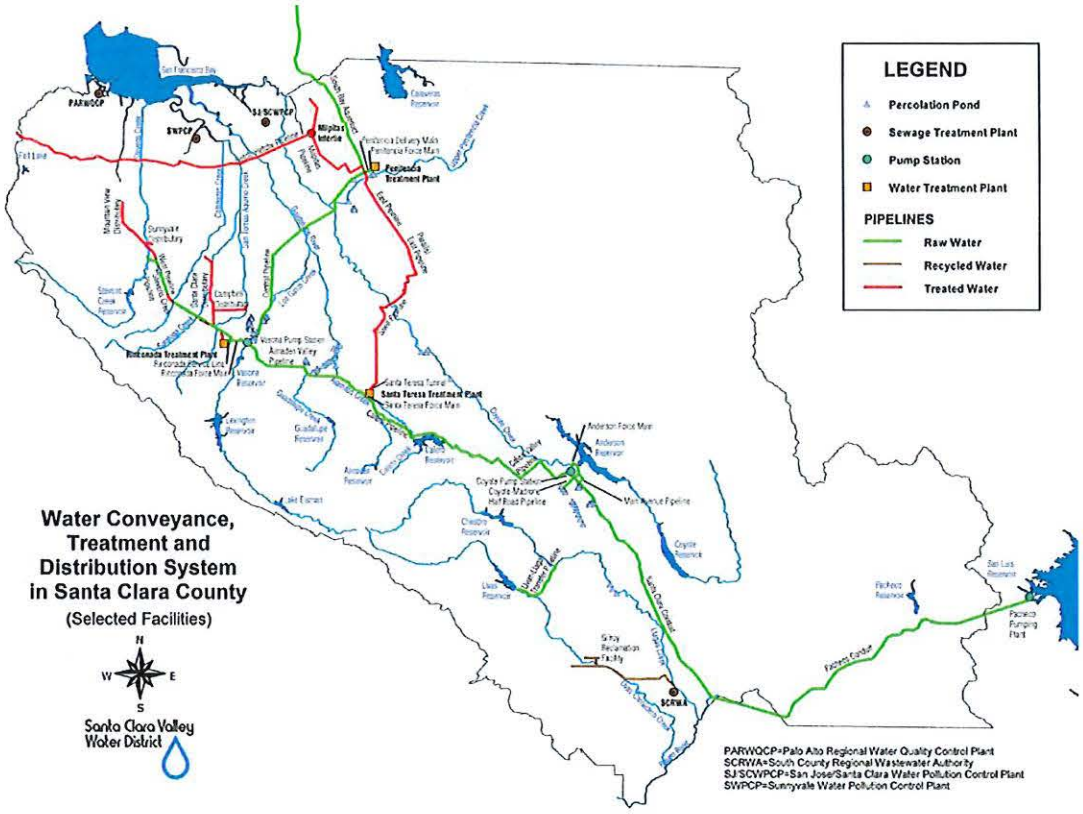
Imported water is delivered to Santa Clara County through three main pipelines: the State Water Project's (SWP) South Bay Aqueduct, the CVP's San Felipe Division, and the San Francisco Water Department's Hetch-Hetchy system. Valley Water has a water service contract from the SWP for 100,000 acre-feet per year. The SWP allocation for 2025 is 40% of contract amount. Valley Water does not control or administer Hetch-Hetchy deliveries to the six cities in the County that receive this supply; however, this supply reduces the demands on Valley Water - supplied water. Imported water is a primary source of supply for Valley Water 's three water treatment plants, and is released for in-stream or off-stream groundwater recharge. In addition, Valley Water has entered into a long-term agreement with the Semitropic Water Storage District for participation in its Groundwater Banking and Exchange Program. The agreement reserves for Valley Water up to 350,000 acre-feet of storage, from which dry year supplies may be delivered.

Surface water, including local runoff, is captured in ten local reservoirs for recharge into the groundwater basin or conveyance to one of Valley Water's three water treatment plants for drinking water. The total storage capacity of these reservoirs is approximately 170,000 acre-feet, but is currently reduced because of regulatory restrictions that have been imposed to address seismic concerns. *See Figure 3.*

Valley Water operates an extensive in-county groundwater management program, including on-stream and off-stream recharge facilities, groundwater and water quality monitoring networks, and a well permitting program. Valley Water manages the groundwater basin for the treatment, transmission, and storage of water, and to prevent the return of historic land subsidence. The groundwater system managed by Valley Water consists of two subbasins: the Santa Clara and Llagas Subbasins. Water enters the groundwater subbasins through recharge areas, generally located at or near the subbasins' perimeters, and is transmitted into the deeper confined aquifer of the central part of the valley. Runoff is captured in Valley Water's reservoirs and released into both in-stream and off-stream recharge ponds for percolation into the groundwater basin. In addition, imported water is delivered by the raw water conveyance system to streams and ponds for groundwater recharge. Between 2022 and 2024, the annual average system recharge managed by Valley Water was approximately 105,000 acre-feet. The groundwater basin has a storage

capacity of several hundred thousand acre-feet, enabling supplies to be carried over from wet years to dry years.

Figure 3. Santa Clara Valley Water District – Water Supply System



Between 2022 and 2024, annual water usage in Santa Clara County was estimated to be 280,000 acre-feet (AF). Approximately 10 percent is used for agricultural purposes with most of the remaining water being used for municipal purposes (residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and public facilities), and environmental habitat (e.g. maintenance of minimum streamflows to meet fishery needs).

To meet current and future demands, Valley Water continues to implement its long-term water conservation program. With a target of saving 100,000 acre-feet per year by 2030, the long-term program offers a variety of incentives and rebates that achieve sustainable water savings. The program saved approximately 86,000 acre-feet in 2024.

Water Transfers

Valley Water actively transfers water both into and out of the district to manage its overall imported water supplies. In recent years, primarily due to chronic shortages in contract allocations, the district has actively participated in water transfers with other CVP San Luis Unit and DMC Canal Unit contractors including Mercy Springs, Westlands Water District, San Luis Water District, as well as in transfer and banking projects involving other types of contractors.

Description of Assignment

Volume of Water to be Assigned

PID proposes to enter into a five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement to transfer up to 30,000 acre-feet of water to Valley Water, but no more than 6,000 acre-feet of water in any one contract year. The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

1. Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
2. Water pursuant to PID's contract with Reclamation for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
3. Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

Each year, the transfer of available Replacement water is prioritized first, followed by available Central Valley Project supplies delivered under PID's Contract, and then other supplies listed above.

Existing Water Use

Currently PID's pre-1914 rights are used within, and immediately adjacent to, PID for agricultural purposes. Historically, PID has used all of its surface and groundwater sources within its boundaries for irrigation demands. As PID has constructed more facilities to recapture drain water and implemented aggressive conservation, it has consistently sought to transfer the surface water that has been made available by the projects and practices.

Over time PID has undertaken concerted efforts to conserve water. PID provides agricultural water to approximately 244 customers on about 12,700 acres, all of which is irrigated, and located in Stanislaus County and is adjacent to Del Puerto Water District to the southwest. In 2024, PID

diverted approximately 37,000 acre-feet of water from the San Joaquin River. PID receives water from the DMC to supplement their San Joaquin River pre-1914 supply. The DMC water supplies include 16,500 acre-feet of water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) pursuant to a long-term contract (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) with Reclamation, and a 6,000-AF (acre feet) delivery per year from a water rights settlement contract because operation of the Central Valley Project Friant Division has reduced San Joaquin River flows. In addition to its CVP and San Joaquin River supplies, PID also pumps groundwater as necessary.

PID's distribution system consists of 3.8 miles of unlined canal, 51.8 miles of concrete-lined canals, and 84 miles of pipelines. The main canal flows from east to west and the main laterals that come off the Main Canal and flow to the north and south. PID has a series of four (4) lift pump stations on its Main Canal, three (3) sediment control reservoirs that are located on the main canal, and two (2) additional tailwater recovery reservoirs located off the main laterals.

Since 1997, PID has aggressively pursued automation and modernization of its system in coordination with Reclamation and the Irrigation Training and Research Center at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA. Conservation and modernization efforts included replacing low efficiency pumps and motors, constructing Replogle flumes for accurate flow measurement, constructing long-crested weirs for water level control, implementing state-of-the-art pumping plant control systems and a installing a Power Monitoring SCADA system at its five pumping plants on the Main Canal. PID also participated in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) pump testing and pump retrofit/repair program. All of these efforts have increased the efficiency of PID's water pumping and delivery system, conserved water and reduced the return flow of waters high in salts to the San Joaquin River.

Tailwater or drainage water return flows in PID historically either percolated into the groundwater aquifer or were returned to the San Joaquin River via direct drain facilities. Recently, PID constructed two innovative reservoir recovery systems that recover irrigation tailwater before it can flow into the San Joaquin River. The projects involved building two small reservoirs to store the tailwater, automating key components and installing key SCADA components for effective operation and monitoring. PID also uses advanced hydraulic automation techniques and computerized SCADA systems to better monitor and control its water and energy use.

PID has also been losing irrigated acreage as a result of urban development in the vicinity of the City of Patterson. In 2007 alone, 683 acres were detached from the district and annexed into the City of Patterson for urban development. Over the past decade, PID has lost irrigated acreage to rural development resulting from parcel splitting. As parcels are divided and sold homes are built, as well as driveways, outbuildings and yards, resulting in a permanent loss of irrigated acres. Preliminary analysis reveals that up to 5% of district acreage has likely been lost as a result of this process.

How Water is to be Made Available.

Water transferred from PID will be made available in O'Neill Forebay and/or the Delta Mendota Canal for delivery to Valley Water at its turnouts in the San Felipe Division. No construction that has not already been approved and subject to environmental review is required to transfer the water from PID to Valley Water.

Facilities Required to Transfer Water

The water to be transferred will be comprised of any combination of the following water rights held by PID:

1. Pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River,
2. Water pursuant to PID's contract with Reclamation for water supply from the Central Valley Project (Contract 14-06-200-3598A-LTR1) (Contract), or
3. Replacement water as identified in the Contract.

Each year, the transfer of available Replacement water is prioritized first, followed by available Central Valley Project supplies delivered under PID's Contract, and then other supplies listed above. Facilities required to transfer water will depend upon the source of the water being transferred.

Pre-1914 Water

If pre-1914 water is transferred, it will be diverted from PID's existing pumping facility on the San Joaquin River (at mile point 98.5), subject to any regulatory requirements protecting biological resources and/or conditions in PID's permits governing such diversions. The pumped water will be conveyed through PID's existing distribution system, and then transferred into an existing pipeline originating at the west end of PID's Main Canal, or in PID's Lateral 5-South, and terminating at the Delta Mendota Canal, at Ward Avenue.

In order to transfer PID's pre-1914 water into the DMC to convey it to Valley Water, PID would need to enter into a Warren Act contract or contracts with Reclamation to pump and or store the water into the Federal facilities at DMC milepost 42.53 L, and convey it to Valley Water, who receives CVP water from the DMC at milepost 93.25 R. PID would also utilize this Warren Act contract for storage and delivery of pre-1914 supplies it delivers into the DMC, in order to maximize water resource flexibility between the two agencies. PID has an existing Warren Act contract with Reclamation, and anticipates renewing that contract to cover the five (5) year contract.

CVP Water

If CVP water is transferred, the water will remain in the DMC and flow past PID's DMC turnout at milepost 42.51 L and continue downstream in the DMC to Valley Water's turnout at milepost 93.25 R. No new construction or change in operation is needed to accommodate transfer of CVP water. While no Warren Act Contract is required, Reclamation's permission is required to complete the transfer.

Replacement Water

If replacement water is transferred, the water will similarly remain in the DMC and flow past PID's DMC turnout at milepost 42.51 L and continue downstream in the DMC to Valley Water's turnout at milepost 93.25 R. No new construction or change in operation is needed to accommodate transfer of CVP water. While no Warren Act Contract is required, Reclamation's permission is required to complete the transfer.

Project Characteristics

Valley Water currently receives CVP water supplies through the Delta-Mendota Canal. CVP water is pumped into San Luis Reservoir and delivered to Valley Water D through the San Felipe Division. Over a five-year period beginning in 2025, the proposed project would provide Santa Clara County residents with up to 30,000 AF of supplemental water supplies. These supplemental water supplies will help offset local and imported water supply shortages anticipated to be faced by Valley Water in future years. Valley Water is also pursuing other cost-effective conjunctive use, storage and recovery, and exchange and transfer opportunities to help counteract the effects of dry years. The water transferred from PID would be applied within the authorized place of use for CVP water.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following checklist is the form presented in appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist form is used to describe the impacts of the proposed project. A discussion follows each environmental issue identified in the checklist. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less then significant with mitigation, or less than significant. For this checklist the following designations are used:

Potentially Significant Impact: "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated: "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact."

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards. If no significant impacts are identified, a Negative Declaration would be prepared.

No Impact: The project would not have an impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
state scenic highway?				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities with no additional modifications. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact on aesthetics.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE 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. *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?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. The transfer would involve only surplus conserved water, and would not reduce the supplies available to PID's existing agricultural users. Similarly, no land conversion will take place in Valley Water as the water transferred is intended to replace depleted supplies, not increase supplies. Water will not be provided to lands that have not been historically cultivated. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no potential negative impact on agricultural resources.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY -- *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) 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 (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, based on any applicable threshold of significance?	☐	☐	X	☐
g) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				

Discussion

a-e) The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact on air quality. Agricultural production to the same degree and intensity as currently occurs would not obstruct the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rate of Progress Plan (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 2002). There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

f) The pumping of water requires the use of energy, which results in greenhouse gas emissions (based on use of current technology). Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) is a Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and CO_2 emission is considered a criteria pollutant. PID and Valley Water are already engaged in this activity. The contract itself will not change existing physical operations on or conditions on the ground. The environmental analysis prepared for the existing contract did not find this impact significant. Because the impact will remain the status quo there is no significant effect. So while any related CO_2 emissions are expected to result in continuing air quality impacts, the GHG impact does not rise to the level of level of significance either individually or cumulatively – particularly when measured against the existing conditions baseline. Further, recent energy conservation measures undertaken by PID have resulted in a notable energy savings and an overall reduction in operational GHG emissions.

g) GHG emission does not conflict with an existing plan or policy.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project*:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. While PID does divert water from the San Joaquin River, no change is contemplated to the diversion facilities by the project, and no change is contemplated from the historical quantity or time of diversion. Therefore, the project would have no impact on biological resources.

In addition, most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act do not occur in the project area. The Project would not involve the conversion of any land fallowed and untilled for three or more years. Such actions would require subsequent environmental review. The Project also would not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do not have some value to listed species. Due to capacity limitations and water quality restrictions in the DMC, there would be no effects on listed fish species. No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Project, and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat would be affected. Any encountered biological resources are likely to be those associated with actively cultivated land. Because no increased natural stream course or additional surface water pumping would occur there would be no effects on listed fish species.

There will be no impact or effects to fisheries. To the extent that PID utilizes pre-1914 conserved water supplies for this transfer, the water would be diverted from the San Joaquin River through an existing NOAA and California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved high-profile bar fish screen designed to protect migrating Chinook salmon and steelhead. There will be no impact on wetlands. The project will have no impact on requirements imposed upon third parties to meet specify minimum flow requirements and operational constraints for listed fish and other considerations, or existing programs to enhance and protect biological resources. The project will have no applicable impact or any effect on any listed or proposed threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project would not conflict with any local, regional, or state policy, ordinance or conservation plan in effect for the area. Hence no impact to adopted habitat conservation plans would occur with project implementation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project*:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The project would not require nor induce any new surface disturbing activities such as construction. Farming operations such as plowing, planting, and harvesting would continue to take place on land where surface disturbing activities have continuously occurred for many years. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical or archeological resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines in §15064.5. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS –				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	X
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. There is no change or impact to soils or geology. There is no exposure or risk applicable to any seismic related activity, landslides, structures, or property of any kind. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, there is nothing applicable to any hazardous material with this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- *Would the project*:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of surface water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities, and does not include transfer of any groundwater. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. There will be less water applied in PID as a result of conservation efforts, use of reclaimed water, and a pre-existing reduction in irrigated acres. There will be no increase in irrigation in Valley Water, as water transferred pursuant to the Project is intended to make up for reduced supplies, not increase supplies over historic use within the district. Therefore, there will be no effect on surface water supplies or quality. Because water quantities and deliveries will not change, there will not be a shift to groundwater due to the Project. Therefore, there also will be no effect on groundwater supplies or quality.

The transfer water would be maintained within existing conveyance and storage systems of Valley Water. No substantial erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site would occur. In addition, there are no construction activities or land alterations associated with the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts relating to water drainage patterns would occur with project implementation.

The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water thereby exceeding the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems (see discussion in paragraph above). Therefore, no impacts relating to storm water drainage systems would occur with project implementation.

The proposed project would not involve the construction of housing. The transfer would use existing PID, CVP, and Valley Water delivery and storage facilities, which were constructed to standard engineering design practices to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. The proposed project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or impede or redirect flood flows. The project would not expose people, structures or associated facilities to inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impacts would result from project implementation with respect to tsunamis, seiches, or mudslides.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - *Would the project:*				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

There is no land use conversion that will result from this action and no changes or impacts to any land planning or established community. The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact. The water transfer will not provide for additional water supplies that could act as an incentive for conversion of native habitat for increased acreage of agricultural production, municipal and industrial development, or other activities.

X. 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

There are no mining activities that would be affected by the proposed project. The project would not interfere with a mineral resource recovery site or any future mineral activities. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project. The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE – *Would the project result in*:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would people in the area be exposed to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

There is no applicable effect or impact for noise. There will be no temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels associated with any part of the project. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

The proposed project does not involve the development or enhancement of any new noise emitting sources. In addition, there would be no construction activities associated with the proposed project since the transfer would rely on existing delivery and storage facilities. No noise impacts would result with project implementation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- *Would the project*:				
a) Induce substantial 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)?	□	□	□	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	□	□	□	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	□	□	□	X

Discussion

There is no applicable impact or effect to population and housing. The proposed project would not induce substantial population growth. There is no displacement to any numbers of people nor any net effect or indirect effect from the project related to jobs or housing. The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. 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,	□	□	□	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	X
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	X
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project would not induce new government facilities nor alter existing facilities. Fire and police protection schools or other public facilities would not be impacted by the proposed project. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

Farming activities within the area would continue, no recreation facilities would be constructed or expanded. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- *Would the project*:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts)?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed action does not involve the design or construction of roads, will not induce traffic, or create a demand for parking. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- *Would the project*:				
	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The proposed project involves the transfer of water from PID to Valley Water through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. The water transfer will not provide for additional water supplies that could act as an incentive for conversion of native habitat for increased acreage of agricultural production, municipal and industrial development, or other activities.

The proposed action relies on use of existing and planned expansion of PID, CVP and Valley Water facilities. No new construction or expansion of public service system facilities will be required. There will be no impacts to any utility or service system.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
a) Does the project have the potential to 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, 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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)?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The project would not impact the environment, would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, would not threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, and would not reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project would not have any direct or indirect cumulative effects. The project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Scope of the Project

Cumulative Impacts

PID must find that the project may have a significant effect on the environment if the project's potential environmental impacts, although individually limited, are cumulative considerable. Public Resources Code §21083(b); 14 Cal Code Regs §15065(c). "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effect of past projects, other current projects and probably future projects.

PID has not identified any other projects, and PID has determined that the incremental impacts of the project are not cumulatively considerable after evaluating them against the backdrop of the environmental effects of the other foreseeable projects described above.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

Reclamation and Valley Water are responsible agencies under Public Resources Code §21080.3 and 14 California Code of Regulations §15381. CEQA requires that as soon as the lead agency has decided that an initial study is required, it must consult informally with all responsible agencies to obtain their recommendations on whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration should be prepared. Public Resources Code §21080.3; 14 Cal Code Regs §15063(g). PID has been in negotiations with Valley Water and has reviewed the contents of this environmental document with Valley Water staff. PID is in communication with Reclamation to discuss the transfer, the need for approval, and the potential need for a long-term Warren Act contract.

6. DETERMINATION

No substantial changes to the project or new information of substantial importance as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 exists, and therefore Negative Declaration previously adopted for the water transfer agreement is still applicable. In addition, Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.