

Public Draft

WDCWA LONG-TERM WATER TRANSFER PROJECT

Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

Prepared for
Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency

August 2026



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ACRONYMS AND OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
AF	acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
Agency	Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency
APE	area of potential effect
Basin Plans	Water Quality Control Plans
Bay–Delta Plan	San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Estuary
BMP	best management practice
BP	before present
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Register	California Register of Historical Resources
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CPG	Conaway Preservation Group
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
CWA	Clean Water Act
Delta	Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta

Abbreviation	Definition
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DPP	Drought Protection Program
DPS	distinct population segment
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DWWSP	Davis–Woodland Water Supply Project
EC	electrical conductivity
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIR	environmental impact report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Science Associates
ESU	evolutionarily significant unit
FESA	federal Endangered Species Act
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zones
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FR	Federal Register
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWh	gigawatt-hours
IEP	Interagency Ecological Program
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
LRDP	UC Davis 2018 Long-Range Development Plan
LTS	less than significant
LTSM	Less than Significant with Implementation of Mitigation Measures
LTWT	Long-Term Water Transfer Project
MAF	million acre-feet
mgd	million gallons per day
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHR	National Register of Historic Resources
OSHA	U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PBO	programmatic biological opinion
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Porter-Cologne Act	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969

Abbreviation	Definition
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project Partners	Cities of Davis and Woodland and UC Davis
proposed Project	Long-Term Water Transfer Project
PS	potentially significant
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	Reclamation District
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
River	Sacramento River
RWQCB	regional water quality control board
RWTF	Regional Water Treatment Facility
SEIR	supplemental environmental impact report
Sellers	South Sutter Water District, Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a Sacramento River Settlement Contractor
Settlement Contract	Sacramento River Water Rights Settlement Contract
Shasta Critical Year	Lake Shasta Critical Year Reduction
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SRSC	Sacramento River Settlement Contractor
SSWD	South Sutter Water District
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	total maximum daily load
tribes	California Native American Tribes
UC Davis	University of California, Davis
USC	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
WDCWA	Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 Introduction

This supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) is a supplement to the Davis Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP) Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2006042175), which was certified by the City of Davis in November 2007, adopted by the City of Woodland in December 2007, and amended by the Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA or Agency) through several addenda. The DWWSP EIR identified the joint use by the WDCWA and Reclamation District 2035 of a replacement surface water intake as the preferred alternative for the diversion of water from the Sacramento River. The DWWSP, which is currently in operation, provides surface water supplies to the cities of Woodland and Davis and the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The WDCWA proposed to implement the Long-Term Water Transfer Project (LTWT or proposed Project) to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from the South Sutter Water District (SSWD), Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a Sacramento River Settlement Contractor (SRSC) (collectively Sellers and individually a Seller) to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. The proposed long-term water transfers are described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.

Inquiries about the proposed Project should be directed to:

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WDCWA – Regional Water Treatment Facility
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Woodland, CA 95776
530-376-3448
Secretary@wdcwa.com

Copies of the Draft Supplemental EIR will be available for public review at the following locations:

City of Woodland
City of Woodland Public Library
250 1st St.
Woodland, CA 95695

City of Davis
Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Public Library
315 E 14th St.
Davis, CA 95616

ES.2 DWWSP Objectives

The three primary objectives of the DWWSP are to (1) provide a reliable water supply to meet existing and future needs in dry years; (2) improve water quality to meet drinking water standards; and (3) reduce or eliminate the need for environmental clearances for short-term water transfers.

The proposed Project would directly support the DWWSP objectives, and would further those objectives, by providing additional water supplies to meet water demand during summer months in dry years and winter months when the Term 91 curtailment is in effect.

ES.3 Project Description

WDCWA proposes to implement the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from the SSWD, Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a SRSC to meet water demand during dry-year conditions, periods of Term 91 curtailment, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario.

Water supplies would be available through an individual Seller's water rights or an SRSC's existing entitlement under its settlement contract with Reclamation. Surface water transferred to WDCWA under the proposed Project would be diverted at WDCWA's existing intake/diversion facility on the Sacramento River and conveyed via a raw water conveyance pipeline to WDCWA's Regional Water Treatment Facility for treatment and distribution to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for municipal and irrigation uses, including residential, multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities.

ES.3.1 Location of the Project Site

WDCWA serves the city of Woodland, city of Davis, and UC Davis. The WDCWA's service area is located within the boundaries of Yolo County in Northern California, approximately 64 miles northeast of San Francisco and 15 miles west of the city of Sacramento. **Figure ES-1** depicts WDCWA's service area.

ES.4 Overview of Project Impacts

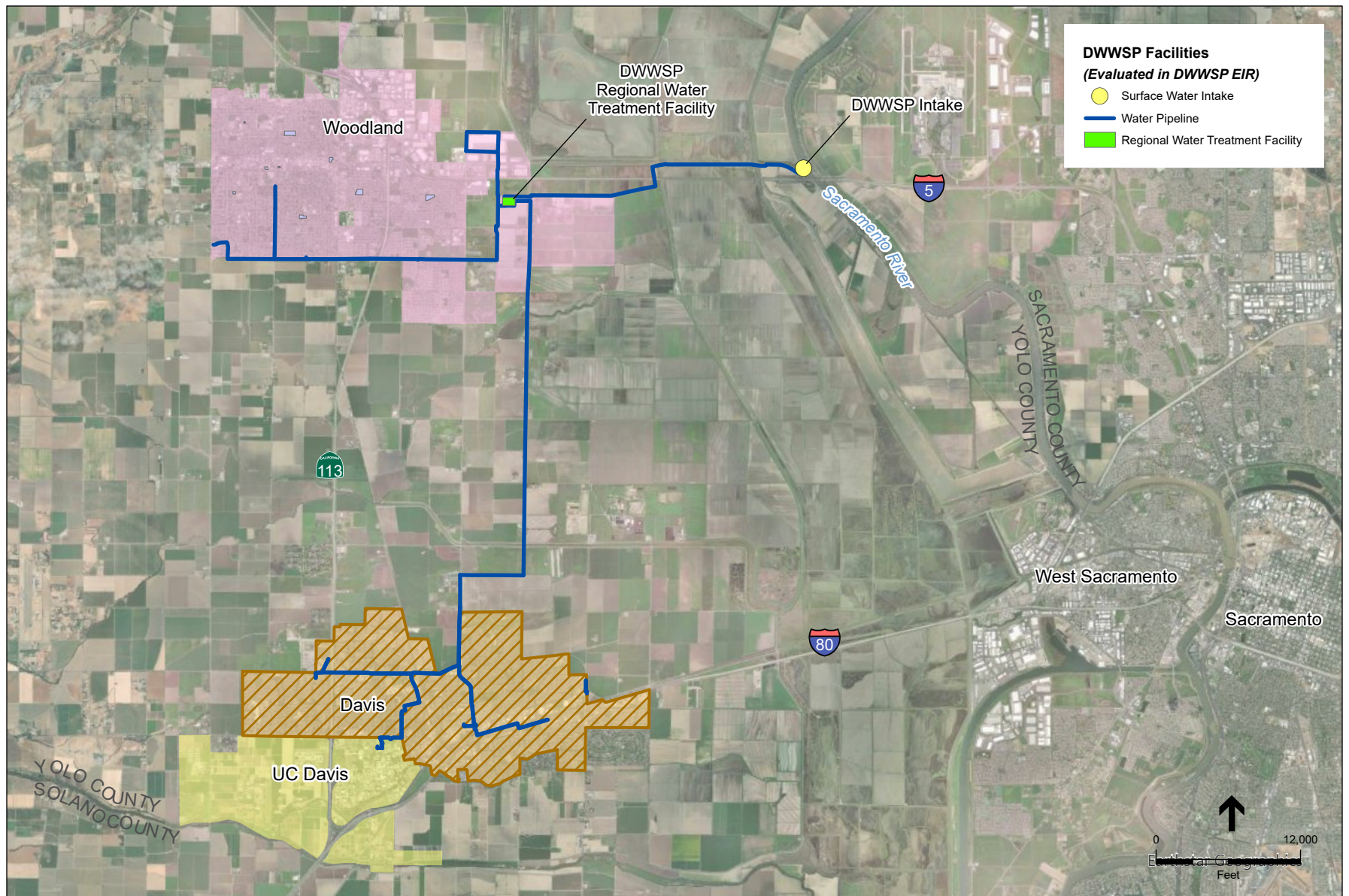
ES.4.1 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

The proposed Project does not have any significant and unavoidable impacts.

ES.4.2 Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table ES-1 presents a summary of the environmental impacts that would occur with proposed Project implementation and recommended mitigation measures. The level of significance for each impact was determined using standards of significance presented in Chapter 3, *Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures*, sections. Significant impacts are those adverse environmental impacts that would meet or exceed the significance thresholds; less-than-significant impacts would not exceed the thresholds.

Table ES-1 presents (1) environmental impacts; (2) the level of significance prior to mitigation measures; (3) recommended mitigation measures; and (4) the level of significance after mitigation.



SOURCE: USDA, 2012; ESRI, 2026; West Yost, 2015; ESA, 2026



WDCWA Long-Term Water Transfer Project, D202501602.01

Figure ES-1
Project Area

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures	Impact Significance before Mitigation	Impact Significance after Mitigation
Section 3.3. Cultural Resources			
Impact 3.3-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.	Mitigation: Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Implement DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1. DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1: The following tasks shall be conducted, where appropriate, by the Applicant. The tasks described satisfy not only CEQA, but federal rules and regulations as well (in particular, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations). Collectively, these tasks represent a cultural resource management approach designed to ensure compliance with applicable General Plans, CEQA, and federal rules and regulations. Task I. Site-Specific Historic Properties Identification A. Upon selection of a preferred diversion/intake pipeline option, the Applicant, where appropriate, shall complete the identification process per 36 CFR Part 800.4 (which includes, among other identification efforts, a Class I literature search and a Class III field survey) in the area of potential effect (APE) for a specific undertaking. A Class III pedestrian survey will not be required when: - The California Historical Information System and SHPO agree that previous cultural resources surveys have already adequately identified historic properties, or - The California Historical Information System and SHPO agree that previous disturbance has eliminated the possibility of identifying historic properties. B. An undertaking shall be considered to exist, and an APE shall be defined, when the Applicant, directly or through the issuance of appropriate permits, undertake construction of the facilities identified in project development and construction plans. The APE will be the land area affected by construction of new facilities, from the point of diversion at the Sacramento River, along pipelines, and at water treatment and storage facilities; C. Where the Applicant conduct an intensive (Class III) inventory, required consultation with California SHPO shall be undertaken and coordinated by the lead federal agency with approval authority over Project features. Task II. Assessing Effects A. The lead agency, in consultation with SHPO, will assess the effects of the undertaking on properties that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. If the Applicant, and federal lead agency, determine that construction and operation of the project would result in unavoidable effects, or an adverse effect, to historic properties within the APE, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, then the lead agency, other interested parties, the Applicant, and SHPO will consult to resolve the adverse effect (see Task III below). Task III. Treating Effects A. The Applicant shall implement one or more of the following measures for treating effects to historic properties: - Avoid effects through redesign of the project; - Avoid effects by not executing the proposed contract;	PS	LS

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures	Impact Significance before Mitigation	Impact Significance after Mitigation
	c. If avoidance is not feasible, mitigate effects through measures such as data recovery or archival documentation (for example, the Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record). The Applicant, in consultation with the lead federal agency, SHPO, the Advisory Council, and other interested agencies, shall work together to find measures to mitigate the effects of a particular undertaking on historic properties. The Applicant shall develop plans to implement the agreed upon mitigating measures and shall submit such plans, in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement, to the SHPO, the Advisory Council, and interested agencies for review and comment. B. The Applicant shall ensure that any mitigating measures agreed on during consultation will be included as a specification in Project development. Mitigation measures will be completed before the start of ground disturbing activities that would affect the physical integrity of an historic resource. Mitigating measures for visual, audible, or atmospheric effects will be completed before completion of Project construction. Task IV. Properties Discovered During Implementation of an Undertaking A. If a previously undiscovered historic property is inadvertently encountered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the property except that necessary to secure and protect the property will cease until the Applicant can secure assistance from a professional archaeologist who evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate effects to the discovery. Evaluation and mitigation will be carried out in consultation with the federal lead agency and SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.11(b)(2)(ii). B. If human remains are discovered during archaeological survey, any archaeological testing or data recovery or any construction activities, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease except to secure and protect the remains. The Applicant or their consulting archaeologist will immediately notify the County Coroner, per State law. As well, the Applicant shall ensure that any human remains and grave-associated artifacts discovered are also managed in accordance with California Statutes, their chapters and sections, which include but are not necessarily limited to: Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99 of the Public Resources Code.		
Impact 3.3-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.	Mitigation: Mitigation Measure 3.4-2: Implement DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.	PS	LS
Impact 3.3-3: Implementation of the proposed Project could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.	Mitigation: Mitigation Measure 3.4-3: Implement DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.	PS	LS

Notes:

PS = Potentially Significant

LS = Less than Significant

NA = Not Applicable

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Background

This supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a supplement to the Davis Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP) Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2006042175), which was certified by the City of Davis in November 2007, adopted by the City of Woodland in December 2007, and amended by the Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) through several addenda. The DWWSP EIR identified the joint use by the WDCWA and Reclamation District (RD) 2035 of a replacement surface water intake as the preferred alternative for diversions of water from the Sacramento River. The DWWSP provides surface water supplies to the cities of Woodland and Davis and the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). To increase the reliability of its surface water supplies, the WDCWA is proposing the Long-Term Water Transfer Project (LTWT or proposed Project). The proposed LTWT would obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from the South Sutter Water District, Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a Sacramento River Settlement Contractor (collectively Sellers and individually a Seller) to help meet water demands during dry-year conditions, periods of Term 91 curtailment, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including a 50-percent reduction scenario when the State Water Resources Control Board’s Standard Permit Term 91 (Term 91) curtailment is in effect. The proposed long-term water transfers are described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.

1.1.1 Davis Woodland Water Supply Project

The DWWSP was implemented by the cities of Woodland and Davis. The DWWSP was a regional Project with the following primary Project goals:

- Provide a new water supply to help meet existing and future needs
- Improve drinking water quality
- Improve the quality of treated wastewater

To achieve these goals, the DWWSP included construction and operation of a new jointly-operated (i.e., with RD 2035) surface water diversion from the Sacramento River, as well as raw-water conveyance pipelines; a new regional water treatment plant; separate pipelines delivering treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis; and various improvements to existing water supply systems, including water storage tanks, booster pump stations, and distribution pipelines. The DWWSP also included the acquisition of additional surface water rights, if necessary for additional DWWSP surface water diversions during drought conditions.

As part of the DWWSP, WDCWA secured its primary water right to divert up to 45,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water from the Sacramento River. Water right Permit 20281 was issued in March 2011. It contains various conditions including limitations on diversions during dry conditions. WDCWA purchased more senior water rights for diversion of 10,000 AFY from the Conaway Preservation Group. These rights (water right Licenses 904A and 5487A) authorize DWWSP diversions during times when diversions are not authorized under Permit 20281. The City of Davis uses groundwater from its deep municipal wells to meet demands that cannot be met by surface water supplies alone. The City of Woodland, by contrast, has planned to discontinue groundwater use for anything other than landscape irrigation and emergency use and now supplements with the use of aquifer storage & recovery wells.

The DWWSP regional water treatment plant can supply up to 30 million gallons per day (mgd) of water, which may be expanded to 34 mgd in the future as part of a separate project. Of the 30 mgd, Woodland's share of treated surface water is 18 mgd, Davis's share is 10.2 mgd, and UC Davis's share is 1.8 mgd. Approximately 5.1 miles of pipeline transports "raw" water from the surface water intake on the Sacramento River to the regional water treatment plant, which is located east of Woodland. From there, the treated water travels 7.8 miles through a pipeline to Davis, and up to 1.4 miles through separate pipelines to two locations in Woodland.

DWWSP regional water treatment plant construction was initiated in April 2014. The plant was completed and operational in July 2016.

1.1.2 Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency

The WDCWA is a joint powers authority formed by a joint powers agreement between the Cities of Woodland and Davis in September 2009, which was amended and restated in February 2013 and further amended in 2015 and 2020 to expand the water supply agreement to include UC Davis, and to include UC Davis and Yolo County as non-voting board members of the WDCWA Board of Directors. The joint powers agreement recognizes each City's power and ability to study, plan, develop, finance, construct, and operate the facilities proposed under the DWWSP, and provides a framework for the joint development and implementation of these aspects of the DWWSP. The WDCWA constructed the DWWSP and collaborated with RD 2035 on the construction of a Joint Intake Facility that serves both RD 2035 and the DWWSP. The joint powers agreement also specified the allocation of Project construction and operation cost shares between the Cities and provides details regarding daily flow limits for reductions of water supplies during droughts and other limited water supply conditions.

1.1.3 Existing Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency Surface Water Rights

The WDCWA currently holds a primary water right permit and a secondary right under two water right licenses supported by a Sacramento River Settlement Contract as described below. WDCWA currently uses this permit and these licenses to divert water for the DWWSP.

- Water Right Permit 20281 authorizes WDCWA to divert water from the Sacramento River at monthly average rates of up to 80 cubic feet per second (cfs), subject to Term 91. Term 91 prohibits WDCWA from diverting any water under this permit when the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) are releasing water from storage in their upstream reservoirs to

provide water for users within the Sacramento River Watershed or to meet Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta) water quality standards. The maximum authorized annual diversion under Permit 20281 is 45,000 AFY.

- The Settlement Contract authorizes WDCWA to divert 10,000 AFY between the months of April and October in normal years, with the limitation that total diversions during July through September may not exceed 7,500 AFY. Diversions under the Settlement Contract are authorized by Licenses 904A and 5487A and are not subject to Term 91 curtailments. However, the WDCWA’s rights under its Settlement Contract are subject to the Shasta Critical Year Reduction (Shasta Critical Year), which results in a 25 percent reduction of the total authorized diversion amount (and of the maximum authorized diversion during July through September) in years when inflow to Shasta falls below specified amounts. Additionally, these water rights may be further limited by up to 50 percent during a Shasta Critical Year that also requires implementation of the Drought Protection Program (DPP).

1.1.4 Projected Supply Deficits and Supplemental Supply

The Term 91 diversion prohibition has been in effect during a portion of most years since 1984. WDCWA’s 2025 Urban Water Management Plan notes that Term 91 regulations have generally become more severe in recent years. Since 2013, the average number of Term 91 curtailment days per year has been 131 days, with five of those years (2013, 2014, 2015, 2021, and 2022) being Lake Shasta critical years (WDCWA 2025). To improve water supply reliability, WDCWA proposes to implement the LTWT, which would allow for WDCWA to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies through the long-term water transfers from one or more Sellers at any time of the year when Term 91 is in effect or there is a reduction in the settlement contract water supplies.

1.2 Type of EIR

The lead agency for a project may prepare a supplement to a previously certified EIR if certain conditions are satisfied. Specifically, an SEIR may be prepared if, “only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the Project in the changed situation” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15163). In accordance with these requirements, this draft SEIR supplements the previously certified DWWSP EIR and addresses proposed modifications, changed circumstances, and new information that are not described in the DWWSP EIR.

This Draft SEIR provides additional information needed to make the DWWSP EIR, as supplemented, adequate for the proposed Project. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15163, this Draft SEIR contains only the information needed to analyze the proposed modifications, changed circumstances, and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where information and analysis provided in the DWWSP EIR is applicable to the proposed Project, it is summarized and/or incorporated by reference. Copies of the DWWSP EIR and addenda are available on WDCWA’s website, <http://www.wdcwa.com/>.

1.3 Purpose of this SEIR

1.3.1 Intended uses of this SEIR

The WDCWA is the lead agency for the purposes of complying with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), and the CEQA Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality

Act (California Code of Regulations, Title 14). The WDCWA has prepared this SEIR to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies with information about the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. Chapter 2, *Project Description*, provides a list of all responsible and trustee agencies and their roles in this Project.

As described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15121(a), an EIR is a public information document that assesses potential environmental effects of the proposed Project, and identifies mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed Project that would reduce or avoid adverse environmental impacts. CEQA requires that state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority.

As the lead agency, WDCWA will consider certifying the Final SEIR for the proposed Project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA. If the WDCWA certifies the SEIR, then the cities of Woodland and Davis will consider adoption of the Final SEIR and approval of the parts of the Project that apply to the cities.

1.4 Environmental Review and Approval Process

The preparation of an EIR involves multiple steps wherein the public is provided the opportunity to review and comment on the content of the EIR, the scope of the analyses, results and conclusions presented, and the overall adequacy of the document to meet the substantive requirements of CEQA and provide full disclosure of the potential environmental consequences of implementing the proposed Project and alternatives. The following discussion describes the major steps in the environmental review process that are applicable to this Draft SEIR.

1.4.1 The Draft Supplement EIR

This Draft SEIR is available to local, state, and federal agencies and to interested organizations and individuals who may want to review and comment on the analysis in the Draft SEIR. Notice of this Draft SEIR has also been sent directly to every agency, person, or organization that commented on the notice of preparation (NOP). Publication of the Draft SEIR marks the beginning of a 45-day public review period. The 45-day public review period for the Project is from August 10, 2026, through September 28, 2026, ending at 5 p.m. During the public comment period, written comments should be delivered to:

Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency
Michele Mitchell
Regional Water Treatment Facility
855 County Road 102
Woodland, CA 95776
530-376-3448
Secretary@wdcwa.com

Copies of the Draft SEIR will be available for public review at the following locations:

City of Woodland
City of Woodland Public Library
250 1st St.
Woodland, CA 95695

City of Davis
Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Public Library
315 E 14th St.
Davis, CA 95616

WDCWA Website: <https://www.wdcwa.com/governance/past-meetings--agendas-documents-and-videos>

1.4.2 The Final SEIR

Following circulation of this Draft SEIR and incorporation of public comments and responses to comments, a Final SEIR will be published by the WDCWA and submitted to WDCWA’s Board of Directors for formal review and consideration for approval. The WDCWA will review the proposed Project and its anticipated or potential environmental impacts, as identified in the Draft SEIR, and decide whether or not to certify the Final SEIR and approve the Project.

If the WDCWA Board decides to certify the Final SEIR, then the WDCWA may proceed with the Project. CEQA requires that the lead agency neither approve nor implement a project unless the project’s significant environmental effects have been reduced to less-than-significant levels, essentially “eliminating, avoiding, or substantially lessening” the expected impacts, unless specific findings are made. If the lead agency approves the Project despite residual significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels, the agency must state the reasons for its action in writing. This Statement of Overriding Considerations must be included in the record of Project approval. In addition, CEQA requires Lead Agencies to adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program for those changes to the Project that it has adopted or made a condition of Project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. All adopted mitigation measures will be included in a mitigation monitoring and reporting program to verify compliance.

1.4.3 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

CEQA Section 21081.6(a) requires lead agencies to “adopt a reporting and mitigation monitoring program for the changes to the Project which it has adopted or made a condition of Project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.” All mitigation measures identified in the Final SEIR will be included in a mitigation monitoring and reporting program, which will identify all compliance measures and responsible parties.

1.5 Scope of this SEIR

1.5.1 Summary of Issues Not Addressed Further

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15163, this Draft SEIR must contain only the information needed to analyze the proposed modifications, changed circumstances, and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis contained in the DWWSP EIR are sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the current Project, no additional environmental review is warranted. The following discussion summarizes environmental issues for which potential impacts of the proposed Project are adequately addressed in the certified DWWSP EIR, and no further analysis is warranted.

Aesthetic Resources

Aesthetic resources are addressed in Section 3.16 of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers, Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as the proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. No modifications to existing facilities would be implemented and no new lighting would be added. No scenic resources are located within the Project area. Project operation would cause no visible change to aesthetic resources. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on aesthetic resources are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

Air quality is addressed in Section 3.8 of the DWWSP EIR, including a discussion of greenhouse gases (GHGs). However, some regulations have changed since publication of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers, Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as the proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. No modifications to existing facilities would be implemented and operations would be consistent with existing WDCWA operations. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on air quality and greenhouse gases are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Drainage and Floodplains

Drainage and floodplains are addressed in Section 3.4 of the DWWSP EIR. The DWWSP EIR reviewed impacts associated with potential changes in drainage patterns that could cause increased erosion, sedimentation, or runoff; potential creation of additional stormwater runoff in excess of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems; construction-related impacts on water quality; flooding potential and placement of structures in a 100-year flood zone; alteration of flood flows; potential water quality impacts associated with construction dewatering; water quality degradation associated with the stockpiling of sediments; conflicts with the management and maintenance of flood control structures; and potential for exposure to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measures 3.3-1a, 3.3-1b, and 3.4-2 would ensure that best management practices would be implemented to minimize the potential for construction-period water quality degradation and manage stormwater flows. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers, Surface

water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project, as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. No modifications to existing facilities would be implemented and operations would be consistent with existing WDCWA operations. The proposed Project would not increase construction intensity, result in the construction of additional facilities in a flood zone, result in a substantial increase in soil stockpiling, or result in the installation of large areas of impervious surfaces that could contribute additional stormwater runoff. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on drainage and floodplains are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Geology, soils, and seismicity are addressed in Section 3.7 of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project, as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Therefore, the proposed Project would not locate any facilities near any known active faults, and it would not increase potential geological hazards such as liquefaction or landslides. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on geology, soils, and seismicity are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Land Use and Agriculture

Land use and agriculture are addressed in Section 3.5 of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is required to implement the proposed Project, as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. The proposed Project would not interfere with existing land uses, including agricultural uses. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on land use and agriculture are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Noise

Noise is addressed in Section 3.9 of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and only be used to meet demand during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. No modifications to existing facilities would be implemented and operations would be consistent with existing WDCWA operations. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate an increase in noise, vibration, or exposure of people to excessive noise levels. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts from noise are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Public Health and Safety

Public health and safety is addressed in Section 3.11 of the DWWSP EIR. The discussion of public health and safety provided in the DWWSP EIR focuses on the health and safety-related effects of substituting groundwater supplies with surface water supplies. The Project, if approved, would enhance WDCWA's ability to procure surface water supplies when its own supplies are unavailable, thus enhancing the reliability of healthier surface water. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. The proposed Project would not result in new pollutants or higher pollutant concentrations entering into the water supplies of Woodland or Davis. Therefore, public health and safety would not be affected. No new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on public health and safety are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Transportation and Traffic

Transportation and traffic are addressed in Section 3.12 of the DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY, involve water supplies historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as proposed, the Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Implementation of the proposed Project would

not result in a conflict with a program, plan, or ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, an increase in vehicles miles traveled, hazards due to a geometric design feature, or inadequate emergency access. Therefore, no additional potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts on transportation and traffic are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Growth Inducing Effects

Growth inducing effects are addressed in Chapter 4 of the DWWSP EIR. The key potential growth inducing effect identified in the DWWSP EIR analysis was the potential for removal of an existing constraint associated with a new potential water supply. The DWWSP EIR provided an evaluation of this type of indirect growth inducing effect based on the total volume of water that would be made available under the DWWSP as a result of predicted hydrology and restrictions on WDCWA's water rights. The proposed Project would not increase the volume of water available to the cities of Woodland or Davis; instead, it would increase the reliability of WDCWA's water supplies during periods of drought by implementing long-term transfers to meet demand. Therefore, no new or more severe potentially significant impacts would occur, and potential impacts related to growth are adequately addressed in the DWWSP EIR.

Other CEQA Issues

Other CEQA issues are addressed in Chapter 6 of the DWWSP EIR. Other issues addressed include cumulative effects and significant irreversible environmental changes caused by the Project. Potential cumulative scenario impacts associated with the proposed Project are discussed in Section 3.3, *Aquatic Biological Resources*. As discussed, there is no construction and there are no operational changes associated with the proposed Project; thus, there would be minimal direct impacts associated with the Project. Project impacts would be limited or very localized in effect or would not cause or contribute to additional cumulative scenario impacts. Therefore, no additional cumulatively considerable impacts would occur, and cumulative effects are adequately analyzed in Section 6.1 of the DWWSP EIR. Additionally, the revised Project would not cause any significant irreversible environmental changes beyond those identified in the DWWSP EIR. Therefore, Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the DWWSP EIR are adequate and do not require further analysis in this SEIR.

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c) states that an EIR must describe the impacts identified as significant and unavoidable should a proposed project be implemented. Impacts are determined to be significant and unavoidable when either no mitigation, or only partial mitigation, is feasible to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. The WDCWA, as lead agency, will make the final determination of impact significance and of the feasibility of mitigation measures as part of the certification action. The environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed Project are presented throughout Chapter 3, *Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures*.

Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2[d] requires an evaluation of the significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by a project if implemented, as described below:

Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse there after unlikely. Primary impacts, and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.

In general, the CEQA Guidelines refer to the need to evaluate and justify the consumption of nonrenewable resources and the extent to which a project would commit future generations to similar uses of nonrenewable resources. In addition, CEQA requires the evaluation of irreversible damage resulting from an environmental accident associated with a proposed project.

1.5.2 DWWSP Alternatives

The following text briefly summarizes the Alternatives considered in the DWWSP EIR and provides a discussion regarding the potential for the Project to alter or change the alternatives analysis presented in the DWWSP EIR.

DWWSP EIR No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative included in the DWWSP EIR evaluated what would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the DWWSP had not been approved, based on plans available at that time and consistent with available infrastructure and public services.

If the No Project Alternative had been implemented, the Project Partners (i.e., Davis, Woodland, and UC Davis) would not have acquired any new surface water supply from the Sacramento River or constructed or operated new surface water diversion/intake and conveyance facilities. Instead, the WDCWA would have continued to rely solely on local groundwater supplies to meet all their future demands. Under the No Project Alternative, implementation of the proposed Project would not be possible, because there would be no intake or surface water that could be supplemented. Thus, the proposed Project would not alter any of the conclusions or findings presented in support of the DWWSP EIR impact analysis for the No Project Alternative. No additional analysis is warranted, and the analysis for the No Project Alternative presented in the DWWSP EIR remains adequate.

DWWSP EIR Water Supply Alternatives 1–5

The DWWSP EIR also considered the following five additional alternatives:

- **Water Supply Alternative 1**, which included a 2030 planning horizon supply with a 45.8 mgd diversion capacity.
- **Water Supply Alternative 2**, which relied on existing general planning horizons with a 39.8 mgd diversion capacity.

- **Water Supply Alternative 3**, which included a 2040 planning horizon supply with aggressive conservation and a 47.8 mgd diversion capacity.
- **Water Supply Alternative 4**, which included a 2040 planning horizon supply with a 106 mgd diversion capacity.
- **Water Supply Alternative 5**, which included a 2040 planning horizon supply with an 18.8 mgd diversion capacity.

These five alternatives considered different diversion capacities under varying planning horizons. Beyond sizing, facilities under each of the five Alternatives would remain essentially the same as described in the DWWSP EIR. Implementation of the proposed Project would not notably alter the characteristics of any of these alternatives, including facility locations or operational characteristics of Alternatives 1–5, as evaluated in the DWWSP EIR. Therefore, no additional analysis is warranted, and the analysis for the Alternatives 1–5 presented in the DWWSP EIR is adequate.

No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, there would be no long-term water transfer agreement. In dry years when diversion restrictions and curtailments are enforced under Term 91 or a Shasta Critical Year designation, including under a Drought Protection Program 50-percent reduction, the No Project Alternative would require WDCWA to continue filing CEQA addenda for temporary water transfers to accommodate existing water demand. As part of the initial agency involvement in the approval of the DWWSP EIR, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) recommended the incorporation of long-term water transfers to reduce the need to file subsequent CEQA addenda for temporary water transfers. As discussed in Section 2.1.3, *Project Purpose and Objectives*, the purpose of the proposed Project would allow WDCWA to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies through the long-term water transfers from one or more Sellers. Water supplies obtained under the LTWT would meet the following objectives:

- Provide a reliable water supply to meet existing and future needs in dry years.
- Improve water quality to meet drinking water standards.
- Reduce or eliminate the need for environmental clearances for short-term water transfers.

Under the No Project Alternative, the WDCWA would be able to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies, and would meet the objective to provide a reliable water supply and to improve water quality to meet drinking water standards. However, the No Project Alternative would not reduce the need for environmental processes and clearances for short-term water transfers. Therefore, the No Project Alternative would not meet Project objectives and is not considered further in this SEIR.

1.5.3 List of Issues Considered for Additional Impact Analysis

In light of the environmental issues not addressed further, the following CEQA resource areas are considered in greater detail in a revised impact analysis in this SEIR.

- Aquatic Biological Resources

- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

1.6 SEIR Organization

This Draft SEIR is organized into seven chapters and appendices as described in the following text.

Executive Summary. The Executive Summary presents a summary of the Project description, a description of issues to be resolved, the significant environmental impacts that would result from Project implementation, and mitigation measures proposed to reduce or eliminate those impacts.

Chapter 1, Introduction. Chapter 1 includes Project background information and describes the intended uses of this SEIR, the environmental review and approval process, and document organization.

Chapter 2, Project Description. Chapter 2 presents an overview of the proposed Project, outlines proposed Project objectives, and summarizes the elements of the proposed Project.

Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures. Chapter 3 describes the existing environmental setting for each environmental issue area, discusses the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project, and identifies mitigation measures for potential impacts.

Chapter 4, References. This chapter lists all the references cited in the SEIR.

Chapter 5, EIR Authors and Persons Consulted. Chapter 5 provides the names of the SEIR authors and consultants, and agencies or individuals consulted during preparation of the SEIR.

CHAPTER 2

Project Description

2.1 Introduction

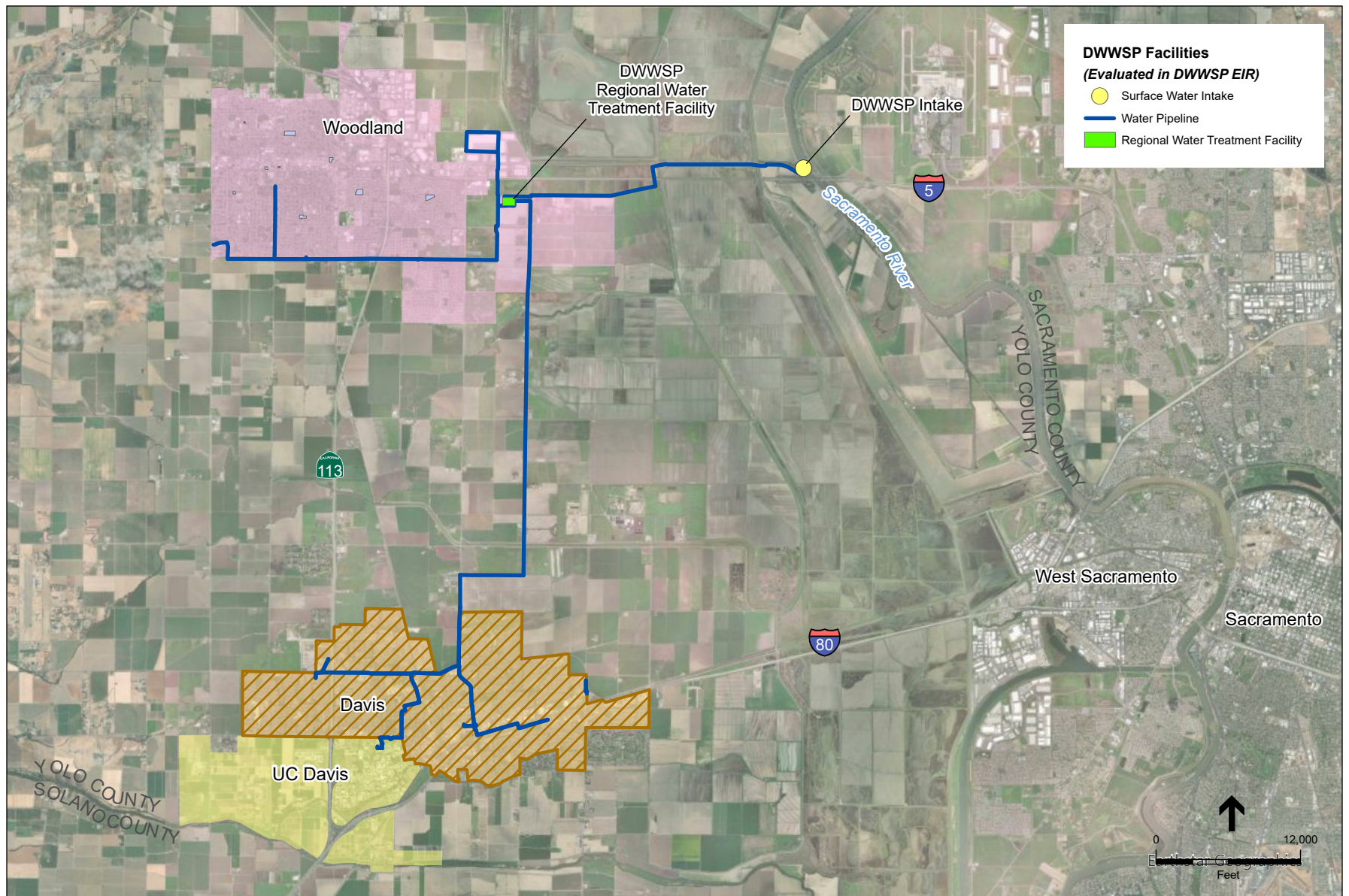
WDCWA proposes to implement the proposed Project to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from the South Sutter Water District, Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a Sacramento River Settlement Contractor (SRSC) (collectively Sellers and individually a Seller) to help meet water demands during dry-year conditions, periods of Term 91 curtailment, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario.

Water supplies would be available through an individual Seller's water rights or an SRSC's existing entitlement under its settlement contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Surface water transferred to WDCWA under the proposed Project would be diverted at WDCWA's existing intake/diversion facility on the Sacramento River (Joint Intake Facility) and conveyed via a raw water conveyance pipeline to WDCWA's Regional Water Treatment Facility (RWTF) for treatment and distribution to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for municipal and irrigation uses, including residential, multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities.

2.1.1 Proposed Project Location

WDCWA serves the city of Woodland, the city of Davis, and UC Davis. The WDCWA's service area is located within the boundaries of Yolo County in Northern California, approximately 64 miles northeast of San Francisco and 15 miles west of the city of Sacramento. **Figure 1** depicts WDCWA's service area.

WDCWA relies entirely on surface water supplies from the Sacramento River. WDCWA does not currently utilize groundwater and has no plans to utilize groundwater as a water supply due to water quality concerns (WDCWA 2025). WDCWA holds two sets of water rights under which surface water from the Sacramento River is diverted, treated, and delivered to water users, discussed in detail in Section 2.1.2, *Project Background*. WDCWA's water facilities include a raw water intake facility jointly owned with Reclamation District 2035, a raw water transmission pipeline, the RWTF, and finished water transmission pipelines.



SOURCE: USDA, 2012; ESRI, 2026; West Yost, 2015; ESA, 2026

WDCWA Long-Term Water Transfer Project, D202501602.01

Figure 1
Project Area



2.1.2 Project Background

WDCWA currently relies on the Sacramento River for its entire water supply, totaling up to 55,000 AFY, appropriated by WDCWA through Water Right Permit 20281 (primary water right) and Water Right Licenses 904A and 5487A (secondary water rights). Each water right is discussed in detail below.

Water Right Permit 20281

WDCWA's Water Right Permit 20281, which is WDCWA's primary water right, authorizes the diversion of up to 45,000 AFY from the Sacramento River for municipal and irrigation uses. The State Water Board issued this permit in April 2011 (WDCWA2025).

Permit conditions stipulate that surface water diverted by WDCWA under Permit 20281 cannot exceed a 30-day average rate of 80.1 cfs or an instantaneous rate of up to 100 cfs by direct diversion, with up to 5,700 AFY allowed for underground storage. Diversions may occur from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Term 20 of Water Right Permit 20281 imposes Term 91. Term 91 limits diversions under Permit 20281 whenever "satisfaction of in basin entitlements requires releases of supplemental Project water by CVP or SWP," discussed in detail below.

The CVP is a network of dams, reservoirs, canals, hydroelectric powerplants, and other facilities that extends 400 miles through Central California. The CVP has facilities along the Sacramento River that store, release, and deliver water from the Sacramento River and its tributaries. The State Water Board provides notifications of curtailments under Term 91 as far in advance of the curtailment as practicable, based on information provided to the State Water Board by Reclamation and/or the California Department of Water Resources, the operators of the CVP and SWP, respectively. Whether, and to what extent, Term 91 curtailments are imposed in any given year depends on hydrologic conditions, water demands of water right holders, water demands supporting environmental needs and water quality objectives in the Delta, and other factors.

Term 91 Curtailment

The Term 91 diversion prohibition has been in effect during a portion of most years since 1984.

Table 2-1 summarizes the Term 91 curtailment history from 1984 through 2026. As indicated in this table, the longest curtailment periods occurred during 2013–2015, with 2014 having the most curtailment days (233 days total, 68 of which were outside the April to October period).

TABLE 2-1
TERM 91 CURTAILMENT HISTORY, 1984–2026

Year	Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date	Total Days	Apr–Oct	Jan–Mar	Nov–Dec
1984	22-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	71	71	0	0
1985	17-May	31-Aug	--	--	107	107	0	0
1986	2-Jul	6-Aug	--	--	36	36	0	0
1987	12-May	31-Aug	--	--	112	112	0	0
1988	21-Jun	7-Sep	--	--	79	79	0	0

Year	Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date	Total Days	Apr–Oct	Jan–Mar	Nov–Dec
1989	21-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	72	72	0	0
1990	14-May	31-Aug	--	--	110	110	0	0
1991	10-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	83	83	0	0
1992	21-May	15-Nov	--	--	179	164	0	15
1993	27-Jul	31-Aug	--	--	36	36	0	0
1994	15-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	78	78	0	0
1995	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
1996	22-Jul	20-Aug	--	--	30	30	0	0
1997	18-Jun	24-Aug	--	--	68	68	0	0
1998	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
1999	29-Jun	18-Aug	--	--	51	51	0	0
2000	28-Jun	17-Aug	--	--	51	51	0	0
2001	4-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	89	89	0	0
2002	17-Jun	31-Aug	10-Oct	15-Nov	113	98	0	15
2003	3-Jul	31-Aug	--	--	60	60	0	0
2004	29-May	31-Aug	--	--	95	95	0	0
2005	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
2006	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
2007	15-May	31-Aug	--	--	109	109	0	0
2008	2-Jun	15-Nov	--	--	167	152	0	15
2009	11-Jun	31-Aug	--	--	82	82	0	0
2010	15-Jul	31-Aug	--	--	48	48	0	0
2011	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
2012	2-Aug	31-Aug	--	--	30	30	0	0
2013	7-May	20-Sep	30-Oct	31-Dec	200	150	0	50
2014	1-Jan	11-Feb	20-May	26-Nov	233	165	42	26
2015	30-Apr	15-Dec	--	--	230	185	0	45
2016	2-Jun	14-Oct	--	--	135	135	0	0
2017	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
2018	1-Jun	23-Oct	16-Nov	30-Nov	160	145	0	15
2019	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
2020	5-Jun	28-Sep	9-Oct	24-Dec	193	139	0	54
2021	29-Apr	26-Oct			181	181	0	0
2022	3-Jun	7-Dec	--	--	187	150	0	37
2023	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
2024	2-Jul	30-Sep	--	--	90	90	0	0
2025	20-Jun	9-Sep	23-Oct	5-Nov	95	90	0	5
2026	6-Feb	17-Feb	--	--	11	0	11	0

Source: State Water Board 2026

The analysis in WDCWA's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) indicates that the timing and frequency of Term 91 curtailments may increase through future climate variations and the associated changes in hydrology. WDCWA's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan notes that Term 91 regulations have generally become more severe in recent years. Since 2013, the average number of Term 91 curtailment days per year has been 131 days, with five of those years (2013, 2014, 2015, 2021, and 2022) being Lake Shasta critical years (WDCWA 2025)..

Water Right Licenses 904A and 5487A

In 2010, WDCWA and CPG entered into a Water Agreement under which CPG assigned its interests in certain water rights and a portion of its Sacramento River Water Rights Settlement Contract supply to WDCWA. To implement these assignments, in 2010, the State Water Board issued water right Licenses 904A and 5487A to WDCWA. In 2014, Reclamation and WDCWA executed a Sacramento River Water Rights Settlement Contract (Settlement Contract) under which WDCWA received its assigned share of CPG's settlement contract.

The Settlement Contract authorizes WDCWA to divert 10,000 AFY between the months of April and October in normal years, with the limitation that total diversions during July through September may not exceed 7,500 AFY. Diversions under the Settlement Contract and Licenses 904A and 5487A are not subject to Term 91 curtailments. However, the WDCWA's rights under its Settlement Contract are subject to the Shasta Critical Year Reduction (Shasta Critical Year), which results in a 25 percent reduction of the total authorized diversion amount (and of the maximum authorized diversion during July through September) in years when inflow to Shasta falls below specified amounts. Additionally, these water rights may be further limited by up to 50 percent during a Shasta Critical Year and implementation of the DPP.

Previous Environmental Documents

Since the initiation of the DWWSP in 2007, several addenda pursuant to the CEQA have been approved and implemented, covering various minor project changes. Since 2018, six CEQA addenda have covered specific annual water transfers during Term 91 curtailment years when WDCWA could not divert its entire allocations from the Sacramento River.

2.1.3 Project Purpose and Objectives

In dry years when diversion restrictions and curtailments are enforced under periods of Term 91 curtailment, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario, WDCWA's primary and secondary water rights could be insufficient to meet water demand in WDCWA's service area.

Since the DWWSP began operations in July 2016, WDCWA's ability to meet water demand in its service area has varied year-to-year. To improve water supply reliability, WDCWA proposes to implement the LTWT, which would allow for WDCWA to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies through the long-term water transfers from one or more Sellers.

Water supplies obtained under the LTWT would meet the following objectives:

- Provide a reliable water supply to meet existing and future needs in dry years.

- Improve water quality to meet drinking water standards.
- Reduce or eliminate the need for environmental clearances for short-term water transfers.

2.2 Project Implementation

As part of the LTWT, when the Term 91 curtailment would be in effect, WDCWA proposes to divert and use surface water acquired and transferred from one or more Sellers. The volume of water transferred on an annual basis would vary according to water year type, i.e., normal, single dry, Shasta Critical Year, Shasta Critical Year + DPP, the period in which Term 91 is in effect, and the availability of upstream water supplies. Water would be transferred in accordance with applicable sections of the California Water Code; the terms and, as applicable, conditions of the Seller's settlement contract or water right; and any conditions imposed by the State Water Board in an order approving a transfer.

2.2.1 Description of Water Transfer Source Options

The LTWT would involve WDCWA's purchase of supplemental water supplies from one or more Sellers within the Sacramento River Watershed. Sellers could include, but would not be limited to, South Sutter Water District, Te Velde Farms, The Nature Conservancy, and/or a SRSC. **Table 2-2** lists the potential water transfer amounts, timing, and conditions applicable under proposed LTWT agreements.

TABLE 2-2
POTENTIAL WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT CONDITIONS

Max Available Winter Water Transfer (AF) ^a	Max Available Summer Water Transfer (AF) ^b	Potential Transfer Conditions
2,000	6,000	Summer Transfers would be primarily exercised during Shasta Critical Years. Winter Water Transfers could be exercised in all water year types.
N/A	3,000	Summer Transfers would primarily be exercised during Shasta Critical Years.

Notes: AF = acre-feet

a. Winter Transfers would be exercised between November 1 and March 31.

b. Summer Transfers would be exercised between April 1 and October 31.

2.2.2 Project Operation

Water made available for transfer by the Sellers may be provided through reservoir reoperation, groundwater substitution, water conservation measures, or water supply source diversification, which would allow surplus surface water to be freed up for diversion.

Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. WDCWA would limit water diversions under the LTWT to 12 cfs to provide approximately 4 mgd each to the city of Davis/UC Davis and the city of Woodland for transfers between November and March (for a total of 8 mgd). WDCWA would limit water diversions under the LTWT to 24 cfs to provide up to 16 mgd to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for transfers between April and October. In April through October, the water supplies may not be split evenly between

the city of Davis/UC Davis and the city of Woodland. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as the proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and only meet demand during dry years and critical years. WDCWA would continue to implement its Water Shortage Contingency Plan during water supply shortages (WDCWA 2025). Furthermore, surface water transfers under the LTWT would not be used for long-term water storage or aquifer recharge.

Winter transfers would be conducted primarily during Term 91 curtailments that generally occurred between November 1 and March 31. Water transfers in both seasons would vary depending on several factors. WDCWA may not divert water available under the LTWT every year. Factors potentially affecting the amount of water diverted during summer transfers are outlined in **Table 2-3**.

TABLE 2-3
WATER YEAR TYPE AND PROJECTED WATER TRANSFERS

	Long-Duration Term 91 Curtailments	Shasta Critical Year^a	Shasta Critical Year + Drought Protection Program^b
Rate of occurrence	1 in 3 years	1 in 6 years	1 in 8 years ^c
Amount of water diverted under the LTWT	1,000 to 2,000 AF	1,000 to 3,000 AF	3,000 to 6,000 AF

Notes: AF = acre-feet

a. Shasta Critical Years require a 25 percent cut of water available under the Secondary Water Rights.

b. Shasta Critical Years with Drought Protection Program requires a 50 percent cut of water available under the Secondary Water Rights.

c. The frequency of Drought Protection Program measures is projected to increase.

2.2.3 Schedule and Timing

WDCWA is proposing to implement the conditions under the LTWT for 25 years, with the option for renewal subject to additional CEQA review. Once implemented, the LTWT would allow WDCWA to purchase transfer water supplies during Term 91 curtailment and/or Shasta Critical Years from upstream Sellers. The LTWT would be implemented through water agreements for each transfer as required, subject to available water supplies and willing Sellers. Additional permits or approvals are not anticipated to be required as part of Project implementation, except for approvals of in-basin transfers by Reclamation under a Settlement Contract and the State Water Board if a Seller holds a state-granted water right.

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CHAPTER 3

Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

3.1 Introduction to the Environmental Analysis

This chapter provides a definition of key terms and information, describes this document's approach to the impact analysis, and presents a summary of the resource areas for which potential impacts of the proposed Project are covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the DWWSP Final EIR. The resource areas within the scope of the Final EIR, and for which no further analysis is required in this document, include:

- Aesthetics;
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources;
- Drainage and Floodplains;
- Geology, Soils, and Seismicity;
- Groundwater;
- Land Use;
- Public Health and Safety;
- Terrestrial biological resources; and
- Transportation and Traffic.

The resource area topics requiring additional analysis with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) beyond the analysis in the Final EIR are presented in the following sections in this Draft supplemental environmental impact report (Draft SEIR):

- 3.2 Aquatic Biological Resources;
- 3.3 Cultural Resources;
- 3.4 Energy;
- 3.5 Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- 3.6 Hydrology and Water Quality;
- 3.7 Population and Housing;
- 3.8 Recreation;

- 3.9 Tribal Cultural Resources;
- 3.10 Utilities and Service Systems; and
- 3.11 Wildfire.

3.1.1 Impact Analysis Key Terms

This Draft SEIR uses the following key terms:

- **Thresholds of Significance:** The set of identifiable, quantitative, qualitative, or performance-level criteria used to determine the level or “threshold” at which an impact would be significant (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7[a]). The thresholds of significance used in the Final EIR and in this Draft SEIR fall into the following categories:
 - Discussed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.
 - Based on factual or scientific information.
 - Based on regulatory standards of federal, State, and local agencies.
 - Adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

In determining the level of significance, the analysis assumes that the proposed Project would comply with relevant federal and State regulations.

- **No Impact (NI):** An impact conclusion is classified as “no impact” when the resource being discussed would not be adversely affected by the proposed Project, the proposed Project would not cause a change for existing conditions, or there is no reasonably foreseeable situation in which the proposed Project would result in a direct or indirect impact on a particular threshold of significance.
- **Less-than-Significant Impact (LTS):** An impact is considered “less than significant” when it does not surpass the threshold of significance and would therefore not cause a substantial adverse change in the physical environment. No mitigation is required for less-than-significant impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4[a][3]). However, mitigation measures may be applied to further reduce the less-than-significant level of impact.
- **Potentially Significant Impact (PS):** An impact is considered “potentially significant” if it could result in a substantial adverse change in the physical environmental conditions in the area affected by the proposed Project. Mitigation measures may be applied to reduce such impacts to a less-than-significant level.
- **Less than Significant with Implementation of Mitigation Measures (LTSM):** An impact is considered “less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures” when mitigation measures from the Final EIR or additional, project-specific mitigation measures are required to reduce the magnitude of a potential impact to a less-than-significant level.
- **Significant Impact:** An impact is considered “significant” if it would result in a substantial adverse change in the physical environmental conditions in the area affected by the proposed Project, even after implementation of all feasible mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002[g]). Significant impacts are identified by evaluating the effects of the proposed Project in the context of specified thresholds of significance. Mitigation measures and/or project alternatives are identified and

adopted to reduce these effects on the environment, where feasible (CEQA Guidelines Section 15021[a]).

- **Significant and Unavoidable Impact (SU):** An impact is considered “significant and unavoidable” if it would result in a substantial adverse change in the environment that cannot be feasibly avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level. A statement of overriding considerations must be adopted if impacts cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15093[b]).
- **Beneficial Impact (B):** CEQA does not consider the beneficial impacts of a proposed project but rather focuses on the potentially significant adverse impacts on the physical environment. However, relative to restoration projects, a beneficial impact is defined in this document as an effect of the proposed Project that would reduce existing enumerated problems or hazards. In certain cases, it may be logical to clarify that an impact is purely beneficial, as opposed to less than significant or no impact.
- **Mitigation Measures:** The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15370) define mitigation as all of the following:
 - Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
 - Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
 - Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
 - Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by conducting preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
 - Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments, including through permanent protection of resources in the form of conservation easements.

3.1.2 Approach to Evaluate Impacts of the Proposed Project

As stated in Section 1.2, *Type of Environmental Impact Report*, this Draft SEIR tiers from and supplements the previously certified EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2006042175) and addresses proposed modifications, changed circumstances, and new information not described in that prior environmental document. This Draft SEIR provides additional information needed to make the Final EIR, as supplemented, adequate for the proposed Project. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15163, this Draft SEIR contains only the information needed to analyze the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where information and analysis provided in the Final EIR is applicable to the proposed Project, it is summarized and/or incorporated by reference.

Explanation of Baselines for this Draft SEIR

The primary basis for evaluation of existing conditions for this Draft SEIR refers to the physical environmental conditions as they existed at the time of the Draft SEIR publication (August 2026), per CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)(1) (notice of preparation baseline).

Resource Section Format

This chapter of the Draft SEIR presents the environmental setting; regulatory setting; significant effects on the environment (impacts); and mitigation measures, as applicable, for each of the resource topics discussed in detail in Sections 3.2 through 3.11, as listed previously.

The “Impacts and Mitigation Measures” section of each resource topic section begins with a summary table that lists the impact statements and the significance conclusions (e.g., less than significant). The summary table also includes impact conclusions with implementation of mitigation measures (e.g., less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures).

3.2 Aquatic Biological Resources

3.2.1 Introduction

The following discussion addresses the potential aquatic biological resource impacts associated with implementation of long-term water transfers to WDCWA from upstream Sellers. The source of WDCWA's surface water supply would be available through an individual Seller's water rights or a SRSC's existing entitlement under its settlement contract with the Reclamation. Surface water transferred to WDCWA under the proposed Project would be diverted at WDCWA's existing Joint Intake Facility on the Sacramento River (owned jointly with RD 2035) and conveyed via an existing raw water conveyance pipeline to WDCWA's RWTF for treatment and distribution to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for municipal and irrigation uses. There would be no increases in annual diversions at the Joint Intake Facility compared to existing conditions.

The effects analysis herein evaluates the impact of water transfers under the proposed Project on special-status fish species in the Sacramento River in the vicinity of or adjacent to the intake, including an evaluation of direct effects (entrainment) and indirect effects (habitat changes).

A review of pertinent literature and database queries were conducted for the Joint Intake Facility and surrounding area. The sources of reference data reviewed for this evaluation include the following:

- Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009).
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) List of Regionally Occurring Special-Status Species (CDFW 2026).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) List of Federally Threatened and Endangered Species that May Occur in the Project Location (USFWS 2026).
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Endangered Species Act Critical Habitat Geodatabase (NMFS 2026).

3.2.2 Environmental Setting

The following sections introduce the existing conditions in the region and proposed Project area as they relate to aquatic biological resources and describe the special-status species and critical habitat known to occur or that have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area.

Sacramento River and Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta

The Sacramento River is the largest river system in California. It originates near the slopes of Mount Shasta in Northern California and flows southward to Suisun Bay in the Delta in central California. The lower Sacramento River is defined as the reach south of the Sacramento and Yolo Bypass, near the American River confluence downstream through to the city of Freeport. The lower Sacramento River is highly channelized and leveed and is bordered by agricultural lands.

Aquatic habitat in the lower Sacramento River is characterized by slow-water glides and pools and has reduced water clarity and habitat diversity compared to the upper Sacramento River. The Sacramento

River is a major migration corridor that supports numerous anadromous fish species including green sturgeon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead.

The Delta lies at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and is one of the largest estuaries in the U.S. The Delta boundary extends north along the Sacramento River terminating just south of the American River, south along the San Joaquin River terminating just north of the Stanislaus River, east to the city of Stockton, and west to Suisun Bay. Runoff from Central Valley streams accounts for approximately 95 percent of Delta inflows. The Joint Intake Facility is located at river mile 70.5 on the Sacramento River, approximately 11 river miles upstream of the Delta boundary.

Special-Status Species

Special-status fish species are regulated under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or other applicable regulations, as well as species considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing. These fish species are classified in the following categories:

- Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under FESA (Code of Federal Regulations Title 50, Section 17.12 [50 CFR 17.12] [listed plants], 50 CFR 17.11 [listed animals], and various notices in the Federal Register [FR] [proposed species]).
- Species that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under FESA (61 FR 40, February 28, 1996).
- Species listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the CESA (14 California Code of Regulations 670.5).
- Animal species of special concern to CDFW.

A list of special-status fish species that have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area was compiled based on data contained in the CNDDB (CDFW 2026); the USFWS List of Threatened and Endangered Species that May Occur in your Proposed Project Location or May Be Affected by Your Proposed Project (USFWS 2026); the NMFS Endangered Species Act Critical Habitat Geodatabase (NMFS 2026); and data from the past 10 years (2014–2024) compiled from a collection of seven Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) studies (Bashevkin et al. 2024) to assess the potential for fish to occur in the proposed Project area. **Table 3.2-1** provides a list of special-status fish species, their general habitat requirements, and an assessment of their potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project area.

**TABLE 3.2-1
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO BE AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN WATER SUPPLY**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Vicinity of the Joint Intake Facility
Fish				
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i> pop. 1	Green sturgeon – southern DPS	FT/SSC/--	Spawning occurs primarily in cool (11–15°C) sections of mainstem rivers in deep pools (8–9 meters) with substrate containing small to medium-sized sand, gravel, cobble, or boulder.	High. Green sturgeon could occur in the vicinity of the intake year-round. Spawning occurs in the upper portions of the Sacramento River, and sturgeon use the lower river, adjacent to the intake, as a migration corridor.
<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	White sturgeon	--/SC/--	Spawning occurs primarily in cool (11–15°C) sections of mainstem rivers in deep pools (8–9 meters) with substrate containing small to medium-sized sand, gravel, cobble, or boulder. Primarily reside in the San Francisco Estuary.	High. Adult white sturgeon could occur in the vicinity of the intake during upstream migration to spawning areas on the Sacramento River. Juveniles could occur while rearing and during their out-migration to the Delta.
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Longfin smelt	FP/ST/--	Euryhaline, nektonic, and anadromous. Found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column. Prefer salinities of 15–30 parts per thousand but can be found in completely freshwater to almost pure seawater.	Low. Although historically longfin smelt have been found as far north as Colusa, CA, the species has been experiencing rapid decline. Today, longfin smelt are known to spawn in the lower Sacramento River near or downstream of Rio Vista and are not expected to occur in the proposed Project area
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Delta smelt	FT/SE/--	Occurs in open surface waters in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. Occurs seasonally in Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait, and San Pablo Bay. Found in Delta estuaries with dense aquatic vegetation and low occurrence of predators. May be affected by downstream sedimentation.	Low. Although historically Delta smelt have been found as far north as the Feather River, the species has been experiencing rapid decline. Recently their distribution is restricted to Suisun Bay and the north, east, and west Delta. Critical habitat for Delta smelt extends upstream in the Sacramento River to just below the American River confluence, downstream of the proposed Project area.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 11	Steelhead – Central Valley DPS	FT/--/--	This DPS enters the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries from July to May; spawning from December to April. Young move to rearing areas in and through the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, Delta, and San Pablo and San Francisco bays.	High. Primarily present during in-migration (adults) and out-migration (juveniles) periods. Spawning occurs on the upper Sacramento River.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 7	Chinook salmon – Sacramento River winter-run ESU	FE/SE/--	Anadromous species using riverine, estuarine, and saltwater habitat. Adult migration potentially occurs from January through May. Juvenile out-migration occurs from November through mid-March.	High. Primarily present during in-migration (adults) and out-migration (juveniles) periods. Spawning occurs in the upper reaches of the Sacramento River.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 11	Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ESU	FT/ST/--	Anadromous species using riverine, estuarine, and saltwater habitat. Adult migration potentially occurs from March through May. Juvenile out-migration occurs from November through April.	High. Primarily present during in-migration (adults) and out-migration (juveniles) periods. Spawning occurs in tributaries of the upper Sacramento River.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status: Federal/State/Other	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Vicinity of the Joint Intake Facility
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 13	Chinook salmon – Central Valley fall-/late fall-run ESU	SC/SSC/--	Anadromous species using riverine, estuarine, and saltwater habitat. Adult migration potentially occurs from June through December. Juvenile out-migration occurs from March through July.	High. Primarily present during in-migration (adults) and out-migration (juveniles) periods. Spawning occurs on the upper Sacramento River.
<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	Pacific lamprey	SC/SSC/--	Adults need clean, gravelly riffles in permanent streams to spawn successfully. Ammocoetes live in silty backwaters and eddies with muddy or sandy substrate into which they burrow.	Low. Can occur in lower Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, including the Delta. May occur seasonally in the vicinity of the intake, but recent surveys show low numbers within 5 miles.
<i>Lampetra ayresii</i>	River lamprey	--/SSC/--	Adults need clean, gravelly riffles in permanent streams to spawn successfully. Ammocoetes live in silty backwaters and eddies with muddy or sandy substrate into which they burrow.	Low. Can occur in lower Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, including the Delta. May occur seasonally in the vicinity of the intake, but recent surveys show low numbers within 5 miles.
<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	Sacramento splittail	--/SSC/--	Splittail spawn in shallow water over flooded vegetated habitat with a detectable water flow. Splittail larvae and juveniles remain in riparian or annual vegetation along shallow edges on floodplains.	High. Historically, Sacramento splittail were found as far north as Redding, CA. However, they are now largely confined to the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, and the Napa and Petaluma rivers. Both adults and juveniles occur in the Sacramento River in the vicinity of the intake.
<i>Lavinia symmetricus</i> spp.	Sacramento hitch	--/SSC/--	Sacramento hitch inhabit warm lowland waters including clear streams, turbid sloughs, lakes, and reservoirs.	Low. In the Sacramento River, hitch appear to be spread across much of their native range including the Delta but are rarely captured in the Sacramento River in the vicinity of the intake.
<i>Archoplites interruptus</i>	Sacramento perch	--/SSC/--	Historically found in the sloughs, slow-moving rivers, and lakes of the Central Valley. Prefer warm water. Aquatic vegetation is essential for young.	None. Extirpated from native range.
<i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i>	Hardhead	--/SSC/--	Hardhead are often found at low to mid-elevations in relatively undisturbed habitats of larger streams with high water quality (clear, cool).	High. In the Sacramento River, they are common and are expected to be present in the vicinity of the intake.
<i>Lavinia exilicauda exilicauda</i>	Central California roach	--/SSC/--	Occurs in small, warm tributaries to larger streams that flow through open foothill woodlands of oak and foothill pine. Located in the foothills in much of the same region that contains the pikeminnow-hardhead-sucker assemblage.	Low. Occurs upstream of large reservoirs or in tributary streams. May occur in the vicinity of the intake, but recent surveys show low numbers within 5 miles.

Notes: °C = degrees Celsius; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Delta = Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta; DPS = distinct population segment; ESU = evolutionarily significant unit; NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal: (NMFS, USFWS)

FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government
FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government
FP = Proposed for listing by the Federal Government
SC = Species of Concern

State: (CDFW)

SE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California
ST = Listed as Threatened by the State of California
SC = Candidate for listing by the State of California
SSC = California Species of Special Concern

Sources: Bashevkin et al. 2024; CDFW 2026; NMFS 2026; USFWS 2026

The “Potential to Occur” categories are defined as follows:

- **None:** A species is determined to have no potential to occur if (1) its specific habitat requirements are not present; **AND/OR** (2) it is outside the range or presumed to be extirpated from the area or region; **AND/OR** (3) a survey has been conducted according to agency protocol and the species was not found.
- **Low:** A species is determined to have a low potential to occur if (1) its known current distribution or range is outside of but near the study area; **AND/OR** (2) only limited or marginally suitable habitat is present.
- **Moderate:** A species is determined to have a moderate potential to occur if (1) habitat is present in the study area or immediately adjacent areas; **AND** (2) the study area is in the known range of the species, even if the species was not observed during general biological surveys.
- **High:** A species is determined to have a high potential to occur or be present if (1) habitat is present in the study area or immediately adjacent areas; **AND** (2) the study area is in the known range of the species; **AND/OR** (3) there are recent and reliable records of the species on or near the site.

Conclusions regarding habitat suitability and species occurrence are based on the analysis of existing literature and databases described previously and known habitats occurring within the proposed Project area and regionally. Eight special-status species have high potential to occur in the proposed Project area and vicinity. Seven species have low or no potential to occur in the proposed Project area. Only species classified as having a moderate or high potential for occurrence were considered in the impact analysis.

Special-Status Fish

Green Sturgeon

In North America, the southern distinct population segment (DPS) of green sturgeon is found from Ensenada, Mexico to Southeast Alaska. Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris* pop. 1) was classified as a Class 1 Species of Special Concern by CDFW in 1995 (Moyle et al. 1995). Class 1 Species of Special Concern are those that conform to the state definitions of threatened or endangered and could qualify for addition to the official list. On April 7, 2006, NMFS determined that the southern DPS of green sturgeon was threatened under FESA (71 FR 17757). On October 9, 2009, NMFS designated critical habitat for the green sturgeon southern DPS throughout most of its occupied range (74 FR 52299), including the Sacramento River.

Green sturgeon are widely distributed in the Delta and estuary areas. Historical and recent information confirms that green sturgeon occur in the Sacramento River and a few of its tributaries (Feather, Yuba, and Bear) rivers. Historic and present records indicate that spawning of green sturgeon is limited exclusively to the Sacramento River Watershed (83 FR 1025, January 9, 2018). Adults typically migrate upstream into rivers between late February and late July. Spawning occurs from March to July, with peak spawning from mid-April to mid-June. Green sturgeon are believed to spawn every 3 to 5 years, although recent evidence indicates that spawning may be as frequent as every 2 years (70 FR 17386, April 6, 2005). Adult green sturgeon broadcast their eggs in deep, fast water over large cobble substrate, where the eggs settle into the interstitial spaces (Moyle 2002). Larvae hatch from eggs between 6 to 8 days after spawning if temperature conditions are optimal. Larvae and young-of-the-year use riverine areas to forage and rear until they gain the ability to tolerate higher salinity concentrations.

Juvenile green sturgeon are known to live in freshwater for up to 3 years using riverine, subtidal, and intertidal habitats in the lower Sacramento River and Delta (Radtke 1966; Klimley et al. 2015). Post-spawn fish behavior varies between holding for several months in the Sacramento River then out-migrating in the fall or winter or moving out of the river quickly during the spring or summer months (Heublein et al. 2009). Post-spawn out-migration through the Delta Estuary is also variable with some adults traveling to the Pacific Ocean in 2 to 10 days and others remaining in the estuary for months. Juvenile and adult green sturgeon can be present within the proposed Project area year-round.

White Sturgeon

As with green sturgeon, white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) are found from Ensenada, Mexico to Southeast Alaska. The San Francisco Estuary population of white sturgeon—the only reproducing population of white sturgeon in California—was previously classified as a Species of Special Concern by CDFW. On July 12, 2024, CDFW approved white sturgeon as a candidate species for listing as threatened under CESA. Candidate species for listing under CESA are granted full protections during the review process. Presently, there is no federal listing for white sturgeon.

White sturgeon primarily inhabit estuaries of large river systems, migrating to fresh water to spawn. Spawning success has been hindered by the construction of dams, such as Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River and Oroville Dam on the Feather River. Spawning in the California Central Valley is now limited to the Sacramento River between Knights Landing and Colusa (Moyle 2002; Moyle et al. 2015) with observations of periodic spawning occurring in the Feather and San Joaquin rivers (Beamesderfer et al. 2004; Jackson et al. 2015). Prior to spawning, white sturgeon move into the lower reaches of rivers during the winter and migrate upstream to spawning areas between December and early June (Moyle et al. 2015). Like green sturgeon, white sturgeon broadcast their eggs in deep, fast water over large cobble substrate, where the eggs settle into the interstitial spaces (Moyle 2002). Larvae hatch from eggs between 4–12 days after spawning if temperature conditions are optimal (Wang 1986). Larvae and young-of-the-year use riverine areas to forage and rear until they gain the ability to tolerate higher salinity concentrations (McCabe and Tracy 1994). Recruitment success of juvenile white sturgeon is correlated with high spring flows and Delta outflow. High spring flows during juvenile rearing (i.e., between April and July) assist in moving larval sturgeon downstream into suitable rearing habitat quicker than years with low spring flows (Stevens and Miller 1970).

White sturgeon typically inhabit deep water over soft bottom substrates, feeding on or near the bottom (Moyle 2002). White sturgeon remain in the San Francisco Estuary throughout most of their life (Klimley et al. 2015), but more evidence is showing that white sturgeon may move into marine environments as well (Sellheim et al. 2022; Scott and Crossman 1973). Adult and juvenile white sturgeon primarily occur in the San Francisco Estuary but can be present in the proposed Project area during upstream migration as adults and downstream migration as rearing juveniles.

Central Valley Steelhead

Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11) was federally listed as threatened on March 19, 1998 (63 FR 13347). The threatened status of Central Valley steelhead was reaffirmed in NMFS's final listing determination on January 5, 2006 (71 FR 834). Critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead was designated by NMFS on September 2, 2005 (70 FR 52630) and includes the Sacramento River.

Steelhead have highly variable and complex life history patterns but are broadly categorized into winter and summer reproductive ecotypes. Winter-run steelhead are the most widespread reproductive ecotype and the only type currently present in Central Valley streams (McEwan 2001). Winter steelhead become sexually mature in the ocean and enter fresh water from August through April, typically spawning from December through April (79 FR 42504, July 22, 2014). Individual steelhead may spawn more than once, returning to the ocean between each spawning migration.

Juvenile steelhead typically rear 1 to 2 years in fresh water before migrating to the ocean as smolts. Juvenile migration to the ocean generally occurs from December through August, with peak out-migration from January to May (McEwan 2001). However, some juveniles may stay and mature in fresh water without migrating to the ocean (i.e., resident rainbow trout). Resident rainbow trout can shift back to anadromy if conditions are appropriate. Juvenile steelhead tend to use bank habitat more frequently than the main channel, because bank habitat provides increased protection, shade, and food.

Central Valley steelhead occur in the proposed Project area in the Sacramento River, either as adults migrating upstream to their spawning habitat, or as juveniles rearing and migrating toward the ocean.

Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit

The Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 7) was listed as threatened under FESA on August 4, 1989 (54 FR 32085). NMFS subsequently upgraded the federal listing to endangered on January 4, 1994 (59 FR 440). NMFS designated critical habitat for Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon on June 16, 1993 (58 FR 33212) and includes the Sacramento River.

Winter-run Chinook salmon spend 1 to 3 years in the ocean. Adult winter-run Chinook salmon leave the ocean and migrate through the Delta into the Sacramento River from December through July with peak migration in March. Adults spawn from mid-April through August (Moyle 2002). Egg incubation continues through October. Downstream movement of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon begins in August, soon after fry emerge.

Historically, winter-run Chinook salmon occupied and spawned in the upper reaches of the Sacramento River including Little Sacramento, McCloud, and Pit rivers and Battle Creek (Moyle et al. 1989; Lindley et al. 2007). After construction of the Shasta and Keswick dams, those habitats became unavailable due to the impassable dams and hydroelectric operations. Currently, winter-run Chinook salmon is known to occur only in the mainstem of the Sacramento River, with spawning occurring between Keswick Dam near Redding and Red Bluff Diversion Dam (Lindley et al. 2007; NMFS 2016). The Sacramento River is the main migration route through the Delta. However, juveniles occasionally may stray into the central Delta and lower San Joaquin River system during out-migration because of entrainment into diversion channels.

Winter-run Chinook salmon adults have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their upstream migration to spawn in the Sacramento River near Redding. Juveniles have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their downstream migration through the Sacramento River.

Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit

The Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 11) was federally listed as threatened on September 16, 1999 (64 FR 50394). Their threatened status was reaffirmed in NMFS's final listing determination issued on June 28, 2005 (70 FR 37160). Critical habitat for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon was designated by NMFS on September 2, 2005 (70 FR 52630) and includes the Sacramento River.

Historically, spring-run Chinook salmon occupied the upstream reaches of all major river systems in the Central Valley where no natural barriers existed. By the 1950s, however, populations in the San Joaquin River had been extirpated (Yoshiyama et al. 1998). Loss of access and holding areas due to the construction of dams was a major contributing factor. Similarly, abundance of spring-run in the Sacramento River has been in decline, with only remnant runs occurring in Butte, Mill, and Deer creeks of the upper Sacramento River (Williams et al. 2016).

Adult spring-run Chinook salmon begin their upstream migration in March, with peak upstream migration occurring from May through June, and ending in September. Spring-run Chinook salmon are sexually immature during upstream migration, and adults hold in deep, cold pools near spawning habitat until spawning commences in late summer and fall. Spring-run Chinook salmon spawn in the upper reaches of the mainstem Sacramento River and tributary streams (USFWS 2001). Spawning typically begins in late August and may continue through October. Juveniles emerge in November and December in most locations but may emerge later when water temperature is cooler. Newly emerged fry remain in shallow, low-velocity edgewater (CDFG 1998).

A small portion of an annual year-class of juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon may emigrate as post-emergent fry (less than 1.8 inches long) and reside in the Delta undergoing smoltification. However, most are believed to rear in the upper river and tributaries during winter and spring, emigrating as juveniles (more than 1.8 inches long). Rearing takes place in their natal streams, the mainstem of the Sacramento River, inundated floodplains (including the Sutter and Yolo bypasses), and the Delta. Downstream migration of yearlings typically coincides with the onset of the winter storm season, and migration may continue through March (CDFG 1998).

Spring-run Chinook salmon adults have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their upstream migration to spawn in tributaries of the Sacramento River. Juveniles have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their downstream migration from tributaries and through the Sacramento River.

Central Valley Fall-/Late Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit

Central Valley fall-/late fall-run Chinook salmon ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* pop. 13) are currently the most abundant and widespread salmon runs in California (Mills et al. 1997). This species is not listed under FESA. On March 9, 1998, NMFS issued a proposed rule to list fall-run Chinook salmon as threatened (63 FR 11481). However, on September 16, 1999, NMFS determined that the species did not warrant listing (64 FR 50394). On April 15, 2004, NMFS classified Central Valley fall-/late fall-run Chinook salmon as a species of concern (69 FR 19975). Additionally, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is designated for this species. EFH is defined as those waters and substrate necessary for spawning,

breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. EFH includes currently and historically accessible habitat. This species is also designated as a California Species of Concern by CDFW (Moyle et al. 2015).

Adult fall-run Chinook salmon migrate into the Sacramento River and its tributaries from June through December in mature condition and spawn from late September through December, soon after arriving at their spawning grounds (Yoshiyama et al. 1998). The spawning peak occurs in October and November. Emergence occurs from December through March, and juveniles migrate downstream to the ocean soon after emerging, rearing in fresh water for only a few months. Smolt out-migration typically occurs from March through July (Yoshiyama et al. 1998).

Late fall-run Chinook salmon migrate upstream before they are sexually mature and hold near spawning grounds for 1 to 3 months before spawning. Upstream migration takes place from October through April, and spawning occurs from late January through April, with peak spawning in February and March (Yoshiyama et al. 1998). Fry emerge from April through June. Juvenile late fall-run Chinook salmon rear in their natal streams during the summer, and they remain in some streams throughout the year. Smolt out-migration can occur from November through May (Yoshiyama et al. 1998).

Fall-/late fall-run Chinook salmon adults have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their upstream migration to spawn in tributaries of the Sacramento River. Juveniles have the potential to occur in the proposed Project area during their downstream migration from the Sacramento River.

Sacramento Splittail

Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*) are not listed under CESA or FESA but are considered a California Species of Special Concern (Moyle et al. 2015). Sacramento splittail are a relatively large, long-lived cyprinid, endemic to the sloughs, lakes, and rivers of the Central Valley (Moyle 2002) and most typically found in tidally influenced freshwater and estuarine habitats (e.g., the Delta and Suisun Bay) with salinities as high as 10 to 18 parts per thousand (Moyle et al. 2004). Nonbreeding splittail can survive wide fluctuations in temperature and low dissolved oxygen levels (less than 1 milligram of oxygen per liter), allowing them to live in slow-moving sections of rivers and sloughs (Moyle et al. 2004). Adults begin a gradual upstream migration toward spawning areas sometime between late November and late January. The migration is associated with flow events from February through April that inundate floodplains and riparian areas used for spawning and rearing (Moyle et al. 2004). Spawning is associated with conditions such as changing water levels, lower water temperatures, and increasing length of day (Moyle et al. 2004). In the Sacramento River basin, the most important spawning areas appear to be the Yolo and Sutter bypasses, which are extensively flooded during wet years. In the San Joaquin drainage, spawning apparently takes place in wet years where the San Joaquin River is joined by the Tuolumne and Merced rivers (Moyle et al. 2004). There are two genetically distinct populations of Sacramento splittail in the greater Estuary; a Napa and Petaluma rivers population and a Central Valley population (Baerwald et al. 2007). It is thought that current data is biased toward the Central Valley population, which consists of individuals from the Cosumnes, Sacramento, and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries. Threats to Sacramento splittail include habitat loss and degradation, loss of access to seasonally inundated floodplains, introduction of non-native species, entrainment in the CVP and SWP water export facilities, and harvest by recreational anglers.

Recent surveys within 5 miles of the Joint Intake Facility indicate presence of Sacramento splittail (Bashevkin et al. 2024); therefore, Sacramento splittail are expected to be present in the vicinity of the intake as adults or rearing juveniles.

Hardhead

The hardhead (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*) is not listed under FESA or CESA but is considered a California Species of Special Concern (Moyle et al. 2015). Hardhead is a native species that is widely distributed in low- to mid-elevation streams in the Sacramento and San Joaquin drainages. Although hardhead is still common throughout its range, populations are generally in decline, similar to other California native species (Moyle 2002). The cause of this decline appears to be habitat loss and predation by non-native fishes (Moyle 2002).

Recent surveys within 5 miles of the Joint Intake Facility indicate presence of hardhead (Bashevkin et al. 2024); therefore, hardhead are expected to be present in the vicinity of the intake as adults or rearing juveniles.

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined in Section 3(5)A of FESA as a specific geographic area(s) that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Four designated critical habitats are present in the proposed Project area and are described below.

North American Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat

Designated critical habitat for the southern DPS of green sturgeon includes the River, the Delta, and Suisun, San Pablo, and all of San Francisco Bay below the higher high water (74 FR 52299, October 9, 2009).

Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat

Designated critical habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon includes the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam, Shasta County (River mile 302) to Chipps Island (River mile 0) at the westward margin of the Delta; all waters from Chipps Island westward to Carquinez Bridge, including Honker Bay, Grizzly Bay, Suisun Bay, and Carquinez Strait; all waters of San Pablo Bay westward of the Carquinez Bridge; and all waters of San Francisco Bay (north of San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge) from San Pablo Bay to the Golden Gate Bridge (58 FR 33212, June 16, 1993).

Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat

Designated critical habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon includes all river reaches accessible in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California, all waters from Chipps Island westward to Carquinez Bridge, including Honker Bay, Grizzly Bay, Suisun Bay, and Carquinez Strait; all waters of San Pablo Bay westward of the Carquinez Bridge; and all waters of San Francisco Bay (north of San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge) from San Pablo Bay to the Golden Gate Bridge (70 FR 52630, September 2, 2005).

Central Valley Steelhead Critical Habitat

Designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead includes the stream channels in the designated stream reaches and the lateral extent as defined by the ordinary high-waterline or bank-full elevation in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, their tributaries, and the Delta (70 FR 52630, September 2, 2005).

3.2.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973

FESA and subsequent amendments (Title 16 U.S. Code USC Sections 1531–1543 [16 USC 1531–1543]) provide guidance for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. In addition, FESA defines species as threatened or endangered and provides regulatory protection for listed species. The law also provides a program for the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species and the conservation of designated critical habitat that USFWS determines to be required for the survival and recovery of these listed species.

FESA Section 9 lists actions that are prohibited under the law. The definition of *take* is to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Although unauthorized take of a listed species is prohibited, take may be allowed when it is incidental to an otherwise legal activity. Section 9 prohibits take of listed species of fish, wildlife, and plants without special exemption. The definition of *harm* includes significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns related to breeding, feeding, or shelter. *Harass* is defined as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species by significantly disrupting normal behavioral patterns related to breeding, feeding, and shelter. FESA Section 10 provides a means whereby a nonfederal action with the potential to result in take of a listed species can be allowed under an incidental take permit (ITP).

National Marine Fisheries Service Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Central Valley

On August 31, 2018, NMFS issued a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) for restoration projects in the Central Valley. This PBO provides FESA coverage for several categories of restoration project types, where “restoration project” is defined as one that would result in a net increase in aquatic or riparian resource functions and services. Projects permitted by the PBO may include multiple benefits, such as flood management, groundwater recharge, recreation, or climate change adaptation. All permitted projects must meet the criteria of a restoration project defined by the PBO and must remain consistent with NMFS’ recovery plans. Avoidance and minimization measures are also described in the PBO and must be included in the proposed projects, as applicable.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (16 USC 1801 et seq.), NMFS, fishery management councils, and federal agencies are required to cooperatively protect EFH for commercially important fish species such as Pacific coast groundfish, Pacific salmon, highly migratory species, and coastal pelagic fish and squid. As defined by

Congress, EFH includes “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.”¹

Central Valley Project Improvement Act

The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) includes Title 34 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The CVPIA amended the CVP’s authorization to include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes of the CVP having equal priority with irrigation and domestic uses of CVP water, and it elevated fish and wildlife enhancement to a level having equal purpose with power generation. Among the changes mandated by the CVPIA was the dedication of 800 thousand acre-feet of CVP yield annually to fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration.

The U.S. Department of the Interior’s May 9, 2003, decision on the implementation of Section 3406(b)(2) of the CVPIA explains how Section 3406(b)(2) water will be dedicated and managed. Dedication of CVPIA 3406(b)(2) water occurs when Reclamation takes a fish and wildlife habitat restoration action based on the recommendations of USFWS (and in consultation with NMFS and CDFW), pursuant to Section 3406(b)(2). Water exports at the CVP pumping facilities have been reduced using “(b)(2) water” to decrease the risk of fish entrainment at the salvage facilities and to augment river flows.

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States. The CWA serves as the primary federal law protecting the quality of the nation’s surface waters, including lakes, rivers, and coastal wetlands. See Section 3.6, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, for a detailed description of the CWA.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 651 et seq.), as amended in 1964, was enacted to protect fish and wildlife when federal actions control or modify a natural stream or body of water. The law requires federal agencies to consider the effect of water-related projects on fish and wildlife resources. The agencies must consult and coordinate with USFWS and state fish and game agencies to identify ways to prevent the loss of and damage to fish and wildlife resources, and to further develop and improve these resources.

National Invasive Species Act of 1996

The National Invasive Species Act (Public Law 104-332) reauthorized and amended the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The 1996 law mandated regulations to reduce environmental and economic impacts from invasive species and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species, primarily through ballast water.

In recent years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has joined the U.S. Coast Guard in regulating discharges of ballast water in the United States. Since February 2009, EPA has regulated ballast water, and other discharges incidental to normal vessel operations, under Section 402 of the CWA. U.S. Coast Guard regulations, developed under the National Invasive Species Act, generally require

¹ 16 USC 1802, Definitions (10).

ballast water management (i.e., exchange) for vessels entering U.S. waters from outside of the 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone of the U.S. The National Invasive Species Act also authorizes funding for research on the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species in San Francisco Bay and the Delta, along the Pacific coast, and elsewhere in the U.S.

Executive Order 13112: Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112 (February 3, 1999) directs federal agencies to prevent and control the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species in a cost-effective, environmentally sound manner to minimize their effects on economic, ecological, and human health. The executive order builds on existing laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, the Lacey Act, the Plant Pest Act, the federal Noxious Weed Act, and FESA.

State

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code Section 13000 et seq.), enacted in 1969, articulates the federal CWA. The State Water Board and regional water quality control boards (referred to collectively herein as “Boards”) are the state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality.

California Endangered Species Act

CESA was enacted in 1984. Under CESA, the California Fish and Game Commission has the responsibility for maintaining a list of threatened and endangered species. Pursuant to CESA requirements, an agency reviewing a project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any state-listed as endangered or threatened species may be present on the Project site and whether the Project would have a potentially significant impact on such species. In addition, CDFW encourages informal consultation on any project that may affect a candidate species. CESA prohibits the take of California-listed animals and plants in most cases, but CDFW may issue ITPs for legal projects resulting in species take.

Project-related impacts on species identified on the CESA endangered or threatened list would be considered significant. “Take” of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities may be authorized under Fish and Game Code Section 2081.

California Fish and Game Code

Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Fish and Game Code Section 1602)

Fish and Game Code Section 1602 requires any person, government agency, or public utility proposing any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow or change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake, or proposing to use any material from a streambed, to first notify CDFW of such proposed activity.

Fully Protected Species (Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, 5515)

Certain species are considered “fully protected,” meaning that the code explicitly prohibits all take of individuals of these species, except for take permitted for scientific research. Section 5050(a)(1) lists fully protected amphibians and reptiles, Section 5515(a)(1) lists fully protected fish, Section 3511(a)(1) lists fully protected birds, and Section 4700(a)(1) lists fully protected mammals. Except as provided in

Sections 2081.7 and 2835, fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time, and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take, except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the species for the protection of livestock.

Take Prohibition (Fish and Game Code Sections 86, 2080)

Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines “take,” and Section 2080 prohibits “taking” of a species listed as threatened or endangered under CESA (Fish and Game Code Section 2080) or otherwise fully protected, as defined in Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, and 5050.

State Wildlife Action Plan

Each state develops a State Wildlife Action Plan to serve as the comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy required for the receipt of federal funds through the state and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. California last updated its plan in 2025 (CDFW 2025). The State Wildlife Action Plan provides a blueprint for the actions necessary to address the highest priorities for conserving California’s aquatic, marine, and terrestrial resources. Implementation of this plan relies on making important and helpful conservation information more accessible to resource managers and the public, and on developing lasting partnerships with a broad array of governments, agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act

The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act of 2014 is an expedited permitting process with CDFW for landowners, state and local government agencies, and conservation organizations wanting to implement small-scale, voluntary habitat restoration projects across California. Restoration and enhancement projects approved by CDFW, pursuant to this law, do not require additional permits from CDFW, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration agreement or CESA permit.

As defined by the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act, habitat restoration or enhancement projects are projects with the primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat and meet the eligibility requirements for the State Water Board’s Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects. Projects approved under the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act must meet the current size limitations in the State Water Board’s Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects, be consistent with widely recognized restoration practices, and avoid or minimize any incidental impacts.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15380

Although threatened and endangered species are protected by specific federal and state statutes, CEQA Guidelines Section 15380(d) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare or endangered if the species can be shown to meet the specific criteria of a rare or endangered species.

CEQA also specifies the protection of other locally or regionally significant resources, including sensitive wildlife natural communities or habitats (14 CCR 15206[b][5]). Unoccupied habitat does not merit protection under FESA or CESA, but CEQA requires an assessment of such communities and potential project impacts. Natural communities that are identified in the CNDDDB as sensitive are considered by CDFW to be significant resources and fall under the CEQA Guidelines for addressing impacts.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies intended for the protection of biological resources countywide. Policies guide the location, design, and quality of development to protect aquatic biological resources such as aquatic habitat, migration corridors, and ecosystems. Relevant goals and policies from this planning document include the following:

Goal CO-2: Biological Resources. Protect and enhance biological resources through the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of key habitat areas and corresponding connections that represent the diverse geography, topography, biological communities, and ecological integrity of the landscape.

Policy CO-2.1: Consider and maintain the ecological function of landscapes, connecting features, watersheds, and wildlife movement corridors.

Policy CO-2.2: Focus conservation efforts on high priority conservation areas (core reserves) that consider and promote the protection and enhancement of species diversity and habitat values, and that contribute to sustainable landscapes connected to each other and to regional resources.

Policy CO-2.3: Preserve and enhance those biological communities that contribute to the county's rich biodiversity including blue oak and mixed oak woodlands, native grassland prairies, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitat, agricultural lands, heritage valley oak trees, remnant valley oak groves, and roadside tree rows.

Policy CO-2.5: Protect, restore and enhance habitat for sensitive fish species, so long as it does not result in the large-scale conversion of existing agricultural resources.

Policy CO-2.8: Encourage all public land management agencies to protect, restore, and enhance the fish habitat within their jurisdiction.

Policy CO-2.9: Protect riparian areas to maintain and balance wildlife values.

Policy CO-2.41: Require that impacts to species listed under the State or federal Endangered Species Acts, or species identified as special-status by the resource agencies, be avoided to the greatest feasible extent. If avoidance is not possible, fully mitigate impacts consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal requirements.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to the protection of biological resources in the Habitat, Wildlife, and Natural Areas Element. The general plan discusses the protection, restoration and enhancement of biological resources. The following goals and policies related to biological resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

GOAL HAB 1: Identify, protect, restore, enhance and create natural habitats. Protect and improve biodiversity consistent with the natural biodiversity of the region.

Policy HAB 1.1: *Protect existing natural habitat areas, including designated Natural Habitat Areas.*

Policy HAB 1.2: *Enhance and restore natural areas and create new wildlife habitat areas.*

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017a) outlines goals and policies related to natural habitats, wildlife, and vegetation in the Sustainability, Conservation, and Open Space Element of the general plan. The general plan discusses habitats and natural vegetation and special-status species. The following goals and policies related to biological resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal 7.B Maintain and Protect Biological Resources. Maintain and protect natural habitats throughout the Planning Area, especially types that are considered sensitive by the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Protect sensitive wildlife and plant species.

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) is a comprehensive land use plan guided by principles and objectives that support the university's mission while conserving resources and guiding the campus toward a more sustainable future. The plan outlines various strategies related to sustainable landscapes, healthy and resilient urban forests and the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve; however, no objectives are directly applicable to the proposed Project.

3.2.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to aquatic biological resources is considered significant if the proposed Project would do any of the following:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any fish species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status fish species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- 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.

Methodology and Assumptions

The following analysis relies on the criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist to determine whether the Project could cause a potential significant effect on biological resources, including resources that occur or could occur on or near the Project site. Existing and potential biological resources were identified through a review of relevant literature and occurrence databases, and review of biological reports. Such resources include sensitive habitats in and around the vicinity of the Joint Intake Facility; special-status and protected fish and aquatic species; and potential migration corridors.

Specific to this impact analysis, three principal factors were considered: (1) the magnitude of the impact (i.e., substantial/not substantial); (2) the uniqueness of the affected resource (i.e., rarity of the resource); and (3) susceptibility of the affected resource to perturbation (i.e., sensitivity of the resource). The evaluation of potential significance considered the interrelationship of these three principal factors. For

example, a relatively small magnitude impact on a state or federally listed species would be considered significant if the species is exceptionally rare or believed to be highly susceptible to disturbance.

Implementation of the proposed Project would be regulated by the laws, regulations, plans, and policies summarized under the *Regulatory Setting*. Therefore, the impact analysis assumes that implementation of the proposed Project would comply with existing applicable regulatory and permitting requirements.

To evaluate whether the proposed Project would result in aquatic biological resource impacts, the analysis considers how water supply operations could result in changes to existing conditions for special-status and native fishes.

Changes in operations of the Joint Intake Facility could result in both near-field and far-field effects. Near-field effects are those that have the potential to affect fish immediately surrounding the water intakes, such as through entrainment or impingement. Far-field effects are those that have the potential to impact fish upstream and/or further downstream of the water intake, such as flow changes that result from increased diversions at the intake. Numerical modeling (e.g., CalSim) to evaluate changes in river flows was not warranted because Project-related changes in river flows (from changes in diversions) are a fraction of a percentage and within the sensitivity bounds (e.g., model noise or error) of the best available hydrologic and habitat suitability models.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.2-2 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

TABLE 3.2-2
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON AQUATIC BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.2-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in near-field direct or indirect impacts to listed fish species and their associated habitat and could interfere with movement of native resident or migratory fish.	LTS
3.2-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in far-field indirect impacts to listed fish species and their associated habitat.	B

Notes: B = beneficial; LTS = less than significant

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026

Impact 3.2-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in near-field direct or indirect impacts to listed fish species and their associated habitat and could interfere with movement of native resident or migratory fish. (*Less Than Significant*)

As introduced previously, near-field effects are those effects that have the potential to affect fish immediately surrounding the Joint Intake Facility, such as through entrainment, impingement, or in-water maintenance activities.

Entrainment and Impingement

To meet existing water demand, the WDCWA would obtain, divert, and deliver water supplies through the long-term water transfers from one or more Sellers. As described in Section 2.2, *Project*

Implementation, the maximum potential water transfer amounts would be 2,000 acre-feet (AF) between November 1 and March 31 and 6,000 AF between April 1 and October 31. Diversions during cooler months (i.e., November 1 through March 31) would coincide with greater presence of listed fish species in the Sacramento River adjacent to the Joint Intake Facility, especially juvenile salmonids that primarily emigrate during winter and spring during higher flows. However, all Sellers transferring excess surface water to WDCWA are located upstream of the Joint Intake Facility, which would allow for surface water to remain in the Sacramento River for longer periods prior to diversions associated with the proposed Project. Therefore, diversions will be balanced by increased flows in the Sacramento River adjacent to the Joint Intake Facility. Additionally, the rates of diversion (proportion of Sacramento River flow diverted) would be consistent with existing conditions. Maintenance activities are not expected to increase due to proposed Project implementation.

In addition, in conformance with state and federal fish screen requirements, Reclamation District 2035 pursued construction of a new diversion system at the Joint Intake Facility, constructing a concrete intake with 10 stainless steel vertical profile wire fish screen panels to prevent entrainment of special-status fish species (Stantec 2017). The Joint Intake Facility is designed to meet standards in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (2010) and NMFS (2023) fish screening criteria (Stantec 2017; NMFS 2013). More specifically, the screen is designed to meet the following guidelines that provide protection for juvenile salmonids:

- Approach velocity (water velocity perpendicular to the screen)—less than or equal to 0.33 feet per second.
- Screen slot opening size—1.75 millimeters (0.069 inch).
- Screen porosity—40 percent minimum open area.

A 1.75-millimeter screen opening size is understood to be effective at excluding juvenile salmonids of 22-millimeter standard length and greater (ICF International 2016), which is the equivalent of around 25-millimeter fork length. This would be expected to exclude all juvenile salmonids occurring in the vicinity of the intake. And because this diversion is located approximately 11 river miles upstream of the legal Delta boundary, Delta smelt and longfin smelt would therefore not be expected to be present and vulnerable to entrainment. The proposed Project would not alter the use or alignment of the Joint Intake Facility and would therefore not result in effects not analyzed in the DWWSP EIR. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.2-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in far-field indirect impacts to listed fish species and their associated habitat. (*Beneficial*)

As introduced previously, far-field effects are effects that have the potential to affect fish upstream and/or further downstream of the Joint Intake Facility. As part of the LTWT, during dry-year conditions, periods of Term 91 curtailment, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario, WDCWA would divert and use surface water acquired and transferred from one or more Sellers, potentially resulting in changes in Sacramento River flows and alteration of habitat for special-status fishes.

As described previously, all water Sellers are located upstream of the Joint Intake Facility. Therefore, Sellers transferring excess surface water to WDCWA would allow for increases in surface water to remain in the Sacramento River for longer periods prior to diversions associated with the proposed Project, providing increased available habitat for listed fishes between the upstream Sellers and the Joint Intake Facility. Increased available surface water would be beneficial to special-status fish by lowering water temperatures, increasing oxygen levels, facilitating migration, and expanding habitat for foraging and feeding. Increased surface water may also provide velocity refuge and cover from predators for migrating juvenile fishes. In addition, transfer water conveyed from a seller on a tributary with seasonal flow restrictions (e.g., SSWD releases from Camp Far West Reservoir on the Bear River) would be limited to the flow rates permitted by state and federal regulatory requirements. Therefore, it is anticipated that implementation of the proposed Project would be **beneficial** to listed fish species and their associated habitat.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.3 Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to cultural resources, including archaeological resources, historic built architectural resources, and human remains. This section describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating impacts, and the results of the impact assessment. Section 3.14 of the 2007 DWWSP EIR described the applicable environmental and regulatory setting and standards of significance, which are incorporated by reference and summarized below as appropriate.

No comments by individuals were received during circulation of the notice of preparation for the 2007 DWWSP EIR relevant to cultural resources.

3.3.2 Environmental Setting

Regional Existing Conditions

Pre-contact Setting

Categorizing the pre-contact period into broad cultural stages allows researchers to describe a broad range of archaeological resources with similar cultural patterns and components during a given timeframe, thereby creating a regional chronology. Rosenthal et al. (2007) provide a framework for the interpretation of the Central Valley prehistoric record and have divided human history in the region into three periods: *Paleo-Indian* (13,550 to 10,550 before present [BP]), *Archaic* (10,550 to 900 BP), and *Emergent* (900 to 300 BP). The Archaic period is subdivided into three sub-periods: *Lower Archaic* (10,550 to 7550 BP), *Middle Archaic* (7,550 to 2,550 BP), and *Upper Archaic* (2,550 to 900 BP). Economic patterns, stylistic aspects, and regional phases further subdivide cultural patterns into shorter phases. This scheme uses economic and technological types, socio-politics, trade networks, population density, and variations of artifact types to differentiate between cultural periods.

Ethnographic Setting

Indigenous Patwin people historically inhabited the area that includes the WDCWA service area. Patwin territory was an extensive region within north-central California and included the lower portion of the west side of the Sacramento Valley west of the Sacramento River from about the location of the town of Princeton in the north to the city of Benicia in the south (Kroeber 1925). The Patwin were bounded to the north, northeast, and east by other Penutian-speaking peoples (the Nomlaki, Wintu, and Maidu, respectively), and to the west by the Pomo and other coastal groups. Within this large territory, the Patwin have traditionally been divided into River, Hill, and Southern Patwin groups, although in actuality, a more complex set of linguistic and cultural differences existed than is indicated by these three geographic divisions.

As with most of the hunting-gathering groups of California, a chief would reside in a major village where ceremonial events were also typically held. The status of such individuals was patrilineally inherited among the Patwin, although village elders had considerable power in determining who actually succeeded to particular positions. The chief's main responsibilities involved administration of ceremonial and economic activities. Such individuals decided when and where various fishing, hunting, or gathering

expeditions would occur, and similarly made critical decisions concerning the more elaborate ceremonial activities. He also played a central role in resolving conflicts within the community or during wars that occasionally broke out with neighboring groups. Apparently, a Patwin chief had more authority than his counterparts among many of the other central California groups (Kroeber 1925; McKern 1922).

Euro-American culture negatively affected Patwin culture and peoples. Euro-American influences within Patwin territory increased dramatically as ranching and farming became popular in the area. Euro-American settlers quickly made inroads into lands occupied by Native Americans. Conflicts grew in number, and Patwin populations continued to decline from military skirmishes, vigilante raids, and other causes. In 1972, the Bureau of Indian Affairs listed only 11 remaining Patwin descendants (Johnson 1978). Despite the massive decline in population, the Patwin still reside in Yolo County and are represented in several California Native American tribes including the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, the Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Historic-Period Setting

Although the Spanish had made forays into the Central Valley since the mid-eighteenth century, the earliest non-indigenous presence in the region occurred in 1808 when Capitán Gabriel Moraga led an expedition from Mission San José to the northern Sacramento Valley. By the late 1820s, English, American, and French fur trappers, attracted by the valley's abundance of animal life, had established operations throughout the region. The Sacramento Valley was still predominantly occupied by Native Americans with only the occasional Spanish expedition into the interior to search for mission sites or escaped neophytes. The earliest Euro-American settlement of the area occurred in the 1840s with the establishment of land grants by the Mexican government. In 1839, John Sutter, born in Germany to Swiss parents, became a Mexican citizen and obtained Governor Juan B. Alvarado's permission to establish a settlement in the California interior. Sutter left Yerba Buena in August of 1839, traveling up the Sacramento River in search of a site for his estate. Sutter arrived at the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers, established a settlement, and received the first land grant in the region in 1841 for his New Helvetia Rancho. The New Helvetia Ranch encompassed 97 square miles and included lands on the east bank of the Feather and Sacramento rivers. Sutter established Sutter's Fort, and developed fisheries, a flourmill, and a lumber mill (Hoover et al. 2002).

The Sacramento Valley remained relatively isolated and sparsely populated until the advent of the Gold Rush period. Given Sacramento's proximity to mining areas, and its accessibility to maritime traffic, the area quickly became a trading and economic center. Commerce along the Sacramento River encouraged continued population growth, with many of the miners and farmers settling along the natural levees of the Sacramento River. Settlers recognized that the active floodplain deposited fertile soils in the lands nearest to the river, which supported bountiful crops and provided easy access to transportation corridors along the river itself. Ranchers and farmers found economic success in providing food and supplies for the miners, although frequent flooding troubled settlers' agricultural efforts and additional settlement (Hoover et al. 2002).

Existing Conditions in the Proposed Project Area

The proposed Project does not include any new ground disturbance, construction, or physical changes to the equipment or infrastructure of the WDCWA. The proposed Project would involve the implementation of the LTWT to obtain, divert, and deliver additional water supplies from the Sacramento River through long-term water transfers from a Seller or Sellers. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Section 3.14 of the 2007 DWWSP EIR documents the cultural resources known in the vicinity of the original Project.

3.3.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was established by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as “an authoritative guide to be used by federal, state, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation’s historic resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment” (36 CFR §60.2). The NRHP recognizes both historical-period and prehistoric archaeological properties that are significant at the national, state, and local levels.

To be eligible for listing in the NRHP, a resource must be significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of potential significance must meet one or more of the following four established criteria, along with being at least 50 years old and possessing integrity to convey its significance (U.S. Department of the Interior 1995):

1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
2. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
3. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Resources identified as eligible for or listed in the NRHP are automatically considered eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996) protects and preserves the right of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise traditional religious rights and cultural practices, including access to sites of religious importance to Native Americans.

State

The State of California oversees statewide comprehensive cultural resource surveys and preservation programs. The California Office of Historic Preservation also maintains the California Historical Resources Inventory. SHPO is an appointed official who implements historic preservation programs within the State's jurisdiction.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) is the principal statute governing environmental review of projects occurring in California. CEQA requires lead agencies to determine whether a project would have a significant effect on historical resources and tribal cultural resources, among other resource types.

The State of California implements provisions of CEQA through its statewide comprehensive cultural resources surveys and preservation programs. Typically, a resource must be more than 50 years old to be considered a potential historical resource. The California Office of Historic Preservation conservatively advises recording any resource 45 years or older, because there is commonly a 5-year lag between resource identification and the date that planning decisions are made.

Historical Resources

The CEQA Guidelines recognize that a historical resource includes all of the following:

1. A resource in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) (PRC Section 5024.1; California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Section 4850 et seq. [14 CCR 4850 et seq.]).
2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g).
3. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California by the lead agency, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (PRC Section 5024.1; 14 CCR 4850 et seq.).

If a lead agency determines that an archaeological site is a historical resource, the provisions of PRC Section 21084.1 and PRC Section 15064.5 apply. If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria for a historical resource contained in the CEQA Guidelines (CCR Section 15000), the site may be treated in accordance with the provisions of PRC Section 21083, pertaining to unique archaeological resources.

Unique Archaeological Resources

As defined in PRC Section 21083.2, a "unique archaeological resource" is an archaeological artifact, object, or site, about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.

2. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

The CEQA Guidelines note that if an archaeological resource is not a unique archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resource, the effects of the project on those cultural resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[c][4]).

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is “an authoritative listing and guide to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the State and to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (PRC Section 5024.1[a]). The criteria for eligibility for the California Register are based on the criteria for listing on the National Register (PRC Section 5024.1[b]). Certain resources are determined by the statute to be automatically included in the California Register, including California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the National Register.

To be eligible for the California Register, a cultural resource must be significant at the federal, state, and/or local level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must be of sufficient age and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity), to convey the reason for its significance. The California Register consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing. The California Register automatically includes the following resources:

1. California properties listed in the National Register and those formally determined eligible for the National Register.
2. California Registered Historical Landmarks from No. 770 onward.
3. California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the California Office of Historic Preservation and have been recommended to the State Historical Commission for inclusion in the California Register.

The following other resources may be nominated to the California Register:

1. Historical resources with a significance rating of Category 3, 4, or 5 (properties identified as eligible for listing in the National Register, the California Register, and/or a local jurisdiction register).

2. Individual historic resources.
3. Historic resources contributing to historic districts.
4. Historic resources designated or listed as local landmarks, or designated under any local ordinance, such as a historic preservation overlay zone.

California Public Resources Code Section 5097

PRC Section 5097.99, as amended, prohibits obtaining or possessing Native American artifacts or human remains that are taken from a Native American grave or cairn. Knowingly or willfully obtaining or possessing Native American artifacts or human remains is a felony punishable by imprisonment. Similarly, unlawful removal of any such items with an intent to sell or dissect or with malice or wantonness is a felony punishable by imprisonment.

California Native American Historic Resource Protection Act

The California Native American Historic Resources Protection Act of 2002 imposes civil penalties, including imprisonment and fines up to \$50,000 per violation, on persons who unlawfully and maliciously excavate upon, remove, destroy, injure, or deface a Native American historic, cultural, or sacred site that is listed or may be listed in the California Register.

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code protects human remains by prohibiting the disinterment, disturbance, or removal of human remains from any location other than a dedicated cemetery. PRC Section 5097.98 (reiterated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.59[e]) also identifies steps to follow if human remains are accidentally discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies intended to protect cultural resources countywide. Relevant goals and policies from this general plan include the following:

Goal CO-4: Cultural Resources. Preserve and protect cultural resources within the County.

Policy CO-4.1: Identify and safeguard important cultural resources.

Policy CO-4.2: Implement the provisions of the State Historical Building Code and Uniform Code for Building Conservation to balance the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act with preserving the architectural integrity of historic buildings and structures.

Policy CO-4.3: Encourage owners of historic resources to preserve and rehabilitate their properties.

Policy CO-4.10: Encourage voluntary landowner efforts to protect cultural resources consistent with State law.

Policy CO-4.11: Honor and respect local tribal heritage.

Policy CO-4.12: Work with culturally affiliated tribes to identify and appropriately address cultural resources and tribal sacred sites through the development review process.

Policy CO-4.13: Avoid or mitigate to the maximum extent feasible the impacts of development on Native American archaeological and cultural resources.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to cultural resources in the Historic and Archaeological Resources Element. The general plan discusses the preservation and protection of historic and archaeologic resources. The following goals and policies related to cultural resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

GOAL HIS 1: Designate, preserve and protect the archaeological and historic resources within the Davis community.

Policy HIS 1.2: Incorporate measures to protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources into all planning and development.

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017a) outlines goals and policies related to the preservation, promotion, and enhancement of Woodland's historic resources in the Land Use, Community Design and Historic Preservation Element of the general plan. The general plan promotes historic preservation in Woodland through community education and coordination with historic preservation groups. The following goals and policies related to cultural resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal 2.P Historic Programs and Requirements. Preserve, maintain, and celebrate sites and structures that serve as significant, visible reminders of the city's social, architectural and agricultural history through adherence to federal, state and local programs and requirements

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) is a comprehensive land use plan guided by principles and objectives that support the university's mission while conserving resources and guiding the campus toward a more sustainable future. The plan outlines various strategies related to the stewardship of campus history as well as natural and cultural resources; however, no objectives are directly applicable to the proposed Project.

3.3.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to cultural resources is considered significant if the proposed Project would do any of the following:

1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

3. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

Methodology and Assumptions

The following impact analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed changes included in the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR is considered sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project, no additional environmental review is provided.

Summary of Applicable 2007 DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measures

As discussed in the impact analysis provided below, the following 2007 DWWSP EIR mitigation measures would be applicable to the Project—note that the 2007 DWWSP EIR used the term “Project Partners” to refer to the DWWSP applicants. That language is no longer applicable and was revised in the 2015 SEIR as the following measures:

2007 EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1: The following tasks shall be conducted, where appropriate, by the Applicant. The tasks described satisfy not only CEQA, but federal rules and regulations as well (in particular, Section 106 of NHPA and its implementing regulations). Collectively, these tasks represent a cultural resource management approach designed to ensure compliance with applicable General Plans, CEQA, and federal rules and regulations.

Task I. Site-Specific Historic Properties Identification

- A. Upon selection of a preferred diversion/intake pipeline option, the Applicant, where appropriate, shall complete the identification process per 36 CFR Part 800.4 (which includes, among other identification efforts, a Class I literature search and a Class III field survey) in the area of potential effect (APE) for a specific undertaking. A Class III pedestrian survey will not be required when:
 - a. The California Historical Information System and SHPO agree that previous cultural resources surveys have already adequately identified historic properties, or
 - b. The California Historical Information System and SHPO agree that previous disturbance has eliminated the possibility of identifying historic properties.
- B. An undertaking shall be considered to exist, and an APE shall be defined, when the Applicant, directly or through the issuance of appropriate permits, undertake construction of the facilities identified in project development and construction plans. The APE will be the land area affected by construction of new facilities, from the point of diversion at the Sacramento River, along pipelines, and at water treatment and storage facilities;
- C. Where the Applicant conducts an intensive (Class III) inventory, required consultation with California SHPO shall be undertaken and coordinated by the lead federal agency with approval authority over Project features.

Task II. Assessing Effects

- A. The lead agency, in consultation with SHPO, will assess the effects of the undertaking on properties that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP [National Register]. If the Applicant, and federal lead agency, determine that construction and operation of the project would result in unavoidable effects, or an adverse effect, to historic properties within the APE, in

accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, then the lead agency, other interested parties, the Applicant, and SHPO will consult to resolve the adverse effect (see Task III below).

Task III. Treating Effects

- A. The Applicant shall implement one or more of the following measures for treating effects to historic properties:
 - a. Avoid effects through redesign of the project;
 - b. Avoid effects by not executing the proposed contract;
 - c. If avoidance is not feasible, mitigate effects through measures such as data recovery or archival documentation (for example, the Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record). The Applicant, in consultation with the lead federal agency, SHPO, the Advisory Council, and other interested agencies, shall work together to find measures to mitigate the effects of a particular undertaking on historic properties. The Applicant shall develop plans to implement the agreed upon mitigating measures and shall submit such plans, in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement, to the SHPO, the Advisory Council, and interested agencies for review and comment.
- B. The Applicant shall ensure that any mitigating measures agreed on during the consultation will be included as a specification in Project development. Mitigation measures will be completed before the start of ground disturbing activities that would affect the physical integrity of an historic resource. Mitigating measures for visual, audible, or atmospheric effects will be completed before completion of Project construction.

Task IV. Properties Discovered During Implementation of an Undertaking

- A. If a previously undiscovered historic property is inadvertently encountered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the property except that necessary to secure and protect the property will cease until the Applicant can secure assistance from a professional archaeologist who evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate effects to the discovery. Evaluation and mitigation will be carried out in consultation with the federal lead agency and SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.11(b)(2)(ii).
- B. If human remains are discovered during archaeological survey, any archaeological testing or data recovery or any construction activities, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease except to secure and protect the remains. The Applicant or their consulting archaeologist will immediately notify the County Coroner, per State law. As well, the Applicant shall ensure that any human remains and grave-associated artifacts discovered are also managed in accordance with California Statutes, their chapters and sections, which include but are not necessarily limited to: Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99 of the Public Resources Code.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.3-1 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

**TABLE 3.3-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.3-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.	LTSM
3.3-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.	LTSM
3.3-3: Implementation of the proposed Project could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.	LTSM
Notes: LTSM = less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026.	

Impact 3.3-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. (*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*)

The proposed Project does not include any ground disturbance, construction, or modification of existing infrastructure or facilities. As such, the proposed Project has no potential to impact historical resources. However, the 2007 DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1 is applicable to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Implement 2007 DWWSP DEIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.3-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. (*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*)

The proposed Project does not include any ground disturbance, construction, or modification of existing infrastructure or facilities. As such, the proposed Project has no potential to impact archaeological resources. However, the 2007 DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1 is applicable to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Implement 2007 DWWSP DEIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

Impact 3.3-3: Implementation of the proposed Project could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries. (*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*)

The proposed Project does not include any ground disturbance, construction, or modification of existing infrastructure or facilities. As such, the proposed Project has no potential to impact human remains. However, the 2007 DWWSP EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1 is applicable to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Implement 2007 DWWSP DEIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

3.4 Energy

3.4.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to electricity and transportation fuels (*energy* for purposes of this SEIR). It describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.4.2 Environmental Setting

Electricity

Table 3.4-1 summarizes California’s total system electric generation for 2024. Total system electric generation is the sum of all utility-scale in-state generation plus net electricity imports. In 2024, total system electric generation for California was 278,338 gigawatt-hours (GWh), down 1 percent from 2023 (CEC 2026a). Energy consumption in the state typically varies by location but includes a variety of renewable and non-renewable energy resources used to power various residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and transportation uses among others. According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), Yolo County (including the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis) consumed 1,825 GWh in 2024 and 1,693 GWh in 2023 (CEC 2026b).

**TABLE 3.4-1
2024 TOTAL CALIFORNIA ENERGY MIX**

Type of Energy Resources	GWh Consumed	Percentage of Energy Mix (%)
Thermal and Unspecified		
Natural gas	94,655	34.01
Coal	6,162	2.21
Unspecified	4,051	1.46
Other (waste heat/petroleum cake)	220	0.08
Oil	36	0.01
Total	105,123	37.77
Non-Greenhouse Gas and Renewable Resources		
Solar	59,283	21.30
Wind	33,101	11.89
Large hydro	30,780	11.06
Nuclear	27,613	9.92
Geothermal	12,803	4.60
Biomass	5,394	1.94
Small hydro	4,240	1.52
Total	173,215	62.23
Total Energy Consumption	278,338	100

Note: GWh = gigawatt-hour. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: CEC 2026a

The cities of Woodland and Davis are within the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) service area boundary (Yolo County 2009). In 2024, PG&E's electric power generation mix consisted of 63 percent nuclear, 23 percent unspecified renewables, 12 percent large hydroelectric, and 2 percent natural gas (PG&E 2026). Electricity to UC Davis is managed by the UC Davis Utilities Services Department. UC Davis's energy mix includes hydropower purchased through a contract with the Western Area Power Administration, solar energy generated by the UC Davis Solar Farm, and various other on-site rooftop solar systems, natural gas burned for heating and cooling, as well as unspecified electricity purchased from the grid to supplement its utility needs (UC Davis 2026). Furthermore, WDCWA's water facilities, including the raw water intake and the RWTf, are all operated using hydropower purchased through a Western Area Power Administration contract, and are therefore primarily use electricity generated using renewable energy.

Gasoline

Currently, gasoline is the most commonly used transportation fuel by volume in California, with 97 percent of the gasoline used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles. Nearly all gasoline used in California is obtained through the retail market. Gasoline sold in California at retail is made up of 90 percent petroleum and 10 percent ethanol. Ethanol became the primary blending oxygenate in gasoline in 2003, as methyl tertiary butyl ether was fully phased out by that year (CEC 2026c). Consumption of gasoline can fluctuate from year to year based on a number of reasons, such as market conditions, availability, and overall demand. Yolo County as a whole consumed an estimated 95 million gallons of gasoline in 2024 and 99 million gallons in 2023 (CEC 2026d).

Diesel

Diesel fuel is the second most commonly used transportation fuel by volume in California, accounting for 17 percent of all fuel sales. According to the CEC, nearly all heavy-duty trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment, construction equipment, and military vehicles and equipment have diesel engines. Diesel has 12 percent more energy per gallon than gasoline and has fuel properties that prolong engine life, making it ideal for heavy-duty vehicles and equipment. Biodiesel was introduced into California in 2000, and renewable diesel was introduced in 2012. Biodiesel is made primarily from soybean and recycled oils into a unique diesel fuel. Renewable diesel is made predominantly from animal waste oils, and the finished fuel is nearly identical to petroleum-based diesel (CEC 2026e). Like gasoline, consumption of diesel can fluctuate from year to year based on a number of factors; Yolo County as a whole consumed an estimated 44 million gallons of diesel in 2024 and 35 million gallons in 2023 (CEC 2026d).

3.4.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Federal policies and regulations set broad energy efficiency standards and incentives, such as for consumer products and automobile and fuel efficiency. Such requirements, as those listed below, typically apply to the manufacturing sector and are not directly applicable to the proposed Project. Nonetheless, they are listed here for informational purposes.

National Energy Policy Act of 2005

The National Energy Policy Act of 2005 sets equipment energy efficiency standards. It also seeks to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy resources and provides incentives to reduce current demand on these resources. Under the law, consumers and businesses can attain federal tax credits for constructing energy-efficient buildings, improving the energy efficiency of commercial buildings, and purchasing fuel-efficient appliances and products, including hybrid vehicles. Tax credits are available for the installation of qualified fuel cells, stationary microturbine power plants, and solar power equipment.

President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management), in 2007 to strengthen the key energy management goals for the federal government and set more challenging goals than the National Energy Policy Act of 2005. The energy reduction and environmental performance requirements of Executive Order 13423 were expanded upon in Executive Order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance), which President Barack Obama signed in 2009.

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 set federal energy management requirements in several areas. These requirements include energy reduction metrics for federal buildings; facility management and benchmarking; performance and standards for new buildings and major renovations; high-performance buildings; energy savings performance contracts; metering; and energy-efficient product procurement. Reductions in petroleum use are also required, including by setting automobile efficiency standards and an increase in alternative fuel use.

Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards

Established by Congress in 1975, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards reduce energy consumption by increasing the fuel economy of cars and light trucks. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency jointly administer the standards. Congress has specified that these standards must be set at the “maximum feasible level” with consideration given to the following:

- (1) Technological feasibility;
- (2) Economic practicality;
- (3) Effect of other standards on fuel economy; and
- (4) Need for the nation to conserve energy.¹

State

Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines

In 2004, CARB adopted an airborne toxic control measure to reduce the public’s exposure to emissions of diesel particulate matter and criteria pollutants from stationary diesel-fueled compression ignition engines (California Code of Regulations Title 17, Section 93115). The measure applies to any person who owns

¹ For more information on the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, see <https://www.nhtsa.gov/laws-regulations/corporate-average-fuel-economy>.

or operates a stationary compression ignition engine in California with a rated brake horsepower greater than 50, or to anyone who either sells, offers for sale, leases, or purchases a stationary compression ignition engine. This measure outlines fuel and fuel additive requirements; emissions standards; recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring requirements; and compliance schedules for compression ignition engines. Although focused on diesel emissions, these measures would also result in reductions in overall fuel consumption.

California Renewables Portfolio Standard

The Renewables Portfolio Standard is one of California's key programs for advancing renewable energy. The program sets continuously escalating renewable energy procurement requirements for the state's load-serving entities. Established in 2002 and expanded through several legislative updates, the Renewables Portfolio Standard sets a long-term goal of achieving 60 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045. The program applies to investor-owned utilities, publicly owned utilities, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators. It is jointly administered by the California Public Utilities Commission, which manages compliance and procurement for investor-owned utilities, and the CEC, which oversees public utility compliance and certifies renewable energy sources (CEC 2026f).

California 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality

The 2022 Scoping Plan lays out the sector-by-sector roadmap for California to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 or earlier. There have been three previous scoping plans. Previous plans have focused on specific greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for industrial, energy, and transportation sectors—first to meet 1990 levels by 2020, then to meet the more aggressive target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The 2022 Scoping Plan addresses recent legislation extending and expanding upon earlier plans with a target of reducing anthropogenic emissions to 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045 (CARB 2022).

Warren-Alquist Act

The 1975 Warren-Alquist Act established the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, now known as the CEC. The law established a state policy to reduce wasteful, uneconomical, and unnecessary uses of energy by employing a range of measures.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies related to energy production, usage, and conservation within Yolo County. The general plan calls for energy conservation through reducing electricity usage and private automobile use, encouraging efficient siting and exposure for buildings, and implementing land use and transportation policies that encourage fewer and shorter vehicle trips. Relevant goals and policies from this planning document include the following:

Goal CO-7: Energy Conservation. Promote energy efficiency and conservation.

Policy CO-7.1: Encourage conservation of natural gas, oil and electricity, and management of peak loads in existing land use.

Policy CO-7.3: Require all projects to incorporate energy-conserving design, construction, and operation techniques and features into all aspects of the project including buildings, roofs, pavement, and landscaping.

Yolo County Climate Action and Adaption Plan

The Yolo County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is a comprehensive roadmap to achieve reductions in GHG emissions and increase resilience in response to the impacts of climate change. The County's Climate Emergency Declaration (Resolution No. 20-114) signified the urgency of addressing climate change and its impacts. The Board of Supervisors adopted the resolution and set forth a countywide goal for Yolo County to achieve net-negative carbon emissions by 2030, an ambitious target that aims to go beyond traditional emission reductions to incorporate sequestration of carbon within Yolo County's natural and working lands (Yolo County 2024).

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to energy consumption and conservation. Energy conservation efforts in Davis have involved various sectors of the community, including the city government, UC Davis, utility companies, architects, engineers, builders, and consumers. Regarding energy conservation, the general plan includes the goals that call for a reduction in per capita energy consumption in the city of Davis; however, no specific policies in the planning document are applicable to the proposed Project.

Davis 2020–2040 Climate Action and Adaption Plan

This City of Davis 2020–2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is part of Davis's continuing efforts to embrace innovative and creative efforts to support sustainability and community quality of life. The plan fulfills the Davis City Council objective to establish a roadmap of carbon reduction policies to achieve the Davis carbon neutrality goal by 2040. The 2020–2040 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan describes achievable, measurable GHG emissions reduction and climate change adaptation actions that align with the City of Davis's goals and priorities (City of Davis 2023).

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017a) outlines goals and policies related to energy resources. The general plan advocates responsible growth while seeking to conserve energy and other resources; reduce GHG emissions; promote infill, green, and net-zero energy development; and build community resiliency to the effects of climate change. The general plan encourages a shift to renewable energy use and the improvements in energy conservation. The general plan does not include any goals or policies applicable to the proposed Project.

City of Woodland 2035 Climate Action Plan

The City of Woodland's 2035 Climate Action Plan presents a set of community-generated strategies to guide the City of Woodland, its residents, and local businesses in reducing GHG emissions consistent with state goals for addressing California's contributions to climate change. The strategies presented in the plan provide tools for addressing GHG emissions of future development and are aimed at reducing Woodland's GHGs by 2020 and 2035, consistent with the state's own targets (City of Woodland 2017b).

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) outlines objectives related to energy resources. Energy-related objectives in the plan emphasize using energy more efficiently while reducing overall campus energy demand and transitioning toward cleaner energy sources to support long-term sustainability and climate commitments. The following objectives related to energy are relevant to the proposed Project:

Preserve Air Quality: Foster the production of more renewable energy to preserve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; continue to reduce average energy use across all segments of campus; develop programs to reduce and divert waste from land fill; support campus composting and recycling programs.

UC Davis 2009–2010 Climate Action Plan

The UC Davis 2009–2010 Climate Action Plan is a roadmap for the journey toward a more sustainable future for UC Davis. The climate action plan includes GHG emission reduction goals, options to reduce emissions, and blueprints for future action. The plan has three key targets: (1) reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels by 2014; (2) reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; and (3) achieve climate neutrality as soon as feasible (UC Davis 2010).

3.4.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in significant impacts on energy if it would do any of the following:

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation; or
- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Issues Analyzed Further in this Draft SEIR

Energy use and conservation were evaluated in a related discussion provided in Section 3.3, *Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality*, Section 3.8, *Air Quality*, and Section 6.3, *Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Result from the Proposed Project Should It Be Implemented*, of the 2007 DWWSP EIR. However, potential impacts on energy generally were not analyzed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR as **Energy** was not a required resource topic under CEQA at that time. Therefore, the following resource topic criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist for energy are evaluated further below:

- Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation; or
- Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Methodology and Assumptions

The following impact analysis evaluates the proposed Project's potential energy-related impacts and qualitatively assesses consistency with federal, state, and local plans and policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The discussion considers the potential impacts of the proposed changes associated

with the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR is considered sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project, no additional environmental review is provided.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.4-2 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

TABLE 3.4-2
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON ENERGY

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.4-1: The Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.	LTS
3.4-2: The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.	NI

Notes: LTS = Less than Significant; NI = No Impact

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026

Impact 3.4-1: The Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation. (*Less than Significant*)

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted rights to divert 55,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) but rather would replace water that cannot be diverted under those rights. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWTF), and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. Therefore, energy use at existing WDCWA facilities would be consistent with ongoing operation and maintenance activities.

Related to water transfers, the 2007 DWWSP EIR examined groundwater substitution by Sellers using pumped groundwater in lieu of using surface water supplies during certain months, thereby freeing up surface water for transfer; and the implementation of water conservation measures, allowing for the transfer of conserved water. The 2007 DWWSP EIR did not directly evaluate impacts related to energy; however, a discussion on related topics was provided in Section 3.3, *Groundwater Hydrology and Water Quality*, Section 3.8, *Air Quality*, and Section 6.3, *Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Result from the Proposed Project Should It Be Implemented*, which focused on potential impacts related to groundwater substitution.

The 2007 DWWSP EIR described construction and maintenance activities related to groundwater substitution as being short-term and low-intensity, requiring minimal equipment for Sellers to develop and maintain groundwater wells (limited to drilling equipment and other vehicles). Regarding operations, the 2007 DWWSP EIR considered the use of diesel or gasoline engines, as well as electric motors, for groundwater substitution. However, it was determined that use of electric motors and diesel and gasoline

engines would be infrequent, and equipment would only be operated during periods of high peak demand for water or during emergencies. Although implementation of the DWWSP would result in the commitment of energy resources, including electricity and gasoline and diesel fuel, the 2007 DWWSP EIR determined this impact would not be significant.

Under the proposed Project, possible methods used to make water available for transfer by Sellers would include groundwater substitution, reservoir reoperation, water conservation measures, and water supply source diversification, which are not anticipated to result in significant increases in energy use as they would generally consist of operational changes to existing facilities for existing water supply diversion and use to allow for water source diversification. Consistent with the 2007 DWWSP EIR, diesel and gasoline engines and electric motors would be used for groundwater substitution by Sellers; however, use of groundwater wells and increases in local energy use would be infrequent and short-term, would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. More importantly, it is expected that the bulk of the supplemental water supplies will be provided through reservoir reoperation, which generally is a gravity operation with only incidental use of energy, mainly electricity. Additionally, energy use would be localized to the area of use as water transfers could occur in various upstream areas in Sellers' respective service areas. As a result, the proposed Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.4-2: The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. (No Impact)

State and local plans related to renewable energy and energy efficiency are discussed in Section 3.4.3, *Regulatory Setting*; including the 2022 Scoping Plan, which addresses recent legislation aimed at reducing anthropogenic emissions to 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045 at the state level (CARB 2022). Yolo County, the Cities of Woodland and Davis, as well as UC Davis all have respective climate action plans (Yolo County 2024; City of Davis 2023; City of Woodland 2017b; UC Davis 2010), which, in addition to meeting state emission goals, set goals and policies at the local level. Although these plans generally address climate change, state and local goals related to climate change and carbon emission reduction are influenced by energy use, conservation practices, and the adoption of renewable energy sources.

As discussed previously, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. Related to water transfers, reservoir reoperation, water conservation measures, and water supply source diversification by Sellers would not result in any increases in energy use. Although groundwater substitution by Sellers may require the use of energy resources as discussed previously, any increase in energy use would be short-term and infrequent, and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91

curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario, and generally localized to the area of use. As discussed, it is expected that reservoir reoperation would be the primary method for producing WDCWA's supplemental water supplies, which would not significantly increase energy demand. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

Additionally, as discussed above, all WDCWA facilities are operated using electricity generated via hydropower purchased under a contract with the Western Area Power Administration. The proposed Project would be required to comply with all applicable fuel use regulations, energy conservation standards, and applicable goals and policies adopted by the local jurisdictions that support increased energy efficiency. Energy use associated with the proposed Project would not occur at a level that could result in an obstruction of or conflict with a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.5 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

3.5.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to hazards and hazardous materials including, but not limited to, the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; potential upsets and accident conditions; releases in proximity to schools; proximity to airports; and adopted emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans. The section describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment. Issues and impacts concerning wildfires are addressed in Section 3.11, *Wildfire*.

3.5.2 Environmental Setting

Definition of Hazardous Materials

A “hazardous material” is defined as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95, Section 25501[n]). The term “hazardous materials” refers to both hazardous substances and hazardous wastes. Under federal and state laws, any material, including wastes, may be considered hazardous if it is specifically listed by statute as such or if it is toxic (causes adverse human health effects; Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Section 261.24 [40 CFR 261.24]), ignitable (has the ability to burn; 40 CFR Section 261.21), corrosive (causes severe burns or damage to materials; 40 CFR 261.22), or reactive (causes explosions or generates toxic gases 40 CFR 261.23).

“Hazardous wastes” are hazardous substances that no longer have practical use, such as materials that have been spent, discarded, discharged, spilled, contaminated, or are being stored until they can be disposed of properly (California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 66261.10 [22 CCR 66261.10]). Soil that is excavated from a site containing hazardous materials is a hazardous waste if it exceeds specific criteria established in 22 CCR 66261.20–66261.24. Hazardous substances are regulated by multiple agencies, as described in Section 3.5.3, *Regulatory Setting*, and cleanup requirements of hazardous material releases are determined on a case-by-case basis according to the regulatory agency (e.g., California Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC] or a regional water quality control board) with lead jurisdiction over a contaminated site.

Hazardous Materials Sites

In California, Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the State Water Board and DTSC to maintain regulatory databases of hazardous materials sites, together commonly known as the *Cortese List*.

The Cortese List identifies sites with suspected and confirmed releases of hazardous materials into subsurface soil or groundwater. The listed actions and accessed through the State Water Resources Control Board’s GeoTracker database, which identifies leaking underground storage tanks, permitted underground storage tanks, U.S. Department of Defense sites, and Cleanup Program sites; and DTSC’s EnviroStor database of state and federal response sites, voluntary school and military cleanups and corrective actions, and permitted sites. The status and reporting of these hazardous materials sites change

as identification, monitoring, and cleanup progress. Typically, a listed site is considered closed or subject to no further action once it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the regulatory agency with jurisdiction that existing site uses, combined with the levels of identified residual contamination, present no significant risk to human health or the environment, and the overseeing agency closes the case. The databases are interconnected and can be viewed through either the GeoTracker or EnviroStor website.

The search of the GeoTracker and EnviroStor databases identified various cases involving hazardous materials release sites within the WDCWA service area (i.e., the cities of Woodland and Davis and the UC Davis campus) (State Water Board 2026; DTSC 2026). **Table 3.5-1** provides details about open sites identified or those under active evaluation.

TABLE 3.5-1
CORTESE LIST SITES WITHIN THE WDCWA SERVICE AREA

Jurisdiction	Site Name	Address	Substance(s)	Site Type	Site Status
City of Davis	El Macero Cleaners	417 Mace Boulevard, Davis, CA	Tetrachlorethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Remediation as of 2/7/2019
City of Davis	Munich Amalgamated and Consolidated Enterprises	2500 5th Street Davis, CA	Metals and heavy metals	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 6/1/2020
City of Davis	Contech/ARMC O	2525 2nd Street, Davis, CA	Chromium VI and zinc	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 11/25/2019
City of Davis	George Jandera	1600 8th Street, Davis, CA	Gasoline	LUST Program Site	Open – Verification Monitoring as of 8/26/2016
City of Davis	Lewis Cleaners	670 G Street, Davis, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 10/21/2025
City of Davis	Davis Center Project	400–430 G Street, Davis, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Site Assessment as of 9/16/2019
City of Davis	Davis Enterprise	302 G Street, Davis, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Verification Monitoring as of 7/15/2024
City of Davis	I Street Development CO.	902 3rd Street, Davis, CA	Tetrachloroethylene, trichlorethylene, and vinyl chloride	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 6/23/2023
City of Davis	Union Pacific Railroad – Davis AMRTAK Station	G Street, Davis, CA	Trichlorethylene and vinyl chloride	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Verification monitoring as of 7/1/1998
City of Davis	203 J Street	203 J Street, Davis, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 7/25/2022
City of Davis	PG&E Davis Service Center	316 L Street, Davis, CA	ARSENIC, dichloroethane, dichloroethene, lead, tetrachloroethene, and total petroleum hydrocarbons	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Verification Monitoring as of 5/4/2022

Jurisdiction	Site Name	Address	Substance(s)	Site Type	Site Status
City of Davis	Old Davis Landfill	24998 County Road 102, Davis, CA	Freon, mercury, nitrate, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, metals, other inorganics/salt, and vinyl chloride	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Site Assessment as of 5/21/2024
City of Davis	Frontier Fertilizer	3901 2nd Street, Davis, CA	Nitrate, other insecticides/pesticides/fumigants/herbicides, and other solvent or non-petroleum hydrocarbons	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Remediation as of 6/30/2014
City of Woodland	Cottonwood Plaza Shopping Center	628 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Verification Monitoring as of 9/25/2015
City of Woodland	Former Russell's Cleaners	64 West Court Street, Woodland, CA	Tetrachloroethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Remediation as of 7/1/2025
City of Woodland	Electric Garage Company	801 Main Street, Woodland, CA	Tetrachloroethylene and trichlorethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 1/6/2009
City of Woodland	Woodland TCE in Groundwater	1125 East Street, Woodland, CA	Trichlorethylene	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Inactive as of 5/28/2020
City of Woodland	Former Service Cleaners – County Fair Mall	1296 East Gibson, Woodland, CA	Chlorinated solvents	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Remediation as of 4/24/2024
City of Woodland	I-5/SR-113 Connector Project	I-5 and SR-133, Woodland, CA	Diesel and motor oil petroleum hydrocarbons	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Site Assessment as of 8/25/2011
UC Davis	Laboratory for Energy Related Health Research	Old Davis Road, Davis, CA	1,2,3-Tricholopropane, 1,4-dioxane chromium VI, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and radioactive isotopes	Cleanup Program Site	Open – Remediation as of 1/8/2009

Notes: I- = Interstate; LUST = Leaking Underground Storage Tank; PG&E = Pacific Gas and Electric Company; SR- = State Route; TCE = Trichloroethylene

Source: DTSC 2026; State Water Board 2026

Existing Uses of Hazardous Materials

The majority of the WDCWA service area consists primarily of urban areas within the cities of Woodland, Davis, and UC Davis. Land uses include a range of residential, commercial, and industrial activities. Surrounding land uses include agricultural production activities as well as regional roadways and railroads. In areas supporting agricultural land uses, hazardous materials that have been historically and are presently used include agricultural fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fuels. In the urban areas, a broader range of hazardous materials can be typically found, including petroleum-based fuels, herbicides, pesticides, solvents, oil, grease, and numerous other chemicals. Historic hazardous materials use was likely similar to present hazardous materials use, both within agricultural and urban areas; however, current regulatory restrictions have limited the use and control of many substances.

As discussed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR, operation of WDCWA's RWTF routinely uses hazardous and potentially hazardous materials. Materials currently used under existing operations to help remove suspended solids, control and adjust pH, and disinfect untreated surface water include aluminum sulfate, activated carbon, sodium hydroxide, sodium hypochlorite, citric acid, sodium bisulfite, and liquid oxygen.

In addition, paints, paint thinners, waste oils, miscellaneous lubricating oils, laboratory solvents, compressed acetylene and oxygen gas, and diesel fuel are stored in various small quantities on-site. Hazardous materials stored in bulk include proprietary polymers such as cationic polymer used as a coagulation agent, anionic polymer used as a flocculation agent, and nonionic polymer used as a filter aid.

Proximity to Schools

The WDCWA service area is located within the boundaries of Yolo County in Northern California and includes the cities of Woodland, Davis, and UC Davis. Yolo County is served by seven school districts including the Davis Joint Unified School District, Esparto Unified School District, Pierce Joint Unified School District, River Delta Joint Unified School District, Washington Unified School District, Winters Joint Unified School District, and Woodland Joint Unified School District. School Districts within the proposed Project area include:

- **Davis Joint Unified School District.** This district has nine elementary schools, three junior high schools, two high schools, a continuation high school, and one alternative (home study) high school.
- **Woodland Joint Unified School District.** This district has 12 elementary schools, two junior high schools, two high schools, one continuation high school, and two home study schools.

In addition, the Yolo County Office of Education runs eight special education schools and three alternative education schools. Yolo County is also served by two community college districts. Woodland Community College is a campus of the Yuba Community College District and Los Rios Community College District has existing satellite campuses in the cities of Davis and West Sacramento. Yolo County is also home to the UC Davis campus, which is located immediately southwest of the city of Davis. A map of schools in the proposed Project area is shown in Figure PF-4, *Public and Private Schools*, of the Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009).

Proximity to Airports

Four airports are in Yolo County, which include the Yolo County Airport, Borges-Clarksburg Airport, University Airport, and the Watt-Woodland Airport. Various private airstrips are also located in the unincorporated county, which primarily serve agricultural uses. Although not within the County, Sacramento International Airport is located east of the city of Woodland (Yolo County 2009). Airports within the proposed Project area include the following:

- The Watts-Woodland Airport, a privately owned facility, located approximately 4 miles west of Woodland.
- The University Airport, a publicly owned facility, located approximately 2 miles southwest of Davis on the UC Davis campus.
- The Sacramento International Airport, a publicly owned facility, located 5 miles east of Woodland.

Wildland Fire Hazard

The WDCWA service area is located within eastern Yolo County within California's Central Valley, which is composed of low-lying, generally flat lands intermixed with various waterways that feed into the Sacramento River. WDCWA's service area is generally urban, consisting of mixed residential, commercial, and industrial uses; typical vegetation in these areas consists of a mix of native and non-

native species, which are regularly irrigated and managed. Vegetation in surrounding areas within unincorporated Yolo County consists of riparian vegetation along waterways; mixed native and non-native grasslands and oak woodlands; and agricultural lands consisting of row crops, pastures, vineyards, and orchards. Climate in the proposed Project area is typical of a Mediterranean climate, consisting of long, dry summers and short, wet winters.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) designates fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2026), using a five-tiered ranking system to assess the threat to people based on fuel hazard, wildland fire potential, and housing density. The WDCWA service area, and surrounding areas in the immediate vicinity, are not located within a designated fire hazard severity zone according to CAL FIRE, equating to a relatively low fire hazard severity.

3.5.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The federal agencies with primary responsibility for hazards and hazardous materials management are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. **Table 3.5-2** summarizes federal laws, regulations, and responsible agencies related to hazardous materials management.

**TABLE 3.5-2
FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

Classification	Federal Law or Responsible Federal Agency	Description
Hazardous waste handling and management	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976	Under the RCRA, EPA regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste from “cradle to grave.”
	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act	This law amended the RCRA in 1984, affirming and extending the “cradle-to-grave” system of regulating hazardous wastes. The amendments prohibit the use of certain techniques for disposal of some hazardous wastes.
	Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act)	This law imposes requirements to ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled, used, stored, and disposed of and to prevent or mitigate injury to human health or the environment in the event that such materials are accidentally released.
	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act	All pesticides distributed or sold in the U.S. must be registered (licensed) by the EPA. FIFRA imposes pesticide labeling requirements; controls when and under what conditions pesticides can be applied, mixed, stored, loaded, or used; specifies when fields can be reentered after application; and identifies when crops can be harvested. Under FIFRA, registrations and product labeling may restrict uses of pesticides.
Hazardous materials transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	DOT has regulatory responsibility for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. DOT regulations govern all means of transportation except packages shipped by mail.
	U.S. Postal Service	U.S. Postal Service regulations govern the transportation of hazardous materials shipped by mail.
Occupational safety	Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970	OSHA sets standards for safe workplaces and work practices, including the reporting of accidents and occupational injuries.

Classification	Federal Law or Responsible Federal Agency	Description
Structural and building components (hazardous building materials)	Toxic Substances Control Act	This law regulates the use and management of hazardous building materials and sets forth detailed safeguards to be followed during the disposal of such items.

Notes: DOT = U.S. Department of Transportation; EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; FIFRA = Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; OSHA = U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026.

State

Several state agencies have primary responsibility for hazardous materials management in the region, including the DTSC and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (both part of the California Environmental Protection Agency), the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the California Department of Public Health, the California Highway Patrol, the California Geologic Energy Management Division, and the California Department of Transportation. **Table 3.5-3** summarizes state laws, regulations, and responsible agencies related to hazardous materials management.

TABLE 3.5-3
RELEVANT STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Classification	Law or Responsible State Agency	Description
Hazardous materials management	Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program (Unified Program); Health and Safety Code Section 25404 et seq.	CalEPA adopted regulations in January 1996 that implemented the Unified Program at the local level. The agency responsible for implementation of the Unified Program is called the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). For the proposed Project area, Yolo County Environmental Health is the designated CUPA.
	California Fire Code, Title 24, Chapter 9, California Code of Regulations and California Building Code, Part 2	The California Fire Code regulates the storage and handling of hazardous materials, including the requirement for secondary containment, separation of incompatible materials, and preparation of spill response procedures.
Hazardous waste handling	California Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory Law of 1985	The California Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory Law of 1985 (Business Plan Act) requires that businesses that store hazardous materials on-site prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan and submit it to the applicable local CUPA.
	California Hazardous Waste Control Act; California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 2, Section 25100, et seq.; DTSC	Under the California Hazardous Waste Control Act, DTSC regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. The hazardous waste regulations establish criteria for identifying, packaging, and labeling hazardous wastes; dictate the management of hazardous waste; establish permit requirements for hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation; and identify hazardous wastes that cannot be disposed of in landfills. DTSC is also the administering agency for the California Hazardous Substance Account Act. California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.8, Sections 25300 et seq., also known as the State Superfund law, provides for the investigation and remediation of hazardous substances pursuant to state law. In addition, Health and Safety Code Section 25180 authorizes the DTSC or the local CUPA or the RWQCB to require responsible parties to cleanup spills and releases.

Classification	Law or Responsible State Agency	Description
Hazardous materials transportation	Titles 13, 22, and 26 of the California Code of Regulations	Regulates the transportation of hazardous waste originating in and passing through the state, including requirements for shipping, containers, and labeling.
	CHP and Caltrans, California Vehicle Code, Chapter 5, Sections 31303–31309	CHP and Caltrans share responsibility for enforcing federal and state regulations and responding to hazardous materials transportation emergencies.
Occupational safety	Cal/OSHA regulations (Title 8 Cal. Code Regs)	Cal/OSHA has primary responsibility for developing and enforcing workplace safety regulations in California. Because California has a federally approved OSHA program, it is required to adopt regulations that are at least as stringent as those found in Title 29 of the CFR. Cal/OSHA standards are generally more stringent than federal regulations. Requires employee safety training, safety equipment, accident and illness prevention programs, hazardous substance exposure warnings, and emergency action and fire prevention plan preparation.
Construction Stormwater General Permit (Construction General Permit; Order 2022-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002)	San Francisco Bay RWQCB	Dischargers whose project disturbs 1 or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than 1 acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs 1 or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the <i>NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities</i> (Construction General Permit; Order 2022-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002). Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, and other disturbances to the ground such as excavation and stockpiling but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of a facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) that includes specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to prevent sediment and pollutants from contacting stormwater from moving off-site into receiving waters. The BMPs fall into several categories, including erosion control, sediment control, waste management, and good housekeeping, and are intended to protect surface water quality by preventing the off-site migration of eroded soil and construction-related pollutants from the construction area.
Underground infrastructure	California Code of Regulations Section 4216-4216.9	Sections 4216-4216.9, “Protection of Underground Infrastructure,” requires an excavator to contact a regional notification center (e.g., Underground Services Alert or Dig Alert) at least two days prior to excavation of any subsurface installations. Any utility provider seeking to begin a project that could damage underground infrastructure can call Underground Service Alert, the regional notification center for Southern California. Underground Service Alert will notify the utilities that may have buried lines within 1,000 feet of the project. Representatives of the utilities are then notified and are required to mark the specific location of their facilities within the work area prior to the start of project activities in the area.

Notes: BMP = best management practice; Cal/OSHA = California Occupational Safety and Health Administration; CalEPA = California Environmental Protection Agency; Caltrans = California Department of Transportation; CFR = Code of Federal Regulations; CHP = California Highway Patrol; Construction General Permit = General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities; CUPA = Certified Unified Program Agency; DTSC = California Department of Toxic Substances Control; NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; OSHA = U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board; SWPPP = stormwater pollution prevention plan

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026.

2024 California State Emergency Plan

Pursuant to the Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550 et seq.), California has developed the California State Emergency Plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, state, and local governmental agencies and private persons (Cal OES 2024). Rapid response to wildfires and other natural or human-caused incidents is an important part of the plan, which is administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Response to hazardous materials incidents is another part of the plan.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies intended to manage the risks of both natural and human-made hazards. Relevant goals and policies from this planning document include the following:

Goal HS-3: Wildland Fires. Protect the public and reduce damage to property from wildfire hazard.

Policy HS-3.1: Manage the development review process to protect people, structures, and personal property from unreasonable risk from wildland fires.

Goal HS-4: Hazardous Materials. Protect the community and the environment from hazardous materials and waste.

Policy HS-4.1: Minimize exposure to the harmful effects of hazardous materials and waste.

Policy HS-4.3: Encourage the reduction of solid and hazardous wastes generated in the county.

Goal HS-5: Airport Operations. Protect the community from the risks associated with airport operations and protect airports from the economic impacts of encroachment from incompatible land uses.

Policy HS-5.1: Ensure that land uses within the vicinity of airports are compatible with airport restrictions and operations.

Goal HS-6: Emergency Preparedness. Provide timely and effective emergency response to reduce the potential loss of life and property.

2023 Yolo County Operation Area Hazard Mitigation Plan

Yolo County's 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan update defines measures to reduce risks from natural disasters in the Yolo County planning area, including unincorporated areas, incorporated cities, and special purpose districts. The plan updates the County's previous plan, the 2018 Yolo County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. It complies with federal and state hazard mitigation planning requirements to establish eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency grant programs for all jurisdictions that participated as planning partners (Yolo County OES 2023).

County of Yolo Emergency Operations Plan

The Yolo County Office of Emergency Services is managed by the County Administrator's Office, which is committed to its mission of preparing Yolo County to respond efficiently and effectively to emergencies, minimize loss of lives and destruction of property, reduce environmental damage, and

ensure the continuity of government services. The Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan provides an overview of the jurisdiction's approach to emergency operations. It identifies emergency response policies, describes the response and recovery organization, and assigns specific roles and responsibilities to County departments, agencies, and community partners (Yolo County OES 2024a).

There are several annexes to the Emergency Operations Plan, each supplying additional and specific information related to various potential hazards. Yolo County has an evacuation annex that provides mass evacuation strategies for responding to emergencies that involve the evacuation of people from an affected area (Yolo County OES 2024b).

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials in the Community Safety Element. The general plan discusses flooding, geology and soils, disaster planning, hazardous materials, electromagnetic fields, and various other hazards. The following goals and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal HAZ 3: Provide for the safety and protection of citizens from natural and environmental hazards.

Policy HAZ 3.1: Provide for disaster planning.

Goal HAZ 4: Reduce the use, storage and disposal of toxic and hazardous substances in Davis, and promote alternatives to such substances and their clean up.

Policy HAZ 4.1: Reduce and manage toxics within the planning area.

Policy HAZ 4.2: Provide for the proper disposal of hazardous materials in Davis.

Goal POLFIRE 3: Increase fire safety through provision of adequate fire protection infrastructure, public education and outreach programs.

Policy POLFIRE 3.1: Provide adequate infrastructure to fight fires in Davis.

City of Davis Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guide

The City of Davis Fire Department maintains the City's Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guide, which plans for emergency management and evacuation in the event of disasters. According to the department, the most likely disaster scenario for Davis is a toxic spill on Interstate 80 or the Southern Pacific mainline railroad tracks passing through town. Other disasters could occur, such as a flood, an earthquake, or a major fire. The guide includes operating procedures in the event of a disaster, as well as descriptions of emergency evacuation routes in Davis (City of Davis 2001).

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017a) outlines goals and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials in the Safety Element of the general plan. The general plan discusses various kinds of hazards including those related to geology and seismology, flooding, wildfire, airport

land use, hazardous material use, noise, and emergency response. The following goals and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal 8.C: Fire Hazards. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and watershed resources resulting from fire hazards.

Goal 8.D: Airport Hazards. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from airport hazards consistent with applicable ALUCPs.

Goal 8.E: Hazardous Materials. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, damage to property, and negative economic and social impacts resulting from the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous materials waste.

Policy 8.E.1:Coordination. Coordinate with yolo County and other relevant agencies to ensure that the manufacture, purchase, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials in the city is conducted in a responsible manner that complies with local, State, and federal safety standards.

Goal 8.F: Emergency Response. Foster an efficient and coordinated response to emergencies and natural disasters.

Policy 8.F.5: Emergency Access and Evacuation. Require areas subject to fires, flooding, and other hazards to have emergency access and evacuation routes that are clearly marked with consistent signage. Make evacuation and rescue maps available to the public.

City of Woodland Emergency Operations Plan

The City of Woodland Emergency Operations Plan addresses the City's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies in or affecting the city of Woodland. This plan focuses on operational concepts and would be implemented relative to large-scale disasters, which can pose major threats to life, property, and the environment requiring unusual emergency responses (City of Woodland 2017b).

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) is a comprehensive land use plan guided by principles and objectives that support the university's mission while conserving resources and guiding the campus toward a more sustainable future. The Long Range Development Plan outlines various strategies related to public safety, responsible stewardship of the UC Davis campus and the environment, and procurement of adequate emergency services; however, no objectives are directly applicable to the proposed Project.

Campus Emergency Operations Plan

The UC Davis Campus Emergency Operations Plan was developed to ensure a coordinated and effective response to any significant hazard that might threaten the campus. This plan is a realistic reflection of the way emergency response will be carried out when an incident occurs. This plan is guided by best practices for Emergency Operations Plans set forth by the Yolo County Operational Area, California

Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (UC Davis 2025).

Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency

WDCWA's Emergency Response Plan addresses catastrophic water shortage conditions. The Emergency Response Plan outlines response procedures associated with unforeseeable incidents such as a regional power outage, earthquake, infrastructure failure, and other such events. The Emergency Response Plan includes actions to be taken in preparation for, during, and recovery from such events. Water shortage emergency response is coordinated with Yolo County. To protect the security of the Agency's water system, the Emergency Response Plan is retained by the Agency as a confidential document.

The Agency's response planning for continued water service includes the use of standby generators, equipment, fuel storage tanks, and vehicles. Water storage, treatment, and pumping facilities have been constructed to meet earthquake safety standards.

3.5.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

The Project would result in a significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials if it would do any of the following:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- 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;
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- 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 create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area;
- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Potential impacts related to wildfire are also addressed in Section 3.11, *Wildfire*.

Issues Not Analyzed Further in this Draft SEIR

The proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR related to the following issue areas included under the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist for hazards and hazardous materials:

- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- 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 create a significant hazard to the public or the environment; or
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area.

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution.

As the proposed Project does not include construction activities, the proposed Project would not result in construction impacts related to the above criteria, and no impacts would occur. Regarding operation and water transfer impacts, the 2007 DWWSP EIR determined that operation of the DWWSP and implementation of water transfers from Sellers would not emit hazardous materials within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school, and no disturbance to known hazardous materials sites would occur. Regarding airport safety hazards, although some facilities would be in proximity to the Sacramento International airport, it was determined that operation and maintenance would be remote and on-site work would be infrequent resulting in less-than-significant impacts. Water transfers were not anticipated to result in airport-related safety hazards. Consistent with the analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR, the proposed Project would not result in changes in operation activities or their intensity; therefore, the Project would not result in an increased use of hazardous materials or introduce new safety hazards related to airports or schools. Water transfers would generally be infrequent and limited to portions of the year when Term 91 curtailments or a Shasta Critical Year designation is in effect (see Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*). Water transfers are not anticipated to result in safety hazard impacts related to schools, airports, or hazardous materials sites as they would generally consist of operational changes to existing facilities to allow for water source diversification, rather than new waste-generating activities.

As a result, the proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR. Therefore, these issue areas are not discussed further.

Methodology and Assumptions

The following impact analysis evaluates impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed Project related to hazards and the use of hazardous materials and qualitatively assesses those impacts pursuant to the CEQA Appendix G Checklist. The discussion considers the potential impacts of the proposed changes associated with the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR is considered sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project, no additional environmental review is provided.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.5-4 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

TABLE 3.5-4
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.5-1: The Project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that, if accidentally released, could create a hazard to the public or the environment.	LTS
3.5-2: The Project would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	NI
3.5-3: The Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.	NI
Notes: NI = No Impact; LTS = Less than Significant Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026.	

Impact 3.5-1: The Project could involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that, if accidentally released, could create a hazard to the public or the environment. (Less than Significant)

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario; therefore, there would be no changes to the intensity of existing operation activities. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. As the proposed Project does not include construction activities, no construction-related impacts would occur.

Existing operational hazardous material uses are discussed in Section 3.5.2, *Environmental Setting*, under *Existing Uses of Hazardous Materials*, which includes various hazardous materials used at WDCWA's RWTF to help remove suspended solids, control and adjust pH, and disinfect untreated surface water, as well as paints, paint thinners, waste oils, miscellaneous lubricating oils, laboratory solvents, compressed

acetylene and oxygen gas, diesel fuel, and proprietary polymers. Regarding water transfers, the 2007 DWWSP EIR determined water transfers by Sellers would generally not use materials that would create a potential hazard or result in the release of hazardous materials to the environment.

Under the proposed Project, there would be no changes to the intensity of existing operations or the types of activities conducted; therefore, hazardous materials used under the proposed Project would be consistent with those used at existing WDCWA facilities under ongoing operation and maintenance activities. Water transfers would not result in significant operational changes to existing facilities to allow for water source diversification and impacts and would generally not require extensive use of hazardous materials. Consistent with the 2007 DWWSP EIR, groundwater substitution could include the use of diesel engines to power groundwater pumps and would require the use of diesel fuel and hydraulic oils and other hazardous material; however, use of these materials would be limited to periods when Term 91 curtailment or Shasta Critical conditions are in effect and generally would not require significant hazardous material use. Additionally, compliance with the laws and regulations governing the transportation, use, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as those discussed in Section 3.5.3, *Regulatory Setting*, would limit the potential for the proposed Project to create hazardous conditions from the routine use or accidental release of hazardous materials. Therefore, assuming compliance with these regulatory requirements, impacts would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.5-2: The Project would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. (No Impact)

Emergency response plan and emergency evacuation plans are discussed in Section 3.5.2, *Environmental Setting*. These plans include the California State Emergency Plan (Cal OES 2024), the Yolo County Operation Area Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operation Plan (Yolo County 2023 2024a), the City of Davis Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guide (City of Davis 2001), the City of Woodland Emergency Operation Plan (City of Woodland 2017b), and the UC Davis Campus Emergency Operations Plan (UC Davis 2025).

The 2007 DWWSP EIR did not anticipate any impacts from operation activities or water transfers that would interfere with emergency response plans or evacuation plans in place; however, it was determined during construction of DWWSP components located on public roadways, construction activity could interfere with or obstruct access by emergency vehicles requiring mitigation to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. As the proposed Project does not include construction activities or changes to operation activities, or the intensity of which they occur, the proposed Project would not result in construction or operation impacts related to emergency response or emergency evacuation plans, and no impacts would occur. Regarding water transfer impacts, no impacts would occur as the activities would not result in changes to operation activities and would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted plan. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in new or more significant impacts than those previously identified related to wildfire risk, and **no impacts** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.5-3: The Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. (*No Impact*)

As discussed in Section 3.5.2, *Environmental Setting*, the WDCWA service area is located within western Yolo County within California's Central Valley, which is composed of low-lying, generally flat lands intermixed with various waterways that feed into the Sacramento River. WDCWA's service area is generally urban, consisting of mixed residential, commercial, and industrial uses; typical vegetation in these areas consists of a mix of native and non-native species, which are regularly irrigated and managed. According to CAL FIRE, the WDCWA service area, and surrounding areas in the immediate vicinity, are not located within a designated fire hazard severity zone, equating to a relatively low fire hazard severity (CAL FIRE 2026).

As the proposed Project does not include construction activities or changes to operation activities, or the intensity of which they occur, the proposed Project would not result in construction or operation impacts related to wildfire risk, and no impacts would occur. Regarding water transfer impacts, the 2007 DWWSP EIR determined that water transfers would not expose people or structures to fires that would result in loss, injury, or death. Under the proposed Project, water transfers are not anticipated to result in wildfire-related safety hazard impacts as they would generally consist of operational changes to existing facilities to allow for water source diversification, rather than new activities that could exacerbate wildfire risk. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in new or more significant impacts than those previously identified related to wildfire risk, and **no impacts** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

3.6.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to hydrology and water quality. The section describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.6.2 Environmental Setting

The Sacramento River is the largest river system in California. It originates near the slopes of Mount Shasta in Northern California and flows southward to Suisun Bay in the Delta in central California. The Sacramento River drains a 26,146-square-mile area with an annual outflow averaging 22 million acre-feet (MAF) (Sacramento River Watershed Program 2026).

The upper Sacramento River receives flow contributions from numerous surface waters draining the east and west side of the basin. Several major contributing tributaries include Cow, Battle, Cottonwood, Mill, Thomes, Deer, Stony, Big Chico, and Butte creeks, the Pit River, the Trinity River, the McCloud River, and the Feather River, and associated tributaries including the Yuba and Bear rivers. The lower Sacramento River is defined as the reach south of the Sacramento and Yolo Bypass, near the American River confluence downstream through to the city of Freeport. This reach is heavily protected with a system of levees along both banks. Flows in this section of the Sacramento River are primarily influenced by the operational releases of large water storage facilities, such as Shasta Lake, located in the upstream regions of the Sacramento River basin as well as flows in the lower American River resulting from Folsom Lake outflows (DWR 2022). The lower Sacramento River is tidally influenced, which can result in dramatic fluctuations to outflows and hydraulic conditions near the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant intake.

The flow of the Sacramento River can significantly vary from year-to-year and within a year. Flows in the Sacramento River normally peak between December and February, corresponding to the annual rainy season, which can be augmented by periodic upper basin snowmelt events. The natural flow pattern of the Sacramento River has been altered over time and contemporary flows are largely managed by Reclamation for CVP, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for SWP, operations (described in more detail below). Upstream or tributary reservoirs (e.g., Shasta, Trinity, Oroville, and Folsom) are operated to fulfill a variety of functions including flood control, water supply, fisheries and wildlife benefits, and power generation; and to meet water quality and flow requirements in the Delta. Shasta Lake is the largest CVP reservoir, capable of storing up to 4.5 MAF. During wetter months, flows in the Sacramento River have been managed to create and maintain reservoir space for flood control storage. During drier months, flows in the Sacramento River are managed to sustain flows at levels capable of meeting SWP and CVP water quality objectives and water delivery obligations downstream (DWR 2022).

Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta

The Delta lies at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and is one of the largest estuaries in the U.S. The Delta boundary extends north along the Sacramento River terminating just south

of the American River, south along the San Joaquin River terminating just north of the Stanislaus River, east to the city of Stockton, and west to Suisun Bay. Flows received directly from the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Mokelumne, and Calaveras rivers account for approximately 95 percent of Delta inflows. Hydrodynamic conditions in the Delta are influenced by a number of factors such as inflows (controlled and uncontrolled) from tributary streams (e.g., tributary streams that feed into the San Joaquin River, Sacramento River), tidal influences from the Pacific Ocean, pumping from the south Delta through the Banks Pumping Plant, Jones Pumping Plant, and other smaller water diversions within the Delta.

The Delta is at approximately mean sea level and, consequently, tides significantly influence both the level and direction of flows through its many channels and sloughs. Tidal water level fluctuations can vary from 1 foot on the San Joaquin River near Interstate 5 to more than 5 feet at the outlet of the Delta, near the city of Pittsburg. The direction of flow can also change dramatically with the tides. Releases from Shasta, Folsom, New Melones, and Millerton reservoirs of the CVP and Oroville Reservoir (i.e., Lake Oroville) of the SWP control, to a large extent, how much and when freshwater enters the Delta.

Groundwater Hydrology

The Sacramento River Watershed contains one of California's largest and most productive groundwater systems. Groundwater occurs primarily within the Sacramento Valley, a structural trough filled with thousands of feet of unconsolidated to semi-consolidated alluvial sediments derived from the Sierra Nevada, Cascade Range, Coast Ranges, and Klamath Mountains. These sediments form a regionally connected aquifer system that underlies most of the valley floor. The Sacramento Valley groundwater basin is often described as a single, hydraulically connected aquifer system with an estimated storage capacity of approximately 114 MAF within the upper 20–600 feet of the subsurface. Groundwater provides roughly 20–30 percent of the region's total water supply and serves as a critical source of municipal, domestic, and agricultural water (USGS 2011; Sacramento River Watershed Program 2026).

Groundwater resources within the Sacramento River Watershed occur in the extensive alluvial aquifers of the Sacramento Valley and in smaller alluvial, volcanic, and fractured-rock aquifers throughout the surrounding foothills and mountain regions. Current DWR Bulletin 118 classifications subdivide the Sacramento Valley into multiple groundwater subbasins, including the Butte, Colusa, North American, South American, Sutter, Vina, Yolo, and Red Bluff subbasins (DWR 2025).

The Sacramento Valley aquifer system consists of thick deposits of gravel, sand, silt, and clay that provide groundwater for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and domestic uses. Recharge occurs through precipitation, stream infiltration, floodplain inundation, irrigation return flows, and subsurface inflow from surrounding uplands. Groundwater generally flows from valley margins toward the Sacramento River and its tributaries, which are hydraulically connected to the regional aquifer system. In addition to DWR-designated groundwater basins, groundwater with beneficial uses occurs throughout the watershed in fractured bedrock aquifers that provide important water supplies for rural communities and ecological resources.

Surface Water Quality

Surface water quality within the Sacramento River Watershed is influenced by natural watershed processes, land use activities, water management operations, and point and nonpoint source discharges.

Water quality conditions vary throughout the watershed, ranging from high-quality headwater streams in forested mountain areas to more heavily managed river and agricultural drainage systems in the Sacramento Valley. Key water quality concerns include sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, mercury, temperature, and dissolved oxygen.

Under Section 303(d) of the federal CWA, numerous waterbodies within the Sacramento River Watershed are listed as impaired by the State Water Board. Common impairments include mercury associated with historic mining activities, elevated water temperatures affecting salmonid habitat, as well as pathogens, pesticides, and excessive sediment. Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have been developed or are being implemented for many impaired waterbodies to address these pollutants and support attainment of beneficial uses. Despite these impairments, many streams and rivers within the watershed continue to provide important drinking water, agricultural water supply, recreation, and aquatic habitat functions.

Several waterbodies within the Sacramento River Watershed are listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the CWA. Common impairments include mercury, elevated water temperature, sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, dissolved oxygen, and other pollutants associated with historic mining, agriculture, urban runoff, and altered hydrology (**Table 3.6-1**). TMDLs have been developed or are being implemented to address many of these impairments and support attainment of beneficial uses.

TABLE 3.6-1
COMMON POLLUTANTS AND SOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPAIRED WATERS IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED

Impairment Category	Common Pollutants/Stressors	Typical Sources	Potential Effects
Mercury	Mercury	Historic gold mining, abandoned mine lands	Bioaccumulation in fish, risks to human health and wildlife
Temperature	Elevated water temperature	Reservoir operations, reduced riparian shading, altered flows, climate conditions	Adverse effects on salmonids and other cold-water species
Sediment/turbidity	Suspended sediment, siltation	Erosion, roads, forestry, agriculture, construction activities	Habitat degradation, reduced water clarity, impacts on spawning gravels
Nutrients	Nitrogen and phosphorus	Agricultural runoff, wastewater discharges, urban runoff	Algal growth, reduced dissolved oxygen, eutrophication
Dissolved oxygen	Low dissolved oxygen	Nutrient enrichment, organic matter decomposition, flow alterations	Stress or mortality of aquatic organisms
Pathogens	Fecal coliform, E. coli	Livestock operations, urban runoff, wastewater systems	Recreational health risks and impairment of water-contact uses
Pesticides	Herbicides and insecticides	Agricultural and urban runoff	Toxicity to aquatic organisms and degradation of aquatic habitat
Metals	Copper, zinc, and other metals	Urban runoff, industrial activities, mining	Toxicity to aquatic life and water quality degradation

Source: State Water Board 2024

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality within the Sacramento River Watershed is generally good and supports municipal, agricultural, industrial, and domestic water supply uses. However, groundwater quality varies throughout the watershed depending on local geology, land use, and hydrologic conditions. Common groundwater quality concerns include elevated nitrate concentrations associated with agricultural and rural residential activities, naturally occurring constituents, such as arsenic, iron, and manganese, and localized impacts from pesticides, industrial activities, and historic mining operations. In some areas, groundwater may also be affected by salinity, naturally occurring minerals, or contaminants associated with leaking underground storage tanks and other legacy land uses (**Table 3.6-2**).

Groundwater quality is monitored by local groundwater sustainability agencies, public water suppliers, DWR, the State Water Board, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Ongoing monitoring and management efforts help protect groundwater resources and ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.

TABLE 3.6-2
COMMON GROUNDWATER QUALITY CONSTITUENTS AND POTENTIAL SOURCES IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED

Groundwater Quality Concern	Common Sources
Nitrate	Fertilizers, agricultural activities, septic systems, animal operations
Arsenic	Naturally occurring geologic formations
Iron and manganese	Naturally occurring geologic conditions
Pesticides and herbicides	Agricultural and urban applications
Salinity/total dissolved solids	Natural mineral dissolution, irrigation return flows
Petroleum hydrocarbons	Leaking underground storage tanks and fuel spills
Industrial solvents and volatile organic compounds	Industrial activities and historical land uses
Mercury and other metals	Historic mining activities and natural mineral deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (Chrom VI)	Naturally occurring geologic conditions

Source: DWR 2025; State Water Board 2025

3.6.3 Regulatory Setting

This section describes federal, state, and local water resources-related regulations as pertaining to the proposed Project. Refer to Section 3.2, *Aquatic Biological Resources*, for additional descriptions of regulations related to aquatic species habitat.

Federal

Clean Water Act

Regulatory authorities exist on both the state and federal levels for the control of water quality in California. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the federal agency responsible for water quality management pursuant to the CWA. The purpose of the CWA is to protect and maintain the quality and integrity of the nation's waters by requiring states to develop and implement state water plans and

policies. Several sections of the CWA pertain to regulating impacts on waters of the United States and are described in more detail below.

Section 303: Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans

The State of California adopts water quality standards to protect beneficial uses of state waters as required by Section 303 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969 (Porter-Cologne Act). Under Section 303(d) of the CWA, states, territories, and authorized tribes are required to develop lists of impaired waters. Impaired waters are waters that do not meet water quality standards, even after point pollution sources have installed control technology necessary to meet the minimum required pollution protection level. The law requires that these jurisdictions establish a priority ranking for listed waters and develop action plans to improve water quality. This process includes development of the TMDL, which sets discharge limits for non-point source pollutants. A TMDL is the amount of loading that the waterbody can receive for a given constituent and still meet water quality criteria for that constituent. The TMDL must include an allocation of allowable loadings to point and non-point sources, with consideration of background loadings and a margin of safety. Generally, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limitations for listed pollutants must be consistent with the load allocation identified in the TMDL.

Federal Antidegradation Policy

The federal antidegradation policy is designed to protect designated beneficial uses of waters via the level of water quality necessary to protect those uses, and to protect and maintain high quality waters and national water resources. The federal policy directs states to adopt a statewide policy that includes the following primary provisions (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Section 131.12 [40 CFR 131.12]):

- 1) *Existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.*
- 2) *Where the quality of waters exceed levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the State finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the State's continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located...*
- 3) *Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding National resource, such as waters of National and States parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.*

State

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code) provides the basis for water quality regulation within California and defines water quality objectives as the limits or levels of water constituents that are established for reasonable protection of beneficial uses. The Porter-Cologne Act allows the State Water Board to adopt statewide water quality control plans (such as "Basin Plans"),

which serve as the legal, technical, and programmatic basis of water quality regulation for a region or along the coast.

Basin Plans

The Porter-Cologne Act requires the State Water Board and the regional water quality control boards to prepare and periodically update Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). Basin Plans identify beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater, establish water quality objectives to protect those uses, and provide the regulatory framework for water quality management within each hydrologic region.

Beneficial uses identified in Basin Plans include, but are not limited to, municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, recreation, navigation, hydropower generation, and the preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources (Water Code Section 13050[f]). Basin Plans also establish narrative and numeric water quality objectives and implementation programs to protect water quality and beneficial uses.

The proposed Project area is subject to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins (Central Valley Basin Plan) administered by the Central Valley RWQCB and the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay–Delta Plan) administered by the State Water Board. These plans establish water quality objectives and beneficial use protections applicable to waters within the Project area (State Water Board 2018).

Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Basins

The Basin Plan for the California RWQCB, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Basin Plan) establishes beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and implementation programs for surface water and groundwater resources within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. The Central Valley Basin Plan contains both narrative and numeric water quality objectives for constituents and conditions including bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, pesticides, salinity, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, temperature, turbidity, and trace elements. The Basin Plan also establishes water quality objectives for the Delta, including salinity and electrical conductivity objectives intended to protect municipal, agricultural, fish and wildlife, and other beneficial uses (Central Valley RWQCB 2019).

Water Quality Control Plan for the Delta

The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay–Delta Plan), adopted by the State Water Board, establishes water quality objectives and flow requirements to protect beneficial uses of waters within the Delta and San Francisco Bay Estuary. The Bay–Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses including municipal and industrial water supply, agricultural water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and fish migration. The Bay–Delta Plan establishes objectives for salinity, flow, water quality, and protection of aquatic resources, and provides the regulatory framework for management of water resources within the Bay–Delta Watershed. The Bay–Delta Plan is implemented through water rights decisions, water quality control measures, and coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (State Water Board 2018).

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed by the Governor of California, setting the framework for local agencies to sustainably manage California’s groundwater basins. To avoid

potential state intervention, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires groundwater basins/sub-basins designated by DWR as medium- or high-priority to follow four basic steps:

- 1) Form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency by June 30, 2017.
- 2) Develop and adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2022.
- 3) Implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan to achieve a sustainability goal and avoid undesirable results within 20 years.
- 4) Report the implementation activities to the DWR to document whether the sustainability goal and the avoidance of undesirable results is being achieved.

Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies related to water resources within Yolo County. The general plan emphasizes sustainable water supply management, groundwater protection, water quality, flood resilience, and habitat conservation to address long-term growth and climate-related challenges. Relevant goals and policies from this planning document include the following:

Goal CO-5: Water Resources. Ensure an abundant, safe, and sustainable water supply to support the needs of existing and future generations.

Policy CO-5.1: Coordinate with water purveyors and water users to manage supplies to avoid long-term overdraft, water quality degradation, land subsidence and other potential problems.

Policy CO-5.2: Support projects that provide reliable and sustainable surface water from a variety of energy efficient sources. Sources should be sufficient to serve existing and planned land uses in prolonged drought periods and protect natural resources and surface water flows.

Policy CO-5.5: Integrate balanced water management programs that emphasize multiple benefits and balance competing needs into all aspects of the planning and development process.

Policy CO-5.6: Improve and protect water quality for municipal, agricultural, and environmental uses.

Policy CO-5.10: Encourage water purveyors to develop plans for responding to droughts and the effects of global climate change, including contingency plans, the sharing of water resources to improve overall water supply reliability, and the allocation of water supply to priority users.

Policy CO-5.11: Facilitate and encourage the development of new reliable future sources of supply consistent with local land use plans and regional water needs, including the completion of the Tehama-Colusa Canal.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to water resources in the Water Element. The general plan discusses water supply and demand, water conservation, and water quality. The following goals and policies related to water resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal WATER 2: Ensure sufficient supply of high-quality water for the Davis Planning Area.

Policy WATER 2.3: Maintain surface water quality.

Goal WATER 4: Monitor issues in the region that affect quality and quantity of water in the Davis Planning Area.

Policy WATER 4.2: Maintain contact with other appropriate State, Federal and local agencies.

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017) outlines goals and policies related to water resources in the Water Resources Element. The general plan addresses surface water and groundwater resources and water conservation efforts. The general plan encourages conservation and protection of surface water and groundwater resources. The following goals and policies related to water resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal 7.A: Protect Water Supply and Quality. Protect and enhance the natural quantity and qualities of surface water and groundwater resources in the Woodland area.

Policy 7.A.1: Surface Water Project. Continue to cooperate with the City of Davis and UC Davis to operate the Surface Water Project in order to balance the groundwater supply and protect against aquifer overdrafts and water quality degradation.

Policy 7.A.3: Watershed Protection. Support local and regional efforts to protect the Sacramento River, Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and Willow Slough watersheds.

Policy 7.A.4: Best Management Practices. Continue to require the use of feasible and practical best management practices (BMPs) and promote low Impact Development to protect receiving waters from the adverse effects of construction activities and urban and agricultural runoff.

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) outlines objectives related to water resources. Water-related objectives in the plan emphasize preserving access to water, improving water supply resiliency, and conservation of water resources. The following objectives related to water resources are relevant to the proposed Project:

Resilient Water Supply: Preserve access to water; foster greater resiliency with regards to water supply; consider water recycling programs to conserve and reuse natural resources; explore possible uses of reclaimed water from the sewage treatment plant; consider the integration of gray water collection and treatment systems to minimize impact on the sewage treatment plant and to reduce demands on the aquifer.

Conserve Water: Protect aquifer as a resource for future generations; enhance water conservation programs for all campus systems, especially the core campus irrigation system. Conserve domestic water to minimize diversion of water from deep aquifers, the Sacramento River and Putah Creek.

3.6.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in a significant impact on hydrology or water quality if it would do any of the following:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.
- b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:
 - i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.
 - ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site.
 - iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.
 - iv. Impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.
- e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Issues Not Analyzed Further in this Draft SEIR

The proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007DWWSP EIR related to the following issue areas included under the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist for hydrology and water quality:

- Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution.

As the proposed Project does not include construction activities and there would be no changes to the intensity of existing operations, the proposed Project would not require the construction or relocation of any new impervious surfaces that would interfere with groundwater recharge or result in an increase in groundwater use. In addition, the proposed Project would not include the use of any additional pollutants than was previously analyzed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR or place them in areas at risk of inundation. Further, the proposed Project area is inland and not near the ocean or enclosed body of water where a tsunami or seiche could occur, respectively.

As a result, the proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR; therefore, these issue areas are not discussed further.

Methodology

The proposed Project would be regulated by the various laws, regulations, and policies summarized in the *Regulatory Setting*. Compliance by the proposed Project with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations is assumed in this analysis, and local and state agencies would be expected to continue to enforce applicable requirements to the extent that they do so now.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.6-3 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference. The resource impact statements consider the significance criteria for hydrology and water quality impacts applicable to the proposed Project.

**TABLE 3.6-3
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.6-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in the release of pollutants into surface water and/or groundwater that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, substantially degrade water quality, or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan.	LTS
3.6-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that could result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on or off-site flooding; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned irrigation and drainage system or provide substantial additional Sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows.	NI
3.6-3: Project operation would adversely affect Sacramento River hydrologic conditions or Delta inflow or outflow in a way that would conflict with other water management objectives or existing beneficial uses.	LTS

Notes: LTS = less than significant; NI = No impact

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026

Impact 3.6-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could result in the release of pollutants into surface water and/or groundwater that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, substantially degrade water quality, or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan. (*Less than Significant*)

As discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to

deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. All water received by WDCWA would be water that has been historically diverted and used within the Sacramento River watershed by the seller and thus would be within historical hydrological fluctuations of the system. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution.

Because no construction is required for implementation of the proposed Project, no hazardous materials or pollutants would be used or released into surface water and/or groundwater. Operations would be consistent with existing WDCWA operations, including the use of chemicals. These chemicals include various hazardous materials used at WDCWA's RWTF to help remove suspended solids, control and adjust pH, and disinfect untreated surface water, as well as paints, paint thinners, waste oils, miscellaneous lubricating oils, laboratory solvents, compressed acetylene and oxygen gas, diesel fuel, and proprietary polymers. Under the proposed Project, there would be no changes to the intensity of existing operations or the types of activities conducted; therefore, hazardous materials used under the proposed Project would be consistent with those used at existing WDCWA facilities under ongoing operation and maintenance activities. Water transfers would not result in significant operational changes to existing facilities to allow for water source diversification and impacts and would generally not require any use or only minor, temporary increase in use of hazardous materials. Additionally, compliance with the laws and regulations governing the transportation, use, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials would limit the potential for the proposed Project to create hazardous conditions from the routine use or accidental release of hazardous materials. Proposed Project changes would not alter the conclusions of the 2007 DWWSP EIR, result in any new significant impacts, or substantially increase the severity of the previously identified hydrological resources impacts. The proposed Project would not result in the release of pollutants into surface water and/or groundwater that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, substantially degrade water quality, or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.6-2: Implementation of the proposed Project could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that could result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on or off-site flooding; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned irrigation and drainage system or provide substantial additional Sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows. (No Impact)

As discussed previously, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent

reduction scenario; therefore, no changes to the intensity of existing operation activities would occur. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. As the proposed Project does not include construction activities, no construction-related impacts would occur. In addition, the proposed Project would not involve alteration of existing drainage patterns, streams, or rivers or addition of impervious surfaces. The proposed Project would not result in alterations to existing drainage patterns and would not result in on- or off-site flooding; create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned irrigation and drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows. In addition, any increase in flows in the stream reaches above the Joint Intake Facility due to the LTWT would be temporary and within historical fluctuations in river hydrology. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.6-3: Project operation would adversely affect Sacramento River hydrologic conditions or Delta inflow or outflow in a way that would conflict with other water management objectives or existing beneficial uses. (*Less than Significant*)

As discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution.

Section 3.2, *Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality*, of the 2007 DWWSP EIR concluded that Project operation would directly affect Sacramento River flows by diverting water from the Sacramento River. As described in Impact 3.2-2 of the 2007 DWWSP EIR, when Term 91 is in effect, the Project would not divert water from the Sacramento River using what became the WDCWA's water right Permit No. 20281. As a result, the Project would not reduce the flows in the Sacramento River that would otherwise occur during this period.

As detailed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, this description would also be accurate for the proposed periods of transfer of water from Sellers. The up to 6,000 AF during the period of approximately April 1 through October 31 and 2,000 AF during the period of November 1 through March 31 of water that would be transferred from Sellers to the WDCWA would not reduce instream flows, as discussed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR. The proposed Project change would involve up to 11,000 AF flowing from upstream Sellers into the River where the WDCWA would divert the water during these periods. The water transferred from the Sellers largely would substitute for water that WDCWA would divert under its water right Permit 20281 if Term 91 curtailment periods or a Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario were not in effect. In addition, the proposed Project would involve a

very small increment of River flow and would not exceed any regulatory limitations on seasonal flows in the Sacramento River and its tributaries to avoid any impact to fish migration.

Streamflow records from the Sacramento River at the Verona station (U.S. Geological Survey Station 11425500) indicate that flows in the lower Sacramento River rarely drop below 4,000–5,000 cfs, even during the lowest-flow periods shown in the modern record. In general, most values are between approximately 6,000 and 20,000 cfs (USGS 2026). The proposed Project would represent an average diversion rate of approximately 21 cfs during the April through October transfer period, or approximately 26 cfs if the full 11,000 AF annual transfer volume were diverted during that period. Therefore, the proposed Project surface water transfers of 11,000 AF would represent only 0.52 percent of the total flow of the Sacramento River and would be facilitated by Sellers supplementing Sacramento River flow by releasing additional water into the Sacramento River that otherwise would have been consumptively used by customers in their service area.

The proposed Project would represent less than 1 percent of Sacramento River flow under low-flow conditions and a substantially smaller percentage under typical flow conditions. Therefore, the proposed Project would not substantially affect Sacramento River flow conditions or water quality. As noted above, transfer water conveyed from a seller on a tributary with seasonal flow restrictions (e.g., SSWD releases from Camp Far West Reservoir on the Bear River) would be limited to the flow rates permitted by state and federal regulatory requirements.

As a result, there are no changes in the environmental setting or proposed Project characteristics that would raise important new hydrological issues related to diversion of water transferred from Sellers during Term 91 or a Shasta Critical Year designation. Therefore, proposed Project changes would not alter the conclusions of the 2007 DWWSP EIR, result in any new significant impacts, or substantially increase the severity of the previously identified hydrological resources impacts. As a result, the proposed Project would not adversely affect Sacramento River hydrologic conditions or Delta inflow or outflow in a way that would conflict with other water management objectives or existing beneficial uses. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.7 Population and Housing

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to population and housing, including the potential for population growth and the displacement of existing people or housing as a result of the proposed Project. It includes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.7.1 Environmental Setting

Study Area

The proposed Project's study area includes WDCWA's service area. WDCWA serves the city of Woodland, the city of Davis, and UC Davis. The WDCWA's service area is located within the boundaries of Yolo County in Northern California, approximately 64 miles northeast of San Francisco and 15 miles west of the city of Sacramento.

The County's total size is 653,549 acres (or 1,021 square miles). This includes both the incorporated areas (the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland), which total 32,325 acres, and the unincorporated area, which totals 621,224 acres. The unincorporated county consists of several communities, including Capay, Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto, Guinda, Knights Landing, Madison, Monument Hills, Rumsey, Yolo, and Zamora. These unincorporated communities are under the jurisdiction of Yolo County, and are not in WDCWA's service area (Yolo County 2009).

Overall, the County is characterized by its agricultural land and uses, the high percentage of family (versus non-family) households, and its racial and ethnic diversity. In addition to the large concentration of farmland, the Sacramento River runs along the eastern boundary of the county, resulting in elevated flood risks and concerns (Yolo County 2009).

Yolo County

In 2020, Yolo County, including its cities, had a total population of approximately 221,705 residents. Of the 221,705 residents, 191,532 were in an incorporated city while 30,173 residents were located in the unincorporated communities.

Additionally, unincorporated Yolo County has a youthful population with 5.3 percent of residents under 5 years old, 29.4 percent of residents 5 to 19 years old, 34.3 percent of residents 20 to 44 years old, 17.8 percent of residents 45 to 64 years old, and 13.1 percent of residents 65 years or older. The median age of unincorporated Yolo County residents has decreased from 29.5 in 2010 to 25.4 in 2018, which is a little over a decade younger than the state's median age of 36.3 and significantly lower than the countywide median age of 31.0 (Yolo County 2021).

City of Woodland

The city of Woodland had an overall population of 55,468 residents in 2010, and 59,044 residents in 2018 resulting in a 6.4 percent increase (City of Woodland 2023). The majority of housing in Woodland in 2019 was single-family detached housing, which accounted for 64.7 percent of all units. Multi-family units accounted for approximately 27 percent of the total stock (City of Woodland 2023). Additionally, in 2010, the city of Woodland's housing types were dominated by single-family detached units, which made

up 63 percent of all housing. Multi-family housing accounted for about 28 percent of units (City of Woodland 2023). According to the City of Woodland Housing Element section of the General Plan, the projected annual average growth rate for population, households, and housing units in Woodland during the 2008–2035 period is about 1 to 1.2 percent (City of Woodland 2017).

City of Davis

The city of Davis is a mid-sized city within Yolo County, with about 69,000 residents and 26,000 households. Between 2010 and 2020, Davis experienced modest growth with an increase of approximately 3,600 residents and 1,400 households, or a growth rate of 5.4 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. This resulted in lower growth rates compared to the broader Sacramento metropolitan area and nearby cities like West Sacramento and Woodland. Although population and household growth occurred, it was comparatively slower both regionally and relative to the previous decade (City of Davis 2023). Additionally, Davis has smaller households on average than nearby communities. Although household sizes have increased in Davis and Woodland between 2010 and 2020, Davis experienced a less pronounced increase compared to the broader Yolo County area. Growth between 2020 and 2036 in the city of Davis is projected to increase at a rate of 8.1 percent, or 0.5 percent annually (City of Davis 2023).

UC Davis

UC Davis, located within the city of Davis, has a general population of primarily students and staff that occupy dormitories or campus-affiliated housing. Currently, UC Davis supports approximately 38,000 students (UC Davis 2026). During the 2016–2017 academic year, the UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) noted that about 10,000 students lived on campus with an additional 8,500 students in projected growth through 2030 (UC Davis 2018). Although the number of staff that use campus-affiliated housing is significantly less than the general student population, they are also considered in the LRDP, which projects an additional need for 500 units to stay consistent with projected growth trends until 2030 (UC Davis 2026).

3.7.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federal statutes, regulations, plans, or policies govern the County’s analysis of proposed Project impacts on population and housing.

State

No state statutes, regulations, plans, or policies govern the County’s analysis of proposed Project impacts on population and housing.

Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies related to water resources within Yolo County. The General Plan Housing Element provides guidance on housing development requirements, density guidelines, housing funding, housing constraints, and accessibility. There are no applicable policies or objectives in the Yolo County General Plan to the proposed Project.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to housing and population growth and planning in the Housing Element. The Housing Element discusses providing a variety of housing types, guidance on housing development designs, coordination with UC Davis to determine coordinated housing needs. There are no policies or objectives in the City of Davis General Plan Housing Element applicable to the proposed Project.

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland General Plan Housing Element (City of Woodland 2023) outlines goals and policies related to housing and population growth. The Housing Element provides policies and objectives that guide the zoning, development, and design of housing. There are no policies or objectives in the City of Woodland General Plan Housing Element applicable to the proposed Project.

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) consists of objectives regarding the growth and maintenance of both student and staff housing as well as the growth of their respective populations. There are no policies does not include any goals or policies applicable to the proposed Project.

3.7.3 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in significant impacts on population and housing if it would do any of the following:

- a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Methodology and Assumptions

This section analyzes potential impacts on population and housing using the environmental checklist criteria set forth in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed Project would be regulated by the applicable laws, regulations, plans, and policies related to population and housing that are described in the *Regulatory Setting*.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.7-1 summarizes impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

TABLE 3.7-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.7-1: Would the proposed Project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	NI
3.7-2: Would the proposed Project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	NI
Notes: NI = No impact Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026	

Impact 3.7-1: The proposed Project could substantially induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. (*No Impact*)

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario AFY. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. WDCWA would continue to implement its Water Shortage Contingency Plan during water supply shortages (WDCWA 2021). Surface water transfers under the LTWT would not be used for long-term water storage or aquifer recharge.

Given that the proposed Project would not result in additional water supply allocations and would be used to meet existing demand, the proposed Project would not contribute to unplanned population growth in WDCWA's service area. Water supplies obtained through LTWT as part of the proposed Project would continue to facilitate the planned housing and population growth outlined in the general plans with no change from proposed Project implementation. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.7-2: The proposed Project could displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. (*No Impact*)

The proposed Project would not require any construction, and it would not result in changes to existing operations. Therefore, the proposed Project would not displace existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, and **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

3.8 Recreation

3.8.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates considerations related to recreation, including the levels of use for existing parks or other recreational facilities and whether the proposed Project proposes or would require the construction of new or expansion of existing recreational facilities where such improvements could have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The section identifies the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.8.2 Environmental Setting

City of Davis

The City of Davis has an extensive park and recreation system with more than 30 facilities, including miniparks, neighborhood and community parks, a golf course, Central Park, and multiple playing field complexes. Open space resources include wildlife habitat areas, neighborhood greenbelts, and drainage features within the city (City of Davis 2001).

City of Davis parks support athletic, community, and arts activities and offer amenities such as amphitheaters, softball fields, picnic areas that can host large groups, playgrounds, and four community aquatic facilities. The City of Davis also maintains an extensive network of bikeways on and off-street. Additionally, open spaces, including bike and pedestrian trails, are available on the UC Davis campus.

City of Woodland

The City of Woodland maintains over 160 acres of parks and recreation areas, along with two swimming pools that collectively serve more than 45,000 users each year. The City of Woodland's park system includes neighborhood, community, and regional parks offering amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, basketball courts, restrooms, community centers, and other specialized facilities. In addition to parks, the City of Woodland manages a 22-acre historic cemetery and a summer camp at Camp Packer Creek in the Tahoe National Forest (City of Woodland 2017).

Sacramento River

The WDCWA Joint Intake Facility is located in the Sacramento River, which supports multiple water-based recreational activities within the city of Sacramento, including fishing, boating, and waterskiing. Additional recreational activities include hiking and camping, all enhanced by views of the Sacramento River. Public amenities include the Elkhorn Boat Launching Facility in Sacramento County, which offers a boat ramp, picnic areas, restrooms, and a scenic overlook, as well as Elkhorn Regional Park in Yolo County, a 55-acre park with fishing, boating, bird watching, and picnic facilities. Both parks have established hours and operating conditions in association with river safety.

3.8.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federal statutes, regulations, plans, or policies govern recreation-related considerations applicable to the proposed Project.

State

No state statutes, regulations, plans, or policies govern recreation-related considerations applicable to the proposed Project.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Public Facilities and Services Element of the Yolo County General Plan both provide information and policy guidance to ensure that infrastructure and services will be sufficient to support existing and new development in Yolo County (Yolo County 2009). The Yolo County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element includes the following policies intended to connect an accessible open space system with communities separated by agriculture and natural spaces, linked by a network of trails (Yolo County 2009):

Policy PF-3.2: Design sustainable parks and recreational facilities that complement nearby land uses and serve all segments of the community

Policy PF-3.4: Create greenbelts to connect schools, community parks, and residential areas in unincorporated communities wherever possible. Connect community parks to existing trails, walkways, and bikeways where feasible.

Policy CO-1.1: Expand and enhance an integrated network of open space to support recreation, natural resources, historic and tribal resources, habitat, water management, aesthetics, and other beneficial uses.

Policy CO-1.2: Develop a connected system of recreational trails to link communities and parks throughout the county.

Policy CO-1.3: Create a network of regional parks and open space corridors that highlight unique resources and recreational opportunities for a variety of users.

Policy CO-1.11: Coordinate the development of recreation areas and public open space with regional trail planning.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) includes the following relevant policy related to the proposed Project:

Policy POS 1.1: Use systematic and comprehensive planning to guide the development, operation and allocation of resources for all City parks, facilities, and recreation programs.

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland General Plan (City of Woodland 2017) includes the following relevant policies related to the proposed Project:

Policy 5.C.3: Ensure that the development of parks and recreation facilities keeps pace with development and growth within the city. Of the total acreage, strive to achieve and maintain a standard of 6.0 acres of parks per 1,000 residents for the development of City-owned park facilities.

Policy 6.B.9: Ensure parks and recreational facilities are safe for all users, accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, provide safe drinking water, and meet the needs of Woodland's diverse community through design and amenities. As needed, evaluate and enhance street lighting along bicycle and pedestrian routes to encourage walking and biking.

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) includes the following objectives regarding the growth and maintenance of both recreational facilities and spaces relevant to the proposed Project:

Access to Recreational Open Space: Preserve access to recreational open space for the campus community and large public events and tournaments.

Expand Open Space Network: Increase multi-modal connectivity between the various reserve lands, especially along the old North Fork, along Garrod Road and Old Davis Road; Preserve land for the Putah Creek Picnic Grounds and Camp Putah activities.

Expand Open Space Network: Provide gracious open spaces along the neighborhood edges; integrate open spaces throughout the neighborhood; provide neighborhood pocket parks and grand central greens for the greater community.

3.8.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

The proposed Project would result in a significant impact on recreation if it would do any of the following:

- a) 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; or
- b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Methodology and Assumptions

The proposed Project's location and components were reviewed relative to the location and capacity of parks and recreational facilities within an approximately 15-mile radius of the proposed Project site to determine whether proposed Project-caused changes would be significant.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.8-1 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

**TABLE 3.8-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON RECREATION**

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.8-1: The proposed Project could 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.	NI
3.8-2: The proposed Project could include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.	NI
Notes: NI = No Impact Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026	

Impact 3.8-1: The proposed Project could 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. (No Impact)

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA’s allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. The proposed Project would not result in any new or significant change in long-term hydrology of the river or significant operational changes that would result in the increased use or deterioration of any recreational resources. Therefore, water flows and water surface elevations in the Sacramento River would be nominal, and there would be no impact on existing recreational facilities.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.8-2: The proposed Project could include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. (No Impact)

The proposed Project would not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities and would not occur within historical fluctuations in river hydrology. As discussed in Impact 3.8-1, the proposed Project would not increase the use of or negatively affect recreational activities on the Sacramento River or nearby facilities in the cities of Woodland and Davis or at UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA’s allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. No construction is proposed to implement the proposed Project as the

proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Therefore, changes in water flows and water surface elevations in the Sacramento River would be nominal, and would not include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.9 Tribal Cultural Resources

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to tribal cultural resources. The section describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.9.1 Setting

Study Area

The study area for tribal cultural resources for the proposed Project encompasses the WDCWA's service area, including the city of Woodland, the city of Davis, and UC Davis's campus boundary, which borders the city of Davis.

Environmental Setting

Contemporary Setting

California Native American tribes (tribes) have knowledge and expertise that is necessary to identify and define tribal cultural resources. Tribes are the stewards of their culture and are uniquely positioned to interpret the significance of material remains, landscapes, and other aspects of the environment in this context.

The study area is located on land traditionally inhabited by Patwin peoples whose territory included the lower portion of the west side of the Sacramento Valley west of the Sacramento River from about the location of the town of Princeton in the north to the city of Benicia in the south. Today, descendants of the Patwin peoples live in their ancestral lands or on tribal lands set aside by the federal government in California for tribes. Contemporary tribes with cultural heritage to the study area include Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Because tribal territories are fluid and overlapping, the NAHC also identified Maidu people of the Tsi Akim Maidu of the Taylorsville Rancheria, Nisenan (Southern Maidu) and Miwok people of the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, and Nisenan and Miwok people of Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation as potentially having cultural heritage to the study area.

All of these tribes today maintain and embody their culture, heritage, values, and history through ceremony, language, traditional knowledge instruction, land stewardship, community service, and tribal governance. For example, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation farms 3,000 acres, manages 800 head of cattle on 20,000 acres in Capay Valley through a sustainable grazing program, and has more than 1,200 acres of tribal land in permanent conservation easements.

3.9.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federal regulations specifically address tribal cultural resources.

State

Public Resources Code

AB 52, enacted in September 2014, amended CEQA to explicitly recognize that tribes have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices. AB 52 has been codified as PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21074, and 21084.2, and established a new category of cultural resources known as tribal cultural resources in order for state and local agencies to consider tribal cultural values when determining impacts on cultural resources. PRC Section 21074(a) defines a *tribal cultural resource* as any of the following:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or
 - Included in a *local register of historical resources*, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k).¹
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c).² In applying these criteria, the lead agency would consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
- A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of CEQA Section 21074(a)³ is also a tribal cultural resource if the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope.
- A historical resource as described in CEQA Section 21084.1,⁴ a unique archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Section 21083.2,⁵ or a non-unique archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Section 21083.2⁶ may also be a tribal cultural resource if it meets the criteria of CEQA Section 21074(a).

AB 52 requires lead agencies to analyze project impacts on “tribal cultural resources” separately from archaeological resources (PRC Sections 21074, 21083.09), in recognition that archaeological resources have cultural values beyond their ability to yield data important to prehistory or history. AB 52 also

¹ PRC Section 5020.1(k) defines “local register of historical resources” as “a list of properties officially designated or recognized as historically significant by a local government pursuant to a local ordinance or resolution.”

² The criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c) include whether a resource: “(1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage. (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past. (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values. (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.”

³ A cultural landscape meets the criteria of PRC Section 21074(a) if it either is “included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources” or is “included in a local register of historical resources” pursuant to Section 5020.1(k).

⁴ PRC Section 21084.1 defines a *historical resource* as “a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources.”

⁵ PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines *unique archaeological resource* as “an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria: (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information. (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type. (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.”

⁶ PRC Section 21083.2(h) defines *non-unique archaeological resource* as “an archaeological artifact, object, or site which does not meet the criteria in subdivision (g).”

defines *tribal cultural resources* in PRC Section 21074 (see above) and requires lead agencies to engage in additional consultation procedures with respect to tribes (PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, and 21082.3).

Native American Heritage Commission

The NAHC identifies and manages a catalog of places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans. This database, known as the Sacred Lands File, is a compilation of information on known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands and other places of cultural or religious significance to the Native American community. The NAHC also performs other duties regarding the preservation and accessibility of sacred sites and burials, and the disposition of Native American human remains and burial items.

PRC Sections 5097.9–5097.991 describe the duties and role of the NAHC and requires the cooperation of state and local agencies in carrying out their duties with respect to Native American resources.

Tribal Cultural Resources Identified within the Project Site and Surrounding Area

The 2007 EIR and the 2015 SEIR were certified before tribal consultation was a requirement as per AB 52. As such, tribal consultation was not conducted for the original project. ESA contacted the California NAHC on May 12, 2026, to request a search of their Sacred Lands File and a list of Native American tribes in the vicinity who may have an interest in the proposed Project. On May 14, 2026, the NAHC responded stating that the file search was positive for sacred sites in the vicinity of Woodland, Davis, and UC Davis. The NAHC also provided contact information for 16 tribal representatives from seven tribes for additional information.

On June 15, 2026 WDCWA sent letters via certified mail to the 16 tribal representatives identified by the NAHC. These letters included information about the Project and offered the opportunity to consult with WDCWA on the Project as per AB 52. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation responded on July 8, 2026, and requested to continue to receive updated on the proposed project. Tribal consultation is ongoing.

3.9.3 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in significant impacts on tribal cultural resources if it would do any of the following:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:
 - i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or

- ii. A resource determined by the Lead Agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c).

Methodology and Assumptions

The following impact analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed changes included in the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR is considered sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project, no additional environmental review is provided.

Summary of Applicable 2007 EIR Mitigation Measures

As discussed in the impact analysis provided below, the following 2007 EIR mitigation measures would be applicable to the Project—note that the 2007 EIR used the term “Project Partners” to refer to the DWWSP applicants. That language is no longer applicable and was revised in the 2015 SEIR as the following measures:

2007 EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1: The following tasks shall be conducted, where appropriate, by the Applicant. The tasks described satisfy not only CEQA, but federal rules and regulations as well (in particular, Section 106 of NHPA [National Historic Preservation Act] and its implementing regulations). Collectively, these tasks represent a cultural resource management approach designed to ensure compliance with applicable General Plans, CEQA, and federal rules and regulations.

Task I. Site-Specific Historic Properties Identification

- A. Upon selection of a preferred diversion/intake pipeline option, the Applicant, where appropriate, shall complete the identification process per 36 CFR [Code of Federal Regulations] Part 800.4 (which includes, among other identification efforts, a Class I literature search and a Class III field survey) in the area of potential effect (APE) for a specific undertaking. A Class III pedestrian survey will not be required when:
 - a. The California Historical Information System and SHPO [State Historic Preservation Officer] agree that previous cultural resources surveys have already adequately identified historic properties, or
 - b. The California Historical Information System and SHPO agree that previous disturbance has eliminated the possibility of identifying historic properties.
- B. An undertaking shall be considered to exist, and an APE shall be defined, when the Applicant, directly or through the issuance of appropriate permits, undertake construction of the facilities identified in project development and construction plans. The APE will be the land area affected by construction of new facilities, from the point of diversion at the Sacramento River, along pipelines, and at water treatment and storage facilities;
- C. Where the Applicant conduct an intensive (Class III) inventory, required consultation with California SHPO shall be undertaken and coordinated by the lead federal agency with approval authority over Project features.

Task II. Assessing Effects

- A. The lead agency, in consultation with SHPO, will assess the effects of the undertaking on properties that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP [National Register]. If the Applicant, and federal lead agency, determine that construction and operation of the project would result

in unavoidable effects, or an adverse effect, to historic properties within the APE, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, then the lead agency, other interested parties, the Applicant, and SHPO will consult to resolve the adverse effect (see Task III below).

Task III. Treating Effects

- A. The Applicant shall implement one or more of the following measures for treating effects to historic properties:
 - a. Avoid effects through redesign of the project;
 - b. Avoid effects by not executing the proposed contract;
 - c. If avoidance is not feasible, mitigate effects through measures such as data recovery or archival documentation (for example, the Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record). The Applicant, in consultation with the lead federal agency, SHPO, the Advisory Council, and other interested agencies, shall work together to find measures to mitigate the effects of a particular undertaking on historic properties. The Applicant shall develop plans to implement the agreed upon mitigating measures and shall submit such plans, in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement, to the SHPO, the Advisory Council, and interested agencies for review and comment.
- B. The Applicant shall ensure that any mitigating measures agreed on during the consultation will be included as a specification in Project development. Mitigation measures will be completed before the start of ground disturbing activities that would affect the physical integrity of an historic resource. Mitigating measures for visual, audible, or atmospheric effects will be completed before completion of Project construction.

Task IV. Properties Discovered During Implementation of an Undertaking

- A. If a previously undiscovered historic property is inadvertently encountered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the property except that necessary to secure and protect the property will cease until the Applicant can secure assistance from a professional archaeologist who evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate effects to the discovery. Evaluation and mitigation will be carried out in consultation with the federal lead agency and SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.11(b)(2)(ii).
- B. If human remains are discovered during archaeological survey, any archaeological testing or data recovery or any construction activities, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease except to secure and protect the remains. The Applicant or their consulting archaeologist will immediately notify the County Coroner, per State law. As well, the Applicant shall ensure that any human remains and grave-associated artifacts discovered are also managed in accordance with California Statutes, their chapters and sections, which include but are not necessarily limited to: Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, and 5097.99 of the Public Resources Code.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.9-1 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

TABLE 3.9-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.9-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074.	LTSM
Notes: LTSM = less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures; PRC = Public Resources Code Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026	

Impact 3.9-1: Implementation of the proposed Project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074. (*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*)

The proposed Project does not include any ground disturbance, construction, or modification of existing infrastructure or facilities. As such, the proposed Project has no potential to impact archaeological resources that may also be tribal cultural resources. Additionally, no tribal cultural resources were identified during tribal consultation, including those that may not be archaeological resources. Therefore, there are no known tribal cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Project. However, if archaeological resources that may also be tribal cultural resources are identified, the 2007 EIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1 is applicable to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measure 3.9-1: Implement 2007 DWWSP DEIR Mitigation Measure 3.14-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant.

3.10 Utilities and Service Systems

3.10.1 Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to utilities and service systems, such as water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste facilities. The section describes the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used in evaluating these impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.10.2 Environmental Setting

Study Area

The proposed Project would be in Yolo County, California and overlaps WDCWA's service area, which includes the cities of Woodland, the city of Davis, and UC Davis.

Water Supply

Water supply in unincorporated Yolo County is limited and primarily supplied through private wells and surface water rights. The main sources of surface water supply in Yolo County are the Sacramento River, Colusa Basin Drain, Putah Creek, Cache Creek, Yolo Bypass, Tule Canal, Willow Slough, and the Tehama-Colusa Canal (Yolo County 2009). The City of Woodland Public Works Department, the City of Davis Public Works – Utilities and Operations Department, and the UC Davis Utilities Division currently provide municipal water to their respective service areas through city and university water supply systems.

Treated water from the WDCWA Regional Water Treatment Facility (RWTF) is the primary source of drinking water used by the cities of Woodland and Davis and also provides a source of drinking water for UC Davis (City of Woodland 2017; City of Davis 2021; UC Davis 2026a). WDCWA currently relies on the Sacramento River for its entire water supply, totaling up to 55,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), appropriated by WDCWA through Water Right Permit 20281 and Water Right Licenses 904A and 5487A, discussed in detail in Section 2.1.2, *Project Background*. WDCWA does not currently use groundwater and has no plans to use groundwater as a water supply due to water quality concerns. However, the cities of Woodland and Davis, as well as UC Davis, all operate independent groundwater wells that supplement their water needs (City of Woodland 2017; City of Davis 2021; UC Davis 2026a). Woodland also operates aquifer storage and recovery wells to improve short-term drought resiliency and long-term water supply reliability by storing treated Sacramento River water from WDCWA in the underground aquifer when water is abundant (winter) for use during peak demand (summer) or drought.

As discussed in Section 2.1.3, *Project Purpose and Objectives*, since the Davis Woodland Water Supply Project (DWWSP) began operations in July 2016, WDCWA's ability to meet water demand in its service area has varied year-to-year. In dry years when diversion restrictions and curtailments are enforced, WDCWA's primary and secondary water rights could be insufficient to meet water demand in WDCWA's service area. WDCWA's total water supply is estimated to be approximately 33,999 AFY in 2030 and is planned to increase up to 42,469 AFY in 2050 following a RWTF expansion project that is anticipated to be completed in 2045 (WDCWA 2025). **Table 3.10-1** provides a comparison of

WDCWA’s total water supply and water demand from 2025 through 2045 during a normal water year (i.e., a year when no Term 91 curtailment or Shasta Critical Year conditions are in effect).

TABLE 3.10-1
WDCWA NORMAL YEAR SUPPLY AND DEMAND COMPARISON

Total Type	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Supply Total	33,999	33,999	33,999	42,469	42,469
Demand Total	25,161	26,133	26,445	26,458	27,072
Difference	+ 8,838	+ 7,886	+ 7,554	+ 15,711	+ 15,397

Notes: WDCWA = Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency
All values are presented in acre-feet.
Source: WDCWA 2026

In a single-dry year, WDCWA’s base supply is projected to be reduced to approximately 60 percent due to an expected 233 days of Term 91 curtailment coupled with Shasta Critical Year conditions, which will restrict both WDCWA’s primary and secondary water rights (WDCWA 2021). **Table 3.10-2** provides a comparison of WDCWA’s total water supply and water demand from 2025 through 2045 during a single-dry water year (i.e., a year when a Term 91 curtailment coupled with Shasta Critical Year conditions is in effect, including under a Drought Protection Program 50-percent reduction).

TABLE 3.10-2
WDCWA SINGLE-DRY YEAR SUPPLY AND DEMAND COMPARISON

Total Type	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Supply Total	17,596	17,596	17,596	17,596	17,596
Demand Total	25,161	26,133	26,455	26,758	27,072
Difference	- 7,565	- 8,537	- 8,849	- 9,162	- 9,476

Notes: WDCWA = Woodland–Davis Clean Water Agency
All values are presented in acre-feet.
Source: WDCWA 2026

Based on the historical 5-consecutive-dry-year period between 2012 and 2016, WDCWA’s base supply is not projected to be reduced in the first year of the 5-consecutive-dry-year period. However, in the second year of the dry period, WDCWA’s base supply is projected to be reduced to approximately 70 percent availability, followed by a reduction down to 60 percent availability in the third year (shown in Table 3.13-2), 61 percent availability in the fourth year, and 95 percent availability in the fifth year (WDCWA 2021).

Wastewater Service

The cities of Woodland and Davis provide wastewater services through their respective public works departments; service areas typically include the incorporated city and surrounding area where incorporation is anticipated (City of Davis 2001; City of Woodland 2017). UC Davis owns and maintains a wastewater treatment plant to serve its own needs (UC Davis 2026b) while wastewater treatment needs in unincorporated areas of Yolo County are typically served by private septic systems (Yolo County 2009).

The City of Davis's wastewater treatment plant is permitted to treat up to 7.5 mgd of wastewater. The existing treatment system design capacity is 6 mgd based on average dry weather flow. There are two permitted discharge points from the plant. Treated effluent is discharged to the Willow Slough Bypass and the Conaway Ranch Toe Drain. The Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant treats water at the tertiary level, effluent is then reused in the wetlands to support habitat (City of Davis 2026a). The City of Woodland's wastewater treatment plant is located in the southeastern portion of the city. The City of Woodland completed expansion and tertiary treatment improvement projects in 2008. The expansion project increased the average dry weather flow capacity of the wastewater treatment plant from 7.8 mgd to 10.4 mgd; the tertiary treatment improvements included the installation of an ultraviolet disinfection system and new cloth-disc filters (City of Woodland 2017). UC Davis provides wastewater services to its campuses and facilities, and wastewater is sent to the UC Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. UC Davis generates approximately 1.2 million gallons of wastewater each day. The wastewater treatment plant is in the southern portion of the UC Davis campus. The overall treatment process is made up of six steps that sanitize the wastewater before releasing it into Putah Creek (UC Davis 2026b).

Stormwater Management

Drainage facilities in unincorporated Yolo County are limited, and localized flooding frequently occurs. Runoff is typically directed to on-site ditches that convey water to roadside ditches used by most agricultural land uses. Runoff in these areas slowly percolates into the soil or is eventually directed into various sloughs, streams, and other waterways (Yolo County 2009).

The City of Davis's storm drain system is managed by the City's Stormwater Operations and Environmental Resources Divisions. The system is composed of on-street storm drain inlets, underground stormwater pipes, stormwater detention ponds, drainage channels, and stormwater lift stations, which have natural soil surfaces and vegetation so some of the stormwater can infiltrate into the soil; the remaining runoff eventually flows into the Sacramento River (City of Davis 2026b). The city of Woodland's storm drain is managed by the Public Works Department; the system includes a network of gutters, ditches, and catch basins. The storm drain system conveys runoff by gravity through various canals, trunk lines, and pump stations and eventually into the Yolo Bypass, the Tule Canal, and then the Sacramento River (City of Woodland 2017). The UC Davis drainage system is managed by UC Davis Environmental Health and Safety; the system redirects rainwater collected on campus to the UC Davis Arboretum waterway. The system includes approximately 80 miles of underground pipes (UC Davis 2026b).

Electric Power and Natural Gas

Yolo County, including the cities of Woodland and Davis, is provided with electricity and natural gas services by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Primary facilities include two major north-south transmission line corridors and a natural gas transmission line aligned along the Capay Hills (Yolo County 2009). Electricity and natural gas services are provided to the UC Davis campus by the UC Davis Utilities Division, which has its own on-site natural gas and electricity transmission facilities (UC Davis 2026c).

Telecommunications

Fixed broadband providers in Yolo County include AT&T, Verizon, Astound Broadband, and Xfinity, among others; mobile broadband providers include AT&T, Project Gensis, T-Mobile, and Verizon (FCC 2026). Cable TV providers include Astound Broadband, Comcast, and Cableview Communications (Yolo County 2009). The UC Davis Utilities Divisions also provide telecommunications services to the UC Davis campus through their on-site utility systems (UC Davis 2026c).

Solid Waste Management

Waste management in the City of Davis is provided Recology Davis (City of Davis 2006) while in the City of Woodland, these services are provided by a franchise agreement with Waste Management (City of Woodland 2017). Yolo County does not provide curbside collection services, but solid waste and recycling hauling services are provided by franchise agreements with both Waste Management of Woodland and Davis Waste Removal. Solid waste in the cities of Woodland and Davis and most areas of the unincorporated county is primarily transported to the Yolo County Central Landfill. This 722-acre facility is a Class III solid waste landfill, which provides comprehensive solid waste and recycling services, including municipal solid waste, recycling, salvaging, household hazardous waste, and business hazardous waste. At the current waste disposal rate, the landfill's closure date is estimated as January 1, 2081 (Yolo County 2009).

UC Davis operates its own solid waste collection and recycling service, with material being sent primarily to the UC Davis Landfill. This 39-acre facility is a Class III solid waste landfill, which provides solid waste disposal and green waste processing for waste generated on the campus and the medical facility in Sacramento. Under its current permit, the UC Davis landfill is expected to close on January 1, 2040 (UC Davis 2026d).

3.10.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (U.S. Code Title 42, Section 6901 et seq.) outlines regulations for municipal solid waste landfills and requires states to implement their own permitting programs incorporating the federal landfill criteria. The federal regulations address the location, operations, design, groundwater monitoring, and closure of landfills. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's waste management regulations are listed in Code of Federal Regulations Volume 40, Parts 239–282. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subtitle D is implemented in California through California Code of Regulations Title 27 and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act, the principal federal law intended to ensure the safety of drinking water for the public, was enacted in 1974 and has been amended several times. The law authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to set national standards for drinking water, called the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, to protect against both naturally occurring and human-made contaminants. These standards set enforceable maximum contaminant levels in drinking water and require all water providers in the U.S. to treat water to remove contaminants, except for private wells serving

fewer than 25 people. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board conducts most enforcement activities. If a water system does not meet standards, it is the water supplier's responsibility to notify its customers.

State

California Code of Regulations Title 22

CCR Title 22 outlines various standards and requirements for the identification, collection, transport, disposal, and recycling of hazardous and universal wastes. *Universal waste*, as defined in CCR Title 22, Section 66273.9, includes batteries, electronic devices, mercury-containing equipment, lamps, cathode ray tubes, and aerosol cans. The regulations mandate recycling, recovery, the return of spent items to the manufacturer, or disposal at an appropriately permitted facility. Title 22, Division 4.5 also sets forth restrictions and standards relevant to waste destination facilities and provides authorization requirements for various waste handlers. Title 22 includes California's Universal Waste Rule and other additional waste handling and disposal requirements.

California Code of Regulations Title 27

CCR Title 27 defines regulations for the treatment, storage, processing, and disposal of solid waste. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains and regulates compliance with Title 27. Compliance with the proposed Project would be enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

California Government Code

Section 4216 of the California Government Code protects underground structures during excavation. This law requires state and local agencies to contact a regional notification center before excavating for subsurface installations to identify and protect existing underground infrastructure. Under this law, excavators must delineate the planned excavation site and contact their regional notification center at least 2 working days before excavations. The proposed Project site's regional notification center is Underground Service Alert North 811.

California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989

California's Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939; Public Resources Code Section 40050 et seq.) requires each jurisdiction in the state to divert at least 50 percent of its waste away from landfills through either waste reduction or recycling. Diversion includes waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. This law led to the creation of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, which oversees and assists local governments in their development and implementation of plans to comply with the law and subsequent legislation.

California Urban Water Management Planning Act

The California Urban Water Management Planning Act (California Water Code Section 10610) states that each urban water supplier that provides water to 3,000 or more customers, or that provides more than 3,000 acre-feet (AF) (approximately 980 million gallons) of water annually, must prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and update it every 5 years to ensure that its water service is sufficiently reliable to meet the needs of its various categories of customers during normal, dry, and multiple dry

years. The law describes the contents of UWMPs and requires each agency's UWMP to assess the reliability of the agency's water resources over a 20-year planning horizon.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (Yolo County 2009) outlines goals and policies intended to ensure that infrastructure and services will be sufficient to support existing and new development in Yolo County. Consistent with these goals and policies, the proposed Project will include maintenance of existing infrastructure to support the proposed uses. The following goals and policies related to utilities and service systems are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal PF-1: Wastewater Management. Provide efficient and sustainable solutions for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.

Policy PF-1.1: Require discretionary projects to demonstrate adequate long-term wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal capacity, including full funding for land acquisition, facility design and construction, and long-term operations and maintenance for needed wastewater treatment and disposal facilities. Where such funding is dependent upon a community vote, approval of the project by the County shall be contingent upon a successful voting outcome.

Goal PF-2: Stormwater Management. Provide efficient and sustainable stormwater management to reduce local flooding in existing and planned land uses.

Goal PF-9: Solid Waste and Recycling. Provide safe, cost-efficient, and environmentally responsible solid waste management.

Policy PF-9.1: Meet or exceed State waste diversion requirements.

Goal PF-11: Utilities and Communications. Support a flexible network of utility services to sustain state-of-the-art community livability and economic growth.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to utilities in the Community Facilities and Services Element. The general plan discusses public utilities including water, solid waste, and recycling; telecommunications; and various other public services. The following goals and policies related to utilities and service systems are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal WATER 1: Minimize increases in water use. Reduce per capita water consumption by 20 percent as compared to historic use through programs encouraging water conservation.

Goal WATER 2: Ensure sufficient supply of high-quality water for the Davis Planning Area.

Policy WATER 2.1: Provide for the current and long-range water needs of the Davis Planning Area, and for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater resources.

Goal WATER 5: Remain within the capacity of the City wastewater treatment plant.

Goal MAT 1: Enhance the quality of the environment by conserving resources and minimizing waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, and re-buying.

Policy MAT 1.1: Promote reduced consumption of non-renewable resources.

GOAL MAT 2: Provide adequate waste disposal capacity for Davis.

Policy MAT 2.1: Plan for long-term waste disposal needs of Davis.

City of Davis Urban 2020 Water Management Plan

The City of Davis Urban Water Management Plan (City of Davis 2026) d includes a description of the water supply sources, historical and projected water use, and a comparison of water supply water demands during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. It also includes a summary of the City's water conservation efforts and the updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP).

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017) outlines goals and policies related to utilities in the Public Facilities and Services Element. The general plan discusses public utilities including water supply and demand, waste collection and treatment, storm drainage facilities, solid waste collection and disposal, and other utilities. The following goals and policies related to utilities and service systems are relevant to the proposed Project:

Goal 5.F: Public Utilities and Services. Ensure the timely development of public facilities, provision of public services, and the maintenance of specified service levels for these facilities.

Goal 5.G: Safe, Reliable, and Sufficient Potable Water. Maintain a safe, reliable, and sufficient potable water supply and delivery system that meets the needs of the city.

Policy 5.G.1: Potable Water Supply and cost Recovery. Provide potable water to the existing Woodland community. Ensure that potable water capacity (including surface water treatment capacity and Aquifer Storage and Recovery well capacity) is available to serve planned urban development within the planning area consistent with the General Plan. Accommodate increase in water demand from the existing community with the capital costs and benefits allocated equitably and fairly between existing users and new users, as authorized by law. Remain in compliance with existing and new water quality regulations.

Policy 5.G.9: Regional Partnerships. Partner with Yolo County, WDCWA, the City of Davis, and other public agencies in countywide watershed management efforts and water efficiency and conservation programs and projects, such as the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Goal 5.H: Wastewater Collection, Treatment, Disposal, and Reuse. Ensure that adequate wastewater collection, treatment, recycling and disposal facilities are provided in a timely fashion to serve existing and future needs.

Goal 5.I: Stormwater Management. Maintain the City's storm drainage system and promote best management practices to protect from flooding, enhance water quality, prevent infrastructure deterioration, and comply with State and federal laws.

Goal 5.J: Solid Waste Collection, Transfer, Recycling, and Disposal. Provide adequate solid waste services for the collection, transfer, recycling, and disposal of refuse.

Policy 5.J.1: Waste collection. Provide adequate solid waste services, and promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, recycling, composting, and environmentally safe transformation of wastes.

Goal 5.K: Provision of Other Utilities. Promote adequate levels of utility services provided by private companies and ensure that these are constructed to minimize negative effects on surrounding development and neighborhoods.

City of Woodland 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

The City of Woodland 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (City of Woodland 2026) discusses how the City manages its water system and evaluates current and future demand, available supplies, and long-term reliability. The Woodland water supplies include surface water from the Sacramento River, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells, and standard groundwater wells. The plan outlines conservation requirements and demand management measures, and includes a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to guide responses during drought or supply interruptions

UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan

UC Davis maintains and operates a complex network of infrastructure in support of the academic mission and the built environment. The UC Davis 2018 Long Range Development Plan (UC Davis 2018) outlines various objectives related to these built systems to improve sustainability, resiliency, and conservation. The following objectives related to utilities and service systems are relevant to the proposed Project:

Encourage Sustainable Architecture: Promote more sustainable buildings; when renovating existing buildings, update the building systems as well; when feasible replace ‘temporary buildings’ with more energy efficient structures; when designing new structures promote the use of more sustainable systems to reduce overall energy.

Resilient Water Supply: Preserve access to water; foster greater resiliency with regards to water supply; consider water recycling programs to conserve and reuse natural resources; explore possible uses of reclaimed water from the sewage treatment plant; consider the integration of gray water collection and treatment systems to minimize impact on the sewage treatment plant and to reduce demands on the aquifer.

Conserve Water: Protect aquifer as a resource for future generations; enhance water conservation programs for all campus systems, especially the core campus irrigation system. Conserve domestic water to minimize diversion of water from deep aquifers, the Sacramento River and Putah Creek.

Foster Green Infrastructure: Continue to integrate storm water treatment basins throughout campus to reduce flood impact, improve water quality, recharge local aquifers, and integrate drought-tolerant landscapes across the campus.

Preserve Air Quality: Foster the production of more renewable energy to preserve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; continue to reduce average energy use across all segments of campus; develop programs to reduce and divert waste from land fill; support campus composting and recycling programs.

WDCWA 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

The WDCWA2025 Urban Water Management Plan (WDCWA 2026) outlines how WDCWA will meet current and future water demand by evaluating supplies, demand projections, and system reliability over time. It documents compliance with state conservation requirements, assesses supply availability under normal and drought conditions, and includes a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to manage potential shortages. Projects from the plan related to water supply are presented in Tables 3.10-1 and 3.10-2.

3.10.4 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in significant impacts on utilities or service systems if it would do any of the following:

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years;
- c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Issues Not Analyzed Further in This Draft SEIR

The proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR related to the following issue areas included under the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist for utility and service systems:

- Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

As discussed in Chapter 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations and water demands, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution.

As the proposed Project does not include construction activities and there would be no changes to the intensity of existing operations, it would not require the construction or relocation of any new or expanded utility facilities or result in an increase of the levels of wastewater or solid waste generated at existing WDCWA facilities under ongoing operation and maintenance activities. Existing levels of operational waste at WDCWA facilities would continue to be sent to the Yolo County Landfill, which currently has adequate capacity and is anticipated to remain open until January 1, 2081 (Yolo County 2009). Consistent with the 2007 DWWSP EIR, water transfers are not anticipated to result in the generation of wastewater or solid waste, or result in activities that could violate federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste as they would generally consist of operational changes to existing facilities to allow for water source diversification, rather than new waste-generating activities. As a result, the proposed Project would not result in any new or more significant impacts than those identified and assessed in the 2007 DWWSP EIR. Therefore, these resource topics are not discussed further.

Although not part of the current CEQA Appendix G Checklist for utilities and service systems, the 2007 DWWSP EIR considered the following issue area:

- Construction of the Project would result in conflict with other existing utilities, causing interference with their operation or function.

As discussed previously, the proposed Project does not include construction activities; therefore, no impacts related to construction activities would occur. In addition, consistent with the 2007 DWWSP EIR, operation of the proposed Project would not conflict with other existing utilities in the Project area.

Consistent with the 2007 DWWSP EIR, implementation of the proposed Project would not be expected to result in significant long-term groundwater level declines or the loss of existing groundwater wells. In fact, the decrease in groundwater pumping for municipal use and replacement with surface water has stabilized local groundwater levels. Water would be made available for transfer by the Sellers through a variety of measures including reservoir reoperation, groundwater substitution, water conservation measures, and water supply source diversification. Groundwater wells used for groundwater substitution by the Sellers would be infrequent. Their use would only occur when Term 91 curtailment or a Shasta Critical Year designation is in effect and would be limited to the periods and amounts listed in the water transfer term agreements listed previously. Water would be transferred in accordance with applicable provisions of the California Water Code, and terms and applicable conditions of the Seller's settlement contract or water right, and any conditions imposed in an order approving a transfer issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in new or more significant impacts than those identified in the 2007 DWWSP EIR, and this issue area is not discussed further.

Methodology and Assumptions

The following impact analysis evaluates the proposed Project's potential utility-related impacts and qualitatively assesses those impacts pursuant to the CEQA Appendix G Checklist. The discussion considers the potential impacts of the proposed changes associated with the proposed Project, including changed circumstances and new information requiring additional environmental review. Where existing information and analysis in the 2007 DWWSP EIR is considered sufficient to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project, no additional environmental review is provided.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.10-3 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

**TABLE 3.10-3
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Impact Statement	Impact Significance
3.10-1: The proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.	NI
Notes: NI= No Impact Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026	

Impact 3.10-1: The Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. (No Impact)

As discussed in Section 3.10.2, *Environmental Setting*, and shown in Tables 3.10-1 and 3.10-2, during dry years when Term 91 curtailment or a Shasta Critical Year designation is in effect, WDCWA is unable to meet its entire water demand. This deficit is projected to increase over the 2045 planning horizon, peaking at a deficit of approximately 3,094 AF. As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is required to implement the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (RWTF), and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. Potential water transfer amounts, timing, and conditions applicable under proposed LTWT agreements are shown in Table 2-3. Transfers would generally occur between November 1 and March 31 and April 1 and October 31. Winter transfers would not exceed 2,000 AF, while summer transfers, depending on agreement conditions, would range from 3,000 to 6,000 AF. As a result, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in a reduction in available water supplies or otherwise adversely affect water supply availability or reliability. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

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3.11 Wildfire

Wildfire is defined as an *unplanned unwanted wildland fire* in California Government Code Section 51177. Wildland fires affect grasslands, forests, and brushlands, as well as any structures on these lands, and carry the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damage. Such fires can occur from either human-generated factors or natural causes. The type and amount of fuel, topography, and weather are the primary factors influencing the degree of fire risk in an area.

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to wildfire, including potential impacts on emergency response or emergency evacuation plans, exposure of Project occupants to pollutants from or the spread of wildfire, the exacerbation of fire risk, and the exposure of people or structures to other significant wildfire risks. This section identifies the physical and regulatory setting, the criteria used to evaluate the significance of potential impacts, the methods used to evaluate impacts, and the results of the impact assessment.

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

Study Area

The study area for this analysis of wildfire risk, emergency response and evacuation, and post-fire pollution and runoff-related impacts includes WDCWA's service area, including the Joint Intake Facility, the cities of Woodland and Davis, UC Davis, and the connecting pipelines.

Setting

Fire behavior is dependent upon fuels (e.g., vegetation), weather (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity), and topography (e.g., slope, elevation, and aspect). The combination of these factors, described in detail below, influences the degree of risk if a fire occurs in the study area and can either help or hinder its spread.

Topography

Topography describes the shape of the land and can include descriptions of elevation (height above sea level), slope (the steepness of the land), aspect (the direction a slope faces), and features such as canyons and valleys. Topography can strongly influence fire behavior, including the speed at which a fire travels through an area: fire typically moves faster as it travels uphill than when it moves downhill or across flat terrain. As heat rises in front of a fire, it preheats and dries upslope fuels, resulting in their rapid combustion (Bennett 2010).

The southern and eastern portions of Yolo County are characterized by relatively level valley floor landscapes, with minimal topographic changes (Yolo County OES 2024a). These areas encompass WDCWA's service area, or the proposed Project area.

Vegetation/Fuels

Fuel is the material that feeds fire and is a key factor in wildfire behavior. Fuel sources are diverse and include dead tree leaves, twigs, branches, and standing trees; live trees; brush; and dry grasses. Additional fuel sources can include structures such as homes, buildings, and other associated combustible materials.

The amount of fuel—known as *fuel loading* and expressed in tons per acre—and its vertical and horizontal arrangement affect fire intensity and the ability of surface flames to spread. The size, moisture, and chemical content of fuels also influence combustion and fire behavior (Bennett 2010).

Wildland fire danger varies throughout Yolo County. As discussed previously, Yolo County is characterized by relatively level, valley floor landscapes to the south and east. This area of Yolo County is comprised mainly of agricultural crops, grasslands, and some grass/shrub lands. This lack of topography and complex fuels leads to very little severe fire behavior on the valley floor. WDCWA's service area encompasses the cities of Woodland, Davis, and UC Davis, which are not in areas at high risk for wildland fires (**Figure 2-1**). The proposed Project area is primarily urban, surrounded by agriculture (CAL FIRE 2025).

Weather/Climate

Weather conditions such as wind, temperature, and humidity also contribute to fire behavior. Fuels located in hotter and drier temperatures are more susceptible to ignition and catch fire more readily than fuels located in moister and/or cooler temperature conditions.

Yolo County, including WDCWA's service area, is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Historically, average temperatures ranged from lows between 30 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in December to highs of 95°F in July. In recent years, Yolo County has experienced longer and drier summer conditions with higher seasonal average temperatures year-round. The 12-month average temperature increased from 1.9°F from 1900 to 2002, leading to wildfires of greater frequency, larger size, and longer duration (Yolo County RCD 2023).

Impacts of Wildfire on Air Quality

As wildfires burn fuel, large amounts of carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors are released into the atmosphere.¹ Wildfires also emit a substantial amount of volatile and semi-volatile organic materials and nitrogen oxides that form ozone and organic particulate matter. These emissions can lead to harmful exposures for first responders, nearby residents, and populations in regions that are farther from the wildfires (NOAA 2025). Exposure to these pollutants can cause asthma attacks, coughing, and shortness of breath, and chronic exposure to these pollutants can increase the risk of developing chronic health conditions.

Fire History

Since 1950, there have been approximately 85 fires greater than 100 acres in Yolo County. Most of these fires occurred in the western third of the County, outside of the proposed Project area. The largest fire to date was the Hennessy Fire, which was part of the Lake–Napa Unit Lighting Complex in 2020. It originated outside of the county and burned a total of 334,000 acres, 75,662 of which were in Yolo County. There are three major fires on record known to have been caused by natural ignition (lightning);

¹ *Black carbon*, also known as soot, is a short-lived climate pollutant and a major component of particulate matter pollution, formed through the incomplete combustion of fuels like fossil fuels, wood, and biomass. *Brown carbon* is a type of light-absorbing organic aerosol, primarily emitted through biomass burning, that contributes to climate change and affects air quality. *Ozone precursors* are chemical compounds that react in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone.

the causes of the remainder were either human ignition (e.g., arson, improper equipment use, powerline issues, escaped campfires, fireworks) or of unknown origin.

The fire nearest to the proposed Project area, located approximately 4 miles west of the city of Woodland, occurred in 2006. Nearly 14,000 acres were affected before the fire was contained. The cause of the fire has not been identified (CAL FIRE 2025).

CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Designations

The State of California (through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CAL FIRE]) has the primary legal and financial responsibility for the prevention and suppression of wildland fires in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). CAL FIRE has designated and mapped Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in SRAs, which range from “moderate” to “very high,” to indicate risk and severity of wildfire. The nearest FHSZ in any jurisdiction is located 12 miles west of the city of Woodland (CAL FIRE 2026). A Local Responsibility Area is located 4 miles west of the city of Woodland at the site of the 2006 wildfire, discussed previously (CAL FIRE 2026).

Fire Protection Services

Yolo County maintains an Emergency Operations Center, which is the central location used to manage disasters or other large-scale emergencies in the County (Yolo County 2009). Overall emergency response is governed by two plans: the Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan, which describes overall emergency response responsibilities, and the Yolo Operational Area Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was developed in response to a Federal Emergency Management Agency mandate to describe specific disasters and possible responses. The Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan was last updated in 2024, and the Yolo Operational Area Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was last updated in 2023 (Yolo County OES 2024b, 2023). A Wildfire Hazard Annex and Firefighting Annex were prepared in support of the Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan (Yolo County OES 2024a, 2024c). The cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis have independent firefighting agencies (Yolo County OES 2024c).

3.11.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federal regulations regarding wildfire are applicable to the proposed Project.

State

CAL FIRE Strategic Fire Plan for California

The *CAL FIRE Strategic Plan 2024: Transforming Tomorrow*, was developed by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and is CAL FIRE’s 5-year strategic plan that builds on the goals and objectives of the previous strategic plans. The plan’s goals include the following (CAL FIRE 2024):

- (1) Attract, hire, and retain quality employees.
- (2) Ensure all employees understand how the Department’s various programs and job duties contribute towards efficiently achieving the CAL FIRE mission.
- (3) Promote a culture that values equitable access, embraces diverse backgrounds and experiences, and actively removes barriers to cultivate a more inclusive environment.

- (4) Leverage technology to modernize internal human resources processes and create efficient and effective innovative solutions to promote, support, and enhance the employee experience.
- (5) Strengthen the Department's physical and digital infrastructure and streamline equitable access to information across core services.
- (6) Identify core capabilities and strengthen operational capacity.

California State Emergency Plan

Pursuant to the Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550 et seq.), California has developed an emergency response plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, state, and local governmental agencies and private entities. It provides an overview of how the state prepares, mitigates, responds, and recovers from emergencies in California. Administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the plan aids in guiding state agencies, local jurisdictions, and the public on emergency management, including, but not limited to, rapid responses to incidents involving wildfire and other natural or human-caused incidents. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services coordinates the responses of other agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, regional water quality control boards, local air districts, and local agencies (Cal OES 2024). The California State Emergency Plan describes the state's hazards and vulnerabilities, provision of mutual aid, emergency response capabilities of state agencies, resource mobilization, public information, and continuity of government during an emergency or disaster.

California Fire Code

The 2022 California Fire Code, the most recent fire code, is contained within Title 24, Part 9 of the California Code of Regulations. Similar to the International Fire Code and the California Building Code, the California Fire Code uses a hazards classification system to determine the appropriate measures to incorporate to protect life and property. The California Fire Code is based on the International Fire Code and regulates use, handling, and storage requirements for hazardous materials at fixed facilities. It is an enforceable set of regulations consistent with nationally recognized and accepted practices for safeguarding life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion; dangerous conditions arising from the storage, handling, and use of hazardous materials and devices; and hazardous conditions in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.

Regional and Local

Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan

The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan establishes policies and programs to protect the community from risk associated with emergency management and response, as well as fire hazards. The Fire Hazards section within the Health and Safety Element is designed to help ensure that new development is constructed to minimize potential fire hazards, minimize the risk of fire in already developed areas, and to provide public education concerning fire prevention (Yolo County 2009). Relevant goals and policies from this planning document include the following:

GOAL HS-3 Wildland Fires. Protect the public and reduce damage to property from wildfire hazard.

Action HS-A40: Require land divisions within the very high and high risk Fire Hazard Severity Zones to demonstrate the following:

- guaranteed availability of adequate water;
- provision of more than one access point for firefighting equipment;
- permanent maintenance of defensible space around all buildings; and
- use of fire-resistant materials in construction. (Policy HS-3.1)

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan (City of Davis 2001) outlines goals and policies related to fire protection. Regarding fire protection, the general plan includes the goals that calls for the provision of fire protection services and adequate response times in the city of Davis; however, no specific policies in the planning document are applicable to the proposed Project.

City of Woodland 2035 General Plan

The City of Woodland 2035 General Plan (City of Woodland 2017a) outlines goals and policies related to fire protection services. The general plan advocates for a comprehensive program of fire protection services to protect residents and visitors from fires. The general plan does not include any goals or policies applicable to the proposed Project.

3.11.3 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

A project would result in significant impacts on wildfire if it would do any of the following:

- a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;
- b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire;
- c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Methodology and Assumptions

Impacts associated with wildfire are generally evaluated within the context of the effectiveness of standard wildfire risk abatement methods as they relate to a project site, as determined by site-specific conditions and circumstances. No construction impacts or operational changes are associated with the proposed Project.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 3.11-1 summarizes the impact conclusions presented in this section for reference.

**TABLE 3.11-1
SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS ON WILDFIRE**

Impact Statement	Level of Significance
3.11-1: The proposed Project could substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	NI
3.11-2: The proposed Project could (due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors) exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.	NI
3.11-3: The proposed Project could require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	NI
3.11-4: The proposed Project could expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.	NI

Notes: NI = No impact

Source: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2026.

Impact 3.11-1: The proposed Project could substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. (*No Impact*)

As discussed in Section 2.2, *Project Implementation*, no construction is proposed as part of the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing diversion, treatment, and transmission facilities to deliver treated water to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. Given that the proposed Project would not result in any physical changes during construction or operation, the proposed Project would not physically impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.11-2: The proposed Project could (due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors) exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. (*No Impact*)

As discussed in Impact 3.11-1, no physical components requiring construction are associated with the proposed Project. The proposed Project would use existing infrastructure, would not divert water in a manner that would exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in physical changes that could exacerbate wildfire risks, and the proposed Project would not contribute to

water shortages that could contribute to the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.11-3: The proposed Project could require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. (No Impact)

As discussed, the proposed Project would not result in the construction of any additional infrastructure. Surface water transfers would not exceed WDCWA's allotted right to divert 55,000 AFY and occur only to meet water demands during dry-year conditions, Term 91 curtailment periods, and Shasta Critical Year conditions, including under a DPP 50-percent reduction scenario. Consistent with existing WDCWA operations, surface water would be diverted at the existing Joint Intake Facility, pumped to the RWTF, and treated to meet state drinking water standards. Treated water would then be conveyed through the DWWSP treated water transmission lines to the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis for distribution. The proposed Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure. As a result, the proposed Project would not exacerbate fire risks or result in temporary or ongoing impacts on the environment due to the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

Impact 3.11-4: The proposed Project could expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. (No Impact)

As discussed, the proposed Project would not result in the construction of any additional infrastructure or changes to operation activities, or the intensity of which they occur. As a result, the proposed Project would not exacerbate the risk of flooding, landslides, runoff, or post-fire slope instability, and it would not result in drainage changes. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation: None required.

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CHAPTER 4

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CHAPTER 5

Report Preparation

5.1 Lead Agency

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Joshua M. Horowitz, Legal Counsel

5.2 Consultant

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Todd Gordon	Project Manager; Overall Quality Assurance/Quality Control; Introduction; Introduction to the Environmental Analysis; Alternatives
Emily Kline	Deputy Project Manager; Population and Housing; Wildfire; Other CEQA Considerations
Rudy Reyes	Energy; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Utilities and Service Systems
Ashleigh Sims	Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
Nicole Dunkley	Aquatic Biological Resources
Raynisha Fields	Recreation
Paul Begman	Aquatic Biological Resources
Ashleigh Sims, M.A., RPA	Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

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