



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# **Contra Costa Water District Water Transfer to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts**

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
CGB-FONSI-2021-034**

## **Mission Statements**

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**  
**South-Central California Area Office, Fresno, California**

**CGB-FONSI-2021-034**

**Contra Costa Water District Water Transfer to Del  
Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and  
Westlands Water Districts**

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# Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which is supported by Reclamation's attached Environmental Assessment (EA) CGB-EA-2021-034, Contra Costa Water District Water Transfer to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts, hereby incorporated by reference.

## Background

Much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout the State. Both the State and Federal water projects are forecasting very low storage conditions in all major reservoirs.

Consequently, Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts need to find alternative sources of water to fulfill existing demands in order to stave off devastating impacts to crop production, regional economy, jobs, and disadvantaged communities, etc. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide Contra Costa Water District's allocated Central Valley Project water to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley, and Westlands Water Districts for existing agricultural and municipal and industrial purposes.

## Alternatives Considered

### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the transfer of Contra Costa Water District's Central Valley Project water to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts. Contra Costa Water District would take delivery of the 11,000 acre-feet of their 2021 allocated Central Valley Project water as scheduled instead of using 11,000 acre-feet of water stored in Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts would need to find other supplemental water supplies to meet the needs of their customers.

### Proposed Action

Reclamation will approve the transfer of up to 11,000 acre-feet of Contra Costa Water District's 2021 allocated Central Valley Project water to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water District. Under the transfer, Contra Costa Water District would not take delivery

of the 11,000 acre-feet of its 2021 allocated Central Valley Project water previously scheduled for diversion from the Delta, rather, the Central Valley Project water would be diverted by Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant for delivery to Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts. In lieu of the transferred water, Contra Costa would use up to 11,000 acre-feet of its previously stored Central Valley Project water in Los Vaqueros Reservoir to meet in-district needs.

Of the 11,000 AF of transferred water, Santa Clara Valley Water District would receive up to 5,000 acre-feet, and Del Puerto, Panoche, and Westlands Water Districts would each receive up to 2,000 acre-feet. The transferred water would be received through each of the district's respective points of delivery from Central Valley Project facilities for use within their existing Central Valley Project service areas. No construction or modification of facilities would be required to complete the Proposed Action.

The delivery of the transferred water is anticipated to take place between July and November 2021. The timing and rate of the water transfer would be determined in close coordination amongst the transfer participants and Reclamation operations of the Jones Pumping Plant. Diversion of Contra Costa Water District's allocated Central Valley Project water at Jones Pumping Plant and use within Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley and Westlands Water Districts' Central Valley Project service areas is authorized under existing Central Valley Project water rights.

### **Environmental Commitments**

Contra Costa, Del Puerto, Panoche, Santa Clara Valley, and Westlands Water Districts shall implement the environmental protection measures to avoid or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- The water would not be used to place untilled or native lands into production, or to convert lands that have been fallowed or untilled for three or more years.
- The proposed Action cannot alter the flow of natural waterways or natural watercourses such as rivers, streams, creek, ponds, pools, wetlands, etc., that would result in the detrimental effect on fish or wildlife or species habitats.
- No land use conversions would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Water supplies made available for transfer would not reduce the water supplies available to Contra Costa's existing customers.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

# Comments on the EA

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EA between May 26, 2021 and June 10, 2021. No comments were received.

## Findings

In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation considered potential short-term and long-term effects of the Proposed Action, both beneficial and adverse. Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant, with respect to the affected environment and degree of effects of the action (40 CFR 1501.3(b)).

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iii)).
2. The Proposed Action will not violate federal, state, tribal, or local law protecting the environment (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iv)).
3. The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum – July 2, 1993).
4. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898 – February 11, 1994).
5. The Proposed Action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 – May 24, 1996 and 512 DM 3 – June 5, 1998).