



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

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

**CGB-EA-2021-034**

**Final Environmental Assessment**

## **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.

# Contents

	Page
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.....	3
<b>2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 No Action Alternative.....	3
2.2 Proposed Action.....	3
2.2.1 Environmental Commitments.....	4
<b>3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis .....	4
3.1.1 Air Quality .....	5
3.1.2 Agricultural Resources .....	5
3.1.3 Climate Change.....	5
3.1.4 Cultural Resources.....	5
3.1.5 Environmental Justice.....	5
3.1.6 Indian Sacred Sites.....	5
3.1.7 Indian Trust Assets.....	5
3.1.8 Land Use and Planning.....	6
3.2 Biological Resources .....	6
3.2.1 Affected Environment.....	6
3.2.2 Environmental Consequences .....	11
3.2.2.1 No Action .....	11
3.2.2.2 Proposed Action .....	11
3.3 Water Resources.....	12
3.3.1 Affected Environment.....	12
3.3.2 Environmental Consequences .....	12
3.3.2.1 No Action .....	12
3.3.2.2 Proposed Action .....	12
<b>4 Consultation and Coordination</b> .....	<b>13</b>
4.1 Public Involvement.....	13
Figure 1. Proposed Action Area .....	2
Table 1. Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species.....	6

# 1 Introduction

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of Interior Regulations (42 CFR Part 46), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed transfer of up to 11,000 acre-feet (AF) of Contra Costa Water District's (Contra Costa's) 2021 allocated Central Valley Project (CVP) water to Del Puerto Water District (Del Puerto), Panoche Water District (Panoche), Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), and Westlands Water District (Westlands). Completion of the NEPA process does not constitute approval of a proposal. Actual approval would be done through a separate process once the environmental review is complete.

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. Changes between this Final EA and the Draft EA, which are not minor editorial changes, are indicated by vertical lines in the left margin of this document.

## 1.1 Background

Contra Costa encompasses more than 214 square miles and provides municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply to a population of approximately 500,000 in Central and East Contra Costa County. Contra Costa is an in-Delta water user and diverts both CVP water and water under its own water rights from Delta drinking water intakes located at Rock Slough, Old River near Highway 4, Middle River at Victoria Canal, and Mallard Slough (Figure 1). In addition, Contra Costa owns and operates Los Vaqueros Reservoir, a 160,000 AF off-stream reservoir, that allows Contra Costa to manage water quality for its customers and adjust timing of Delta diversions to accommodate the life cycles of Delta aquatic species. Water is diverted to storage in Los Vaqueros pursuant to water rights held by Reclamation or Contra Costa.

Del Puerto is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor located in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties. Del Puerto has a CVP contract for up to 140,210 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 40,000 acres of agricultural lands.

Panoche is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor located in both Merced and Fresno Counties. Panoche has a CVP contract for up to 94,000 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 38,000 acres of agricultural lands.

Valley Water is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor that provides stream stewardship, wholesale water supply and flood protection for Santa Clara County, California. Valley Water encompasses all of the county's 1,300 square miles and serves the area's 15 cities, 2 million residents and more than 200,000 commuters. Valley Water has a contract supply of up to 152,500 AF of CVP water that is used for both municipal and industrial (M&I) and agricultural purposes.

Westlands is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. Westlands has a CVP contract supply of up to 1,195,383 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 570,000 acres of agricultural lands.



Figure 1. Proposed Action Area

## 1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

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.

On February 23, 2021, Reclamation announced the CVP's initial 2021 water allocation ([Reclamation News Release February 23, 2021](#)). On March 23, 2021, Reclamation announced an update to the initial CVP 2021 water supply allocation for agricultural water service contractors south-of-Delta ([Reclamation News Release March 23, 2021](#)). Under the March 23, 2021 update the initial 5 percent allocation to south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors was not available for delivery until further notice and M&I CVP contractor's allocations were set to 55 percent of their historic use or public health and safety needs whichever is greater. Conditions have not improved this year and allocations are likely to change.

Consequently, Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water and Westlands 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. In addition, Valley Water's Anderson Reservoir is currently unavailable as the reservoir has been required to be emptied due to seismic concerns, therefore, drastically limiting Valley Water's available water M&I water supply. Valley Water needs to find alternative sources of water to meet existing public health and safety needs.

The purpose of the proposed transfer is to provide Contra Costa's allocated CVP water to Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water, and Westlands for existing agricultural and M&I purposes.

## 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action

### 2.1 No Action Alternative

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

### 2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the transfer of up to 11,000 AF of Contra Costa's 2021 allocated CVP water to Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water, and Westlands. Under the transfer, Contra Costa would not take delivery of the 11,000 AF of its 2021 allocated CVP water previously scheduled for diversion from the Delta, rather, the CVP water would be diverted by Reclamation at Jones

Pumping Plant for delivery to Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water and Westlands. In lieu of the transferred water, Contra Costa would use up to 11,000 AF of its previously stored CVP water in Los Vaqueros Reservoir to meet in-district needs.

Of the 11,000 AF of transferred water, Valley Water would receive up to 5,000 AF, and Del Puerto, Panoche, and Westlands would each receive up to 2,000 AF. The transferred water would be received through each of the district's respective points of delivery from CVP facilities for use within their existing CVP 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's allocated CVP water at Jones Pumping Plant and use within Valley Water, Del Puerto, Panoche, and Westlands' CVP service areas is authorized under existing CVP water rights.

### **2.2.1 Environmental Commitments**

Contra Costa, Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water, and Westlands 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.

## **3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

### **3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis**

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action did not have the potential to cause adverse effects to the following resources:

### **3.1.1 Air Quality**

Under the Proposed Action, water supplies would continue to be conveyed through existing facilities either via gravity or electric pumps which would not produce air pollutant emissions that impact air quality. In addition, there would be no construction or modification of facilities that could result in emissions therefore, the Proposed Action would not exceed de minimis levels and a general conformity analysis is not required.

### **3.1.2 Agricultural Resources**

Under the Proposed Action, no new lands would be put into production. Due to the extreme water shortages for Del Puerto, Panoche and Westlands, under the Proposed Action, the transferred water to these districts would be used to irrigate existing crops. These transfers would benefit water supplies for permanent crops allowing them to survive during this water short year.

### **3.1.3 Climate Change**

No construction or modification of facilities is proposed. The amount of water to be pumped would remain the same. The 11,000 AF that would have been pumped at Contra Costa's intake would be pumped at Jones Pumping Plant instead, but power usage would be within the typical range for the facilities involved. No greenhouse gas emissions are anticipated outside normal operational fluctuations.

### **3.1.4 Cultural Resources**

There would be no impacts to cultural resources as a result of implementing the Proposed Action as the Proposed Action would facilitate the flow of water through existing facilities to existing users. No new construction or ground disturbing activities would occur as part of the Proposed Action. Reclamation has determined that these activities have no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

### **3.1.5 Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898 requires each federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its program, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor would it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.

### **3.1.6 Indian Sacred Sites**

Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) requires that federal agencies accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. The Proposed Action would not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. There would be no impacts to Indian sacred sites as a result of the Proposed Action.

### **3.1.7 Indian Trust Assets**

Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. There are no Indian reservations, rancherias or allotments in



the Proposed Action area. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is a public domain allotment about 25 miles to the south. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.

### 3.1.8 Land Use and Planning

The Proposed Action would not involve any construction or new structures that could divide a community or conflict with land use plans, policies, or zoning. There would be no change in land use.

## 3.2 Biological Resources

### 3.2.1 Affected Environment

Table 1 was prepared using lists obtained on May 21, 2021 by accessing the USFWS Database: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The lists were obtained for Westlands and Santa Clara Counties (USFWS 2021).

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2021) was also queried for the Proposed Action Area. The other fish species (all administered by NMFS), besides the delta smelt and the Central Valley steelhead, did not appear on the USFWS' species list. They have been added in, as they are known to migrate through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Proposed Action area overlaps critical habitat for the Alameda whipsnake, Antioch Dunes evening-primrose, Bay checkerspot butterfly, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, Contra Costa goldfields, Contra Costa wallflower, longhorn fairy shrimp, Marbled Murrelet, and the vernal pool fairy shrimp.

Table 1. Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
<b>Amphibians</b>		
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
California tiger salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Santa Cruz long-toed salamander ( <i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i> )	E, PX	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Birds</b>		
California Clapper Rail ( <i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
California Condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
California Least Tern ( <i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action. Occurs in Contra Costa and Santa Clara Valley Water Districts, but not found in Westlands Water District during recent surveys over a period of a few years.
Least Bell's Vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Marbled Murrelet ( <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Western Snowy Plover ( <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	T, X	This species could fly over during migration but nesting habitat (extensive cottonwood-willow riparian vegetation) is absent.
<b>Fish</b>		
Central California Coastal steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T, X (NMFS)	No effect determination; no impact to habitat.
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	T (NMFS)	Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta are a result of CVP operations and have been addressed separately under the CVP/SWP Coordinating Operations consultations (USFWS 2019; NMFS 2019)
Central Valley steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T, X (NMFS)	Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta are a result of CVP operations and have been addressed separately under the CVP/SWP Coordinating Operations consultations (USFWS 2019; NMFS 2019)
coho salmon - central CA coast ( <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> )	E, X (NMFS)	No effect determination; no impact to habitat.
delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> )	T, X	Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta are a result of CVP operations and have been addressed separately under the CVP/SWP Coordinating Operations consultations (USFWS 2019; NMFS 2019)

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
North American green sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser medirostris</i> )	T (NMFS)	Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta are a result of CVP operations and have been addressed separately under the CVP/SWP Coordinating Operations consultations (USFWS 2019; NMFS 2019)
Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	E, X (NMFS)	Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta are a result of CVP operations and have been addressed separately under the CVP/SWP Coordinating Operations consultations (USFWS 2019; NMFS 2019)
South Central California steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T, X (NMFS)	No effect determination; no impact to habitat.
tidewater goby ( <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no impact to habitat.
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
bay checkerspot butterfly ( <i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
California freshwater shrimp ( <i>Syncaris pacifica</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Callippe silverspot butterfly ( <i>Speyeria callippe callippe</i> )	E, PX	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Delta green ground beetle ( <i>Elaphrus viridis</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Lange's metalmark butterfly ( <i>Apodemia mormo langei</i> )	E, PX	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
longhorn fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Ohlone tiger beetle ( <i>Cicindela ohlone</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
San Bruno elfin butterfly ( <i>Callophrys mossii bayensis</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
valley elderberry longhorn beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
vernal pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
Zayante band-winged grasshopper ( <i>Trimerotropis infantilis</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Mammals</b>		
Fresno kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; Proposed Action Area is outside species' range.
giant kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys ingens</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
riparian brush rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i> )	E	No effect determination; Proposed Action area is outside of the species' range.
riparian woodrat ( <i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i> )	E	No effect determination; Proposed Action area is outside of the species' range.
salt marsh harvest mouse ( <i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
San Joaquin kit fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Tipton kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Plants</b>		
Antioch Dunes evening-primrose ( <i>Oenothera deltooides</i> ssp. <i>howellii</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Ben Lomond spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>hartwegiana</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Ben Lomond wallflower ( <i>Erysimum teretifolium</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
California jewelflower ( <i>Caulanthus californicus</i> )	E	No effect determination; suitable habitat not present.
California sea blite ( <i>Suaeda californica</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Colusa grass ( <i>Neostapfia colusana</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Contra Costa goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia conjugens</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Contra Costa wallflower ( <i>Erysimum capitatum</i> var. <i>angustatum</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Coyote ceanothus ( <i>Ceanothus ferrisae</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
fountain thistle ( <i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>fontinale</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
large-flowered fiddleneck ( <i>Amsinckia grandiflora</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Marin dwarf-flax ( <i>Hesperolinon congestum</i> )	T	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Marin dwarf-flax ( <i>Hesperolinon congestum</i> )	T	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Marsh sandwort ( <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Menzies' wallflower ( <i>Erysimum menziesii</i> (includes ssp. <i>yadonii</i> ))	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Metcalf Canyon jewelflower ( <i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>albidus</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Monterey spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
pallid manzanita ( <i>Arctostaphylos pallida</i> )	T	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
palmate-bracted bird's-beak ( <i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i> )	E	No effect determination; suitable habitat not present.
robust spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
San Joaquin woolly-threads ( <i>Monolopia congdonii</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
San Mateo thornmint ( <i>Acanthomintha duttonii</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
San Mateo woolly sunflower ( <i>Eriophyllum latilobum</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Santa Clara Valley dudleya ( <i>Dudleya setchellii</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Santa Cruz tarplant ( <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Scotts Valley polygonum ( <i>Polygonum hickmanii</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Scotts Valley spineflower ( <i>Scotts Valley spineflower</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
showy Indian clover ( <i>Trifolium amoenum</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
soft bird's-beak ( <i>Cordylanthus mollis</i> ssp. <i>mollis</i> )	E, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
Tiburon paintbrush ( <i>Castilleja affinis</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Reptiles</b>		

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>3</sup>
Alameda whipsnake ( <i>Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus</i> )	T, X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
blunt-nosed leopard lizard ( <i>Gambelia sila</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
giant garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> )	T	No effect determination. No land use conversion. Water would not be applied to drainage-impaired lands, and Panoche Water District no longer discharges drainage water into the San Luis Drain anyway.
East Pacific green sea turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	T (NMFS)	No effect determination; no impact to coastal habitat.
San Francisco garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i> )	E	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.

<sup>1</sup> Status = Status of federally protected species protected under the ESA.

E: Listed as Endangered

NMFS: Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service

T: Listed as Threatened

PX: Proposed critical habitat

X: Critical Habitat designated for this species

<sup>2</sup> Note that lists were for the entire county or counties that encompass the districts.

## 3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

### 3.2.2.1 No Action

The No Action Alternative would result in continued transfers and exchanges of water that are approved on a case by case basis. Each proposal would undergo separate environmental review at the time it is proposed. There would be no impacts to fish and wildlife, listed species or critical habitat.

### 3.2.2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would not alter CVP operations, water storage or release patterns from CVP facilities, or the maximum volume of water delivered to the Contractors as compared to the No Action Alternative. The transfers and exchanges are water management actions to support existing uses and conditions. No native lands would be cultivated as a result of the Proposed Action. Water would not be applied to drainage-impaired lands. Therefore, biological resource conditions under the Proposed Action would be identical to those under the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on federally listed species, critical habitat, or candidate species. Total diversions from the Delta would not change.

## 3.3 Water Resources

### 3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Action area includes the CVP service areas of Contra Costa, Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water, and Westlands as well as existing CVP facilities as shown in Figure 1.

### 3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 3.3.2.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the previously stored CVP water in Los Vaqueros would remain in storage and Contra Costa would divert its CVP water from the Delta as previously scheduled. Del Puerto, Panoche, and Westlands would need to find alternate sources of supplemental water or risk loss of permanent crop plantings. Valley Water would need to find other water supplies to reduce M&I water shortages, provide artificial recharge to support agricultural production, and limit impacts to groundwater storage.

#### 3.3.2.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Contra Costa would provide up to 11,000 AF of its previously stored CVP water supplies in lieu of diverting its allocated CVP water from the Delta. Contra Costa would then transfer up to 11,000 AF of its CVP supply (previously scheduled for delivery from the Delta) to Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water, and Westlands. The portion of CVP water that Contra Costa would have diverted at its Rock Slough Intake, Old River Intake or Middle River Intake at Victoria Canal would instead be diverted at Jones Pumping Plant during the July November period. No additional overall Delta pumping would be needed for this transfer.

When Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water and Westlands takes the transferred CVP water pumped at Jones Pumping Plant and delivered from the Delta Mendota Canal, San Luis Canal and the Pacheco Pumping Plant, the overall pumping from the south Delta would not be increased from what would have occurred absent the transfer. In addition, the Old and Middle River flows north of Contra Costa's Old River and Middle River intakes would not change as a result of the Proposed Action. As such, the Proposed Action would not affect CVP or State Water Project (SWP). The Proposed Action would not interfere with Reclamation's obligations to deliver water to other contractors, wetland habitat areas, or for other environmental purposes.

The transferred water would be brought into Del Puerto, Panoche, Valley Water and Westlands' existing infrastructure via the Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Canal or Pacheco Pumping Plant pursuant to their respective CVP water service contracts.

The transfer of CVP water would utilize existing facilities and not require new infrastructure, modifications of existing facilities, or ground disturbing activities. The water would be used for existing M&I and agricultural purposes in all the districts. No native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) would be cultivated with water involved with these actions.

## **4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 Public Involvement**

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.