



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# **Environmental Assessment**

## **Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta- Mendota Water Authority**

**California Great Basin - Interior Region CGB-EA-2021-044**

## **Mission Statements**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

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.

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Acre feet
BBID	Byron-Bethany Irrigation District
BCID	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
CVP	Central Valley Project
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
Del Puerto	Del Puerto Water District
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
OID	Oakdale Irrigation District
PID	Patterson Irrigation District
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
SSJID	South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Stockton East	Stockton East Water District
SWP	State Water Project
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WSID	West Stanislaus Irrigation District

# Section 1 Introduction

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Assessment to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental effects associated with the approval of a transfer of up to 7,500 acre feet (AF) of Stockton East's 2021 allocated Central Valley Project (CVP) water to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's member agencies (Recipients) and execution of a refill agreement with Stockton East.

## 1.1 Background

The Stockton East Water District (Stockton East) supplies raw water to be used for irrigation purposes and treats surface water for delivery to municipal uses in the greater Stockton area, including the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, and California Water Service Company. Stockton East consists of approximately 143,000 acres located in San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties. Stockton East obtains water pursuant to contracts with Reclamation from the New Hogan Project and the Eastside Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP), from New Melones Reservoir.

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) consists of 27 member agencies representing water service contractors and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors. The SLDMWA service area consists primarily of agricultural lands on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Agricultural water use occurs on approximately 850,000 irrigated acres. Water for habitat management occurs on approximately 120,000 acres of refuge lands. Relative to agricultural uses, there is limited municipal and industrial (M&I) water use in the San Joaquin Valley area. The SLDMWA does not directly supply water, but it assists its participating members to secure transfers when needed and in scheduling and managing the transferred water.

For purposes of this transfer, the purchasing agencies would be limited to those SLDMWA members within San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties (Figure 1), within the place of use for water from New Melones Reservoir (collectively, the "Recipients"). The Recipients may include:

- Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID) is a south-of Delta CVP contractor located in San Joaquin County. BCID has a CVP contract for up to 20,000 acre feet (AF) that is used to irrigate approximately 17,390 acres of agricultural lands.
- Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) is a south-of Delta CVP contractor located in San Joaquin County. BBID has a CVP contract for up to 23,100 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 20,589 acres of agricultural lands.
- Del Puerto Water District (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.

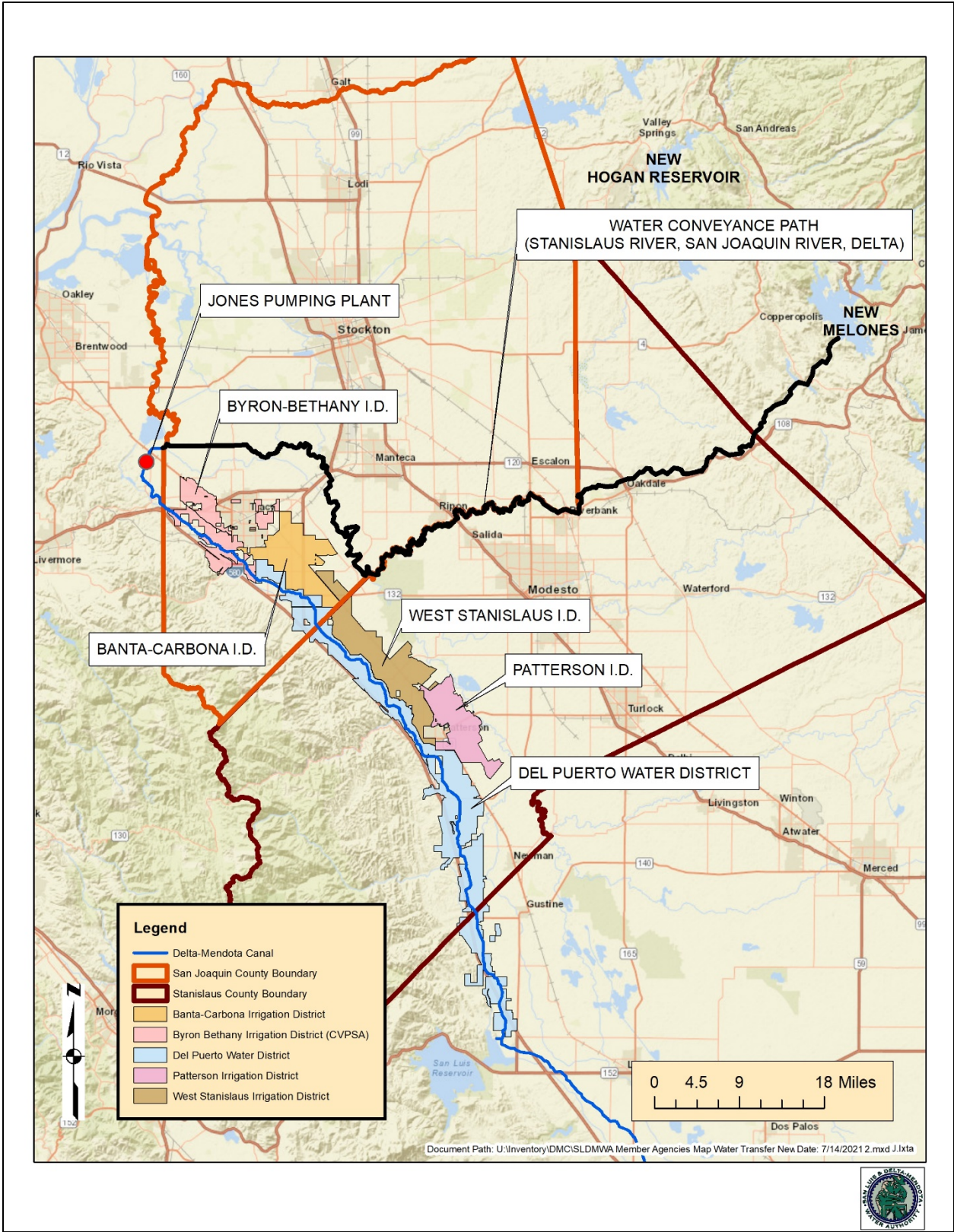


Figure 1. Recipients District Boundaries and Water Transfer Facilities.

- Patterson Irrigation District (PID) is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor located in Stanislaus County. PID has a CVP contract for up to 16,500 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 12,660 acres of agricultural lands.
- West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID) is a south-of-Delta CVP contractor located in Stanislaus County. WSID has a CVP contract for up to 20,000 AF that is used to irrigate approximately 20,000 acres of agricultural lands.

## 1.2 Need for the Proposal

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. Reclamation has reduced water allocations throughout the state as a result of these historically dry conditions.

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.

On May 26, 2021, Reclamation announced the 5 percent allocation for CVP agricultural water service contractors, which were previously suspended, was confirmed to be 0 percent ([Reclamation News Release May 26, 2021](#)). M&I contractor's allocations were reduced from 55 percent to 25 percent. Conditions have not improved this year and allocations are likely to change.

Consequently, BCID, BBID, Del Puerto, PID and WSID need to find alternative sources of water to fulfill existing demands. The purpose of the proposed transfer is to provide Stockton East's allocated CVP water to SLDMWA for existing agricultural purposes.

## Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment considers two actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

### 2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the transfer of Stockton East's CVP water to SLDMWA. Stockton East would take delivery of the 7,500 AF of their 2021 allocated CVP water as scheduled instead of using 7,500 AF of water stored in New Hogan

Reservoir. BCID, BBID, Del Puerto, PID and WSID 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 7,500 AF of Stockton East's 2021 allocated CVP water to the Recipients. Under the transfer, Stockton East would not take delivery of the 7,500 AF of its 2021 allocated CVP water previously scheduled for diversion from New Melones Reservoir. Rather, the CVP water would be diverted by Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant for delivery to the Recipients. In lieu of the transferred water, Stockton East would use up to 7,500 AF of its previously stored water in New Hogan Reservoir to meet in-district needs. Reclamation would also execute a refill agreement with Stockton East and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to ensure that New Melones Reservoir levels are not impacted during refill of New Hogan Reservoir.

The 7,500 AF of transferred water would be allocated at a minimum as follows: BCID 600 AF, Del Puerto - 4,209 AF, PID - 495 AF, BBID - 694 AF and WSID - 1501 AF. The actual allocation may vary depending on each Contractor's participation in this transfer. CVP water from New Melones can be delivered only within the counties of Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. Therefore, the water transferred by SEWD can only be used on district lands within these four counties. The transferred water would be received through each of the Recipient's respective points of delivery from the Delta-Mendota Canal, a CVP facility for use within the Recipients' existing CVP service areas. 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.

The delivery of the transferred water is anticipated to take place between August and October 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 and New Melones Reservoir. Diversion of Stockton East's allocated CVP water at Jones Pumping Plant and use within the Recipients' CVP service areas is authorized under existing CVP water rights.

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

### **3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the transfer of Stockton East's CVP water to SLDMWA. The no action alternative can be considered the future without the proposed Stockton East transfer, in which case the proposed 7,500 AF of water would stay within New Hogan Reservoir and Stockton East would utilize up to 7,500 AF of their CVP water from New Melones Reservoir. Under this alternative, demand for agricultural water would continue, regardless of the decision to be made.



## **3.2 Proposed Action**

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation proposes to approve the transfer of up to 7,500 AF of Stockton East's 2021 allocated CVP water to the Recipients.

### **3.2.1 Required Resource Discussions**

Department of Interior Regulations, Executive Orders, and Reclamation guidelines require a discussion of Indian sacred sites, Indian Trust Assets (ITAs), and Environmental Justice when preparing environmental documentation.

*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. There are no known Indian Sacred Sites within the project area, and the nature of the proposed action, the transfer of water through existing facilities, will not impact any Indian Sacred Sites even if they were present within the project area; therefore, this Proposed Action would not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites.

*Indian Trust Assets.* ITAs are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the U.S. for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. The closest ITA to the Proposed Action is the Chicken Ranch Rancheria, approximately four miles from the project area (Appendix A). Based on the nature of the planned work, the Proposed Action is not in an area that would impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights. It is reasonable to assume that the Proposed Action would not have any impacts on ITAs.

*Environmental Justice.* Executive Order 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts, including social and economic effects of its program, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The Proposed Action would not have adverse economic or social effects on any individuals or populations within the vicinity of the project. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not have disproportionately negative impacts on low-income or minority populations.

### **3.2.2 Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. Title 54 U.S. historic properties within the area of potential effects and to assess the effects that the proposed undertaking will have on those historic properties, through consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes, and other identified consulting and interested C. 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (formerly 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Historic properties are those cultural resources that are listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 for Section 106 describe the process that the Federal agency takes to identify parties.

Under the proposed action, Reclamation will approve the transfer of up to 7,500 AF of Stockton East's 2021 allocated CVP water to the Recipients, to be conveyed through existing CVP facilities. There are no new land use changes, ground disturbance activities or facility alterations proposed with this undertaking. Reclamation determined the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking, as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y), that has no potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA.

### **3.2.3 Water Resources**

#### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed 7,500 AF of water would stay within New Hogan Reservoir and Stockton East would utilize up to 7,500 AF of their CVP water from New Melones Reservoir. BCID, BBID, Del Puerto, PID and WSID would need to find alternate sources of supplemental water or risk loss of permanent crop plantings and potential economic impacts.

#### *Proposed Action*

Under the Proposed Action, Stockton East would not take delivery of 7,500 AF of its 2021 allocated CVP water previously scheduled for diversion from New Melones Reservoir. Rather, the CVP water would be diverted by Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant for delivery to the Recipients. In lieu of the transferred water, Stockton East would use up to 7,500 AF of its previously stored water in New Hogan Reservoir to meet in-district needs.

When the Recipients take the transferred CVP water pumped at Jones Pumping Plant and delivered from the Delta Mendota Canal, the overall pumping from the south Delta would be increased by 7,500 AF over what would have occurred absent the transfer. However, an additional 7,500 AF of water will have been released into the Delta from the Stanislaus River. Old and Middle River flows north of Contra Costa's Old River and Middle River intakes should not therefore change as a result of the Proposed Action. 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 BCID, BBID, Del Puerto, PID and WSID's existing infrastructure via the Delta-Mendota Canal 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 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.

Due to agricultural seepage concerns along the Stanislaus River watershed, total flows are limited to 1,500 cfs from New Melones Reservoir. The transfer of water can only be conducted when flows are below 1,500 cfs on the Stanislaus River. Seasonal flow rates on the Stanislaus River are coordinated and shaped with support from the Stanislaus Watershed Team, a multiagency team that meets monthly to discuss operations and fisheries issues on the Stanislaus River watershed.

### 3.2.4 Biological Resources

#### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the proposed transfer and no impacts to biological resources would occur.

#### *Proposed Action*

Table 1 was prepared using lists obtained on July 19, 2021 by accessing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Database: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The lists were obtained for the project area (USFWS 2021).

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2021) was also queried for the project area using the following 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles: Tracy, Midway, Pacheco Pass, Vernalis, Lone Tree Creek, Solyo, Westley, Patterson, Crows Landing, Newman, Orestimba Peak, Howard Ranch, and San Luis Dam. The Proposed Action area overlaps critical habitat for the delta smelt.

As shown in Table 1, two fish species have the potential to be present in the project area: Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) and delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*). Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta on Central Valley steelhead have been previously analyzed in the Biological Opinion on Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (NMFS 2019). Central Valley steelhead are primarily salvaged at Jones Pumping Plant between December and June. The Proposed Action would occur outside of this timeframe; therefore, no effects are anticipated from the Proposed Action on Central Valley steelhead. Effects of pumping in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta on delta smelt have been previously analyzed in the Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (USFWS 2019). Implementation of the protective measures discussed in the previous analysis were designed to minimize impacts on delta smelt and its critical habitat. Specific to this Proposed Action, no effects are anticipated on delta smelt.

Table 1. Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects
<b>Plants</b>		
Large-flowered Fiddleneck ( <i>Amsinckia grandiflora</i> )	E,X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action.
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservation</i> )	E,X	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.
<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.
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Alameda Whipsnake (= Striped Racer) ( <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 silus</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 as a result of the Proposed Action. Water would not be applied to drainage-impaired lands.
<b>Fish</b>		
Central Valley steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</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)
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)
<b>Birds</b>		
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. Water would not be applied to drainage-impaired lands.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	T,X	No effect determination; no land use conversion as a result of the Proposed Action. Water would not be applied to drainage-impaired lands.
<b>Mammals</b>		
Fresno Kangaroo Rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i> )	E,X	No effect determination; Proposed Action Area is outside species' range.
Riparian Brush Rabbit ( <i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i> )	E	No effect determination; Proposed Action Area is outside species' range.
Riparian Woodrat (= San Joaquin Valley) ( <i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i> )	E	No effect determination; Proposed Action Area is outside species' range.

San Joaquin Kit Fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	E	No effect determination; Proposed Action Area is outside species' range.
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<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

### 3.2.5 Cumulative Effects

In the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) July 16, 2020 "Update to Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" (85 FR 43304) the definition of cumulative impacts provided in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 15087 was repealed. The CEQ conveyed the position that the analysis of cumulative effects, as defined in the 1978 regulations, is not required under NEPA. This regulation update does not preclude the analysis of cumulative effects, but identifies that all analyses of environmental effects, including cumulative effects, should focus on those effects that are reasonably foreseeable and have a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed action.

Reclamation has made the determination that the effects of the Proposed Action evaluated in this EA, combined with other reasonably foreseeable projects, could combine to create a cumulative effect on CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation has also determined that there is a sufficiently close causal relationship between the Proposed Action and the cumulative effect to warrant conducting the analysis. Therefore, an analysis of this cumulative effect is provided here. In addition, since certification of the Program EIR, which included an analysis of cumulative effects that addressed CVP and SWP operations, additional information has been developed that is relevant to this cumulative impact analysis. Reclamation wishes to document this additional information in this EA.

A separate water transfer is being proposed within the same watershed and could potentially have cumulative environmental effects. Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) are proposing to provide up to 100,000 AF of their "conserved water" through stored reservoir releases from New Melones Reservoir to SLDMWA between August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021. Releases from New Melones Reservoir to the Stanislaus River would be up to 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) in August and September, with releases ramping down in October 2021. During the transfer period (August through October), water elevations in New Melones Reservoir would be lower than conditions without the transfer until the reservoir is refilled through inflows to the reservoir.

In the event that both transfers occur, Reclamation would coordinate internally on reservoir operations to ensure that the total flows within the Stanislaus River do not exceed 1,500 cfs. Timing of transfers would also be scheduled to minimize effects and/or provide potential benefits to spawning salmonids. As a result of these measures, there would be no adverse cumulative effects associated with implementation of the Proposed Action.

## Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

### 4.1 Agencies and Persons Consulted

Reclamation consulted and coordinated with SLDMWA, Stockton East, OID, and SSJID.

Reclamation intends to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EA during a 7-day public review period.

## Section 5 References

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). July 19, 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). <<https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/myaccount/login?ReturnUrl=%2fcnddb-subscriptions%2fdownloads>>

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2019. Biological Opinion on Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. <<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/biological-opinion-reinitiation-consultation-long-term-operation-central-valley>>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). July 19, 2021. IPaC Species List Generator. <<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index>>

USFWS. 2019. Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. <[https://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/documents/10182019\\_ROC\\_BO\\_final.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/documents/10182019_ROC_BO_final.pdf)>

# **Appendix A: Indian Trust Assets**

## Indian Trust Assets Request Form (California Great Basin)

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee:

William DeGrush at [wdegrush@usbr.gov](mailto:wdegrush@usbr.gov)

Date: July 20, 2021

**Requested by**

**(office/program):** Sarah Perrin, Central California Area Office

**Fund:** 21XR0680A1

**WBS:** RX035389413322400

**Region Number (if other than MP):** N/A

**Project Name:** Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

**Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) or Environmental Assessment (EA) Number:**  
CGB-EA-2021-044

**Project Description:** Reclamation proposes to approve the transfer of up to 7,500 AF of Stockton East's 2021 allocated CVP water to the Recipients: Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID), Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID), Del Puerto Water District (Del Puerto), Patterson Irrigation District (PID), and West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID). Under the transfer, Stockton East would not take delivery of the 7,500 AF of its 2021 allocated CVP water previously scheduled for diversion from New Melones Reservoir. Rather, the CVP water would be diverted by Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant for delivery to the Recipients. In lieu of the transferred water, Stockton East would use up to 7,500 AF of its previously stored water in New Hogan Reservoir to meet in-district needs. Reclamation would also execute a refill agreement with Stockton East.

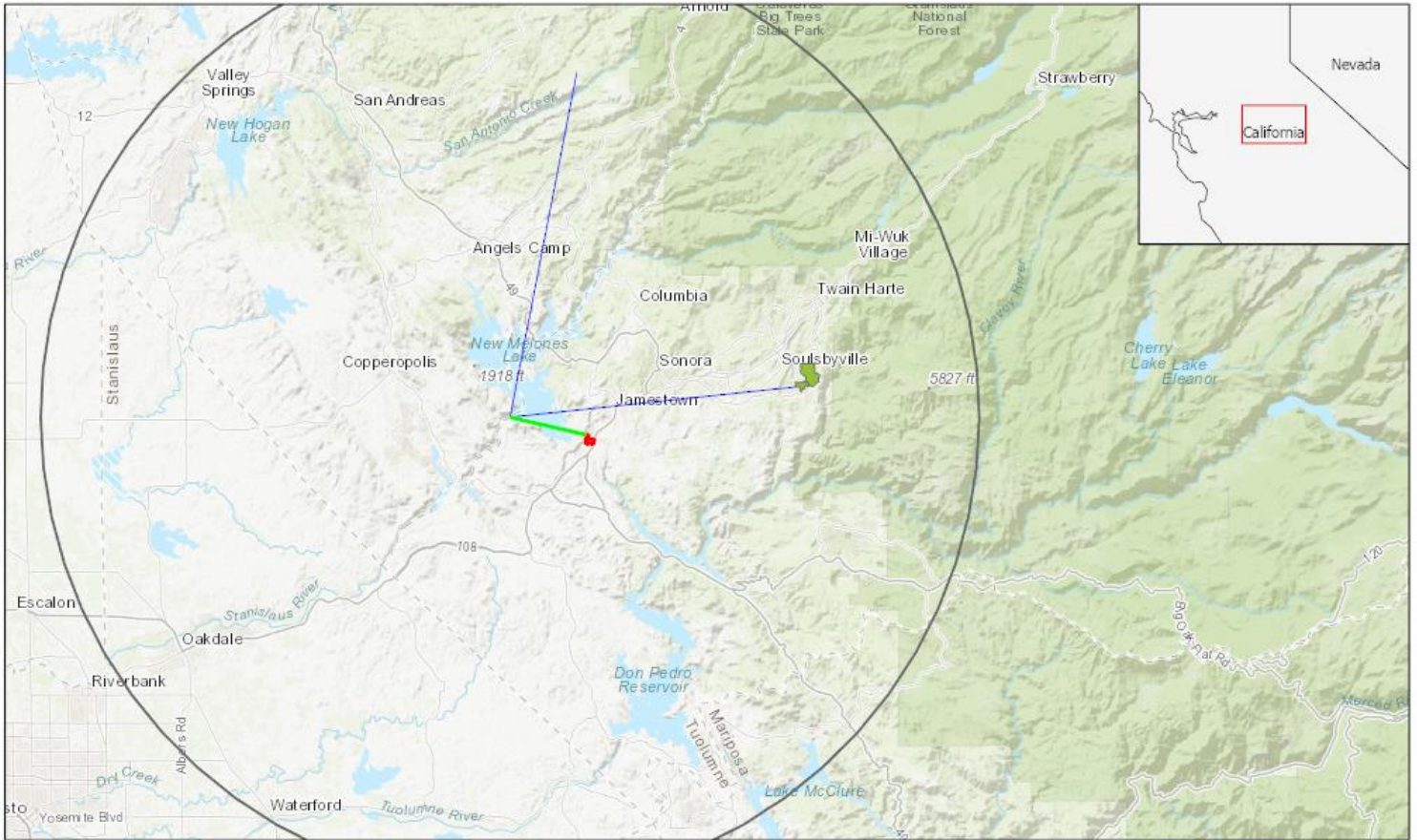
**Project Location:** Map attached





The closest ITA to the proposed **Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Project** activity is the **Chicken Ranch Rancheria** about 4 miles to the southeast using the New Melones dam as the location. Assuming the Jones Pumping Plant is the location, the closest ITA would be the Lytton Rancheria about 42 miles to the northwest. Using the southern terminus (near San Luis Reservoir) as the location of the project, the nearest ITA would be an unparcelled ITA 50H CA12519 approximately 33 miles to the southwest (see attached images).

Based on the nature of the planned work it **does not** appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action **will not** have any impacts on ITAs.

William DeGrush      William DeGrush      7/20/2021  
Signature                      Printed Name of Approver      Date



**Legend**

-  Native American Lands
-  Rancheria Rancheria

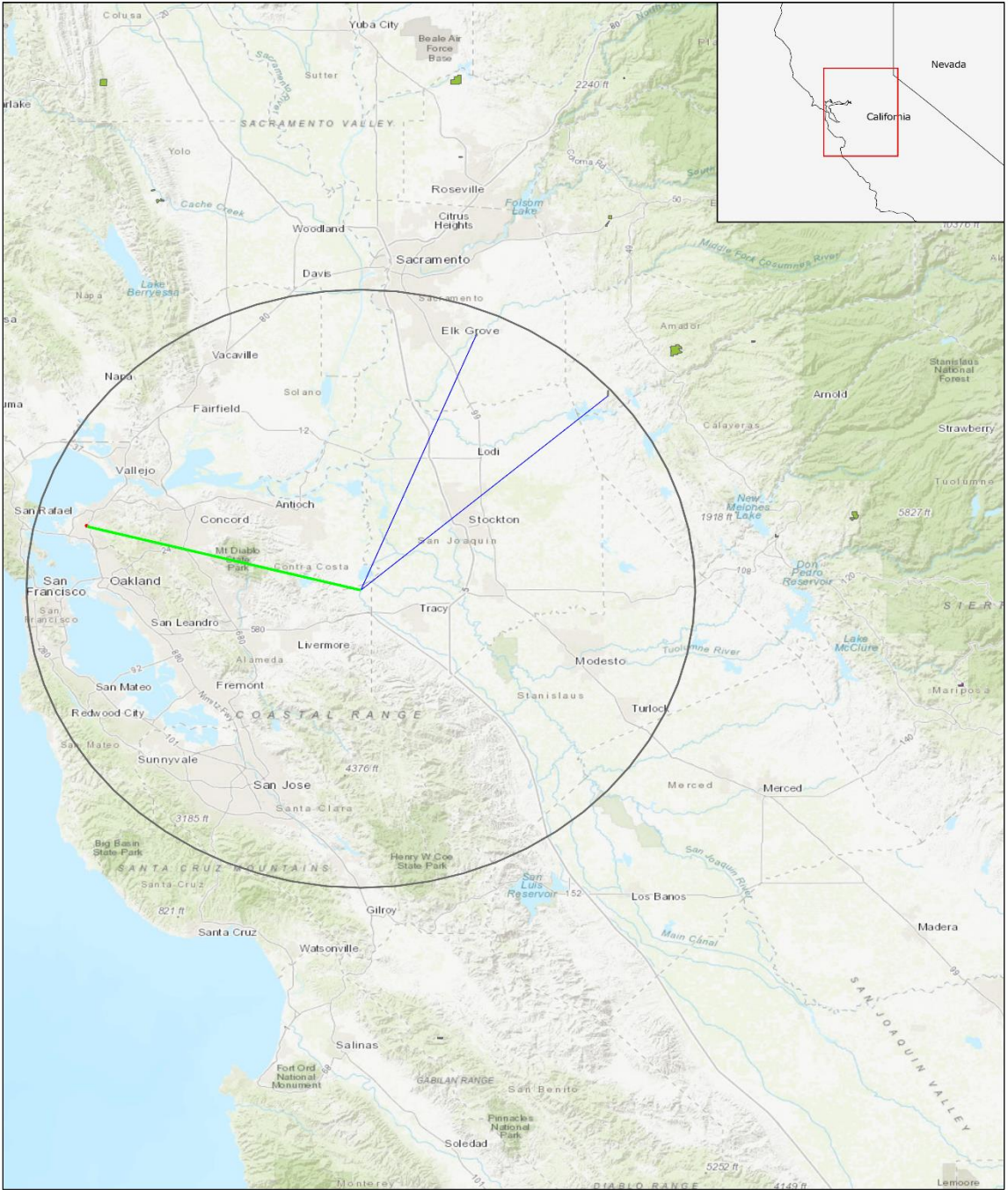


DISCLAIMER: This map and data are provided as-is and are intended for general reference only. None of the parties involved in preparing the map or data contained herein warrant or represent the data to be complete and accurate.

Date: 7/20/2021


Figure 1: ITA Map of Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority\*

\*Note that this determination assumes that New Melones Dam is the project location.



- Legend**
- Native American Lands
  - American Indian Reservation
  - PDA
  - PDA
  - Rancheria
  - Rancheria

0 10 20 mi



DISCLAIMER: This map and data are provided as-is and are intended for general reference only. None of the parties involved in preparing the map or data contained herein warrant or represent the data to be complete and accurate.

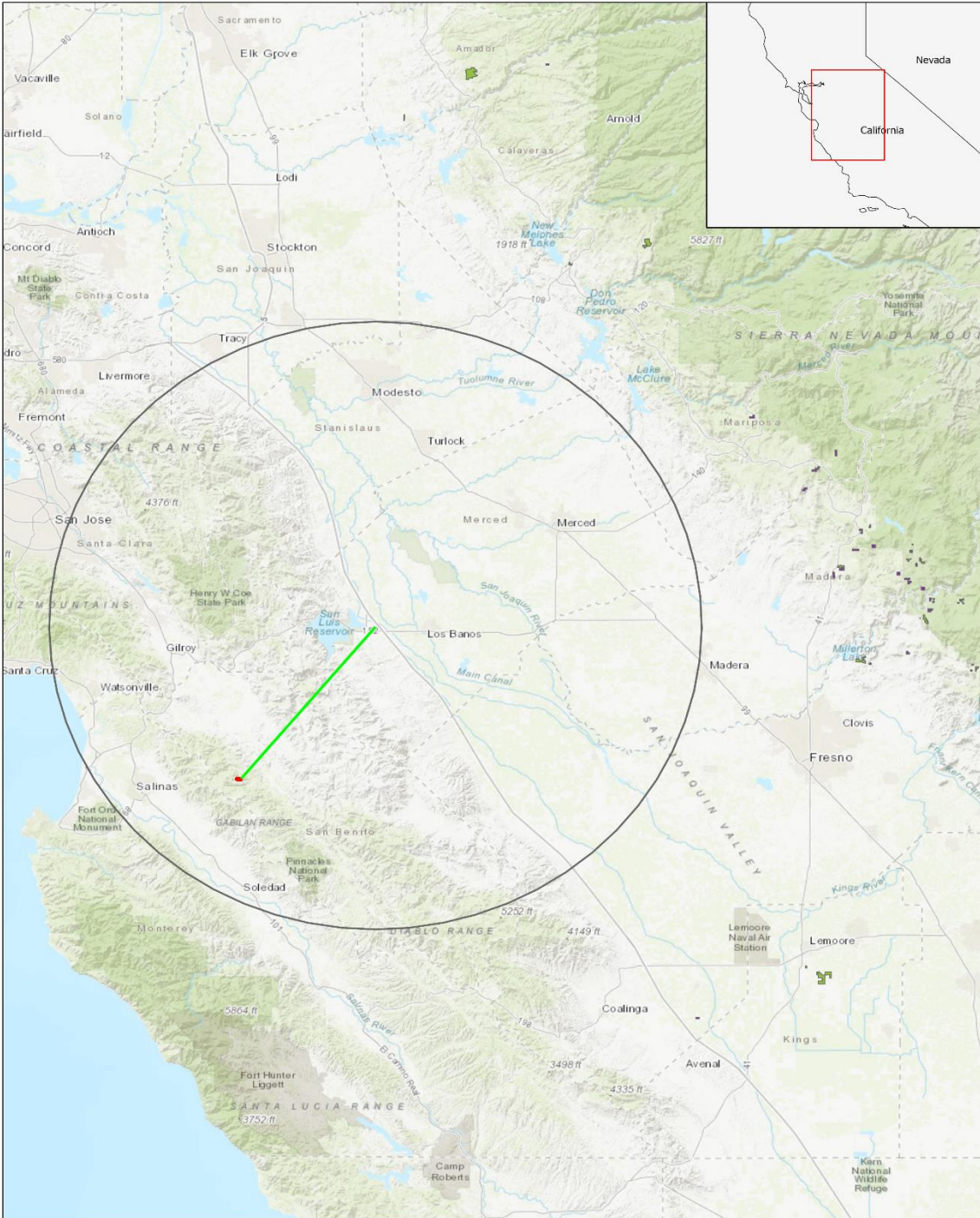
Date: 7/20/2021

Figure 2: ITA Map of Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority\*

\*Note that this determination assumes that the Jones Pumping Plant is the project location.



ITA Map CVP Water Transfer



- Legend**
- Native American Lands
  - Colony Colony
  - PDA PDA
  - Rancharia Rancharia



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Date: 7/20/2021

Figure 3: ITA Map of Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from Stockton East Water District to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority\*  
 \*Note that this determination assumes that the San Luis Reservoir is the project location.

# Appendix B: Cultural Resources

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch (CGB-153)**

**CGB-153 Tracking Number:** 21-CCAO-188

**Project Name:** Transfer of Central Valley Project (CVP) Water from Stockton East Water District (SEWD) to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority)

**NEPA Document:** CGB-EA-2021-044

**NEPA Contact:** Sarah Perrin, Natural Resource Specialist

**CGB-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

**Date:** July 19, 2021

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Reclamation proposes to approve the transfer of up to 7,500 acre-feet (AF) of SEWD's 2021 allocated CVP water to the following Authority members (also known as the Recipients): Banta-Carbona Irrigation District; Byron-Bethany Irrigation District; Del Puerto Water District; Patterson Irrigation District; and West Stanislaus Irrigation District for existing agricultural purposes. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

Under the transfer, SEWD will not take delivery of the 7,500 AF of its 2021 allocated CVP water previously scheduled for diversion from New Melones Reservoir. Rather, the CVP water will be diverted by Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant for delivery to the Recipients. In lieu of the transferred water, SEWD will use up to 7,500 AF of its previously stored water in New Hogan Reservoir to meet in-district needs. Reclamation also proposes to execute a refill agreement with SEWD. The transfer of CVP water will utilize existing facilities and not require new infrastructure, modifications of existing facilities, or ground disturbing activities. The water will be used for existing municipal and industrial and agricultural purposes in all the districts. No native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) will be cultivated with water involved with these actions and no change in land use or watershed will occur.

This document is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. I have reviewed CGB-EA-2021-044 and I concur that this action will not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 [g]). Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.