

- **Board of Directors**
Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee

January 11, 2005 Board Meeting

8-4

Subject

Approve executing a one-year water transfer option agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Description

In October 2004, the Board authorized staff to pursue up to 125,000 acre-feet of one-year water transfer option agreements to provide additional supply options to mitigate potential dry-year conditions in 2005, consistent with Metropolitan's water resource strategy outlined in its Integrated Water Resources Plan Update. Approval is now requested to execute a one-year water transfer option agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District for up to 80,000 acre-feet. This agreement has been negotiated by Metropolitan in partnership with a subset of the State Water Contractors who have expressed a desire to purchase one-year water transfer options for 2005 in accordance with the negotiating parameters discussed with the Board in October 2004. The \$5/acre-foot administrative fee and \$10/acre-foot initial option payment, approved by the Board in October 2004, have been forwarded to the State Water Project Contractors Authority who is serving as the fiscal agent for pursuing these options. The amount of water Metropolitan could receive under this agreement will be based on whether the other State Water Contractors continue to pursue their options, and the success of ongoing negotiations with other sellers. After providing for Delta conveyance losses, estimated at 20 percent, this agreement would provide up to 64,000 acre-feet of supplies for Metropolitan's service area.

The proposed water costs for this agreement, and for ongoing negotiations with other sellers, are consistent with the Sacramento Valley Phase 8 Water Management Agreement's market-based water transfer component and the option agreements secured by Metropolitan in 2003. A key objective in pursuing these transfer supplies is securing late call dates to allow Metropolitan to defer its decision to exercise its options until later in the year, thereby minimizing the possibility of unnecessary expenditures for water transfers. Under this agreement, Metropolitan would pay the seller a \$10/acre-foot initial option payment within 30 days of execution. The earliest Metropolitan would need to commit to exercise its options is April 1, 2005. At that time, Metropolitan could, at its discretion, either:

- Forego its options, in which case the seller would retain the \$10/acre-foot initial option payment;
- Exercise its options at a cost of \$125/acre-foot (including the \$10/acre-foot initial option payment); or
- Extend its options to May 2, 2005 by providing an additional \$20/acre-foot option payment.

If Metropolitan decided to extend its options beyond April 1 to as late as May 2, 2005, Metropolitan could, at its discretion, either:

- Forego its options, in which case the seller would retain the previous option payments totaling \$30/acre foot; or
- Exercise its options. If the options are exercised as late as May 2, 2005, Metropolitan would pay \$125/acre-foot (including the previous option payments) plus \$20/acre-foot to sellers which incurred land preparation costs in April for crop idling-based transfers.

This agreement also provides that if options are exercised, Metropolitan and the other State Water Contractors cannot exercise less than 40,000 acre-feet or the amount of options that were extended to May 2, 2005, whichever amount is greater. After accounting for Delta conveyance losses, the effective unit cost for water made available

to Metropolitan is expected to be approximately \$150/acre-foot, plus any payments made for April land preparation costs.

This agreement, and subsequent agreements staff intends to bring to the Board in the near future, provides water supply insurance in 2005 while providing a basis for discussion of longer-term opportunities. Staff intends to develop proposed long-term agreements consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Plan Update and in coordination with other water supply agencies and the Environmental Water Account.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 4203: Water Transfer Policy

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, acting as the Lead Agency, adopted a Negative Declaration (ND) on January 6, 2005 ([Attachment 1](#)), for the proposed agreement. Metropolitan, as Responsible Agency under CEQA, is required to certify that it has reviewed and considered the information in the ND and adopt the Lead Agency's findings prior to approval of the formal terms and conditions for the proposed agreement.

The CEQA determination is: Review and consider information provided in the adopted 2004 ND and adopt the Lead Agency's findings related to the proposed agreement.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize executing a one-year water transfer option agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District for up to 80,000 acre-feet, based on the terms described herein.

Fiscal Impact: Assuming Metropolitan pays the initial option fee of \$10/acre-foot for 80,000 acre-feet and does not purchase the water, Metropolitan's minimum payment would be \$800,000. Assuming Metropolitan calls on 80,000 acre-feet after April 1, 2005 and incurs the maximum \$20/acre-foot land preparation payment for the entire 80,000 acre-feet, Metropolitan's maximum payment would be \$11.6 million.

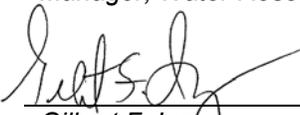
Option #2

Do not authorize executing a one-year water transfer option agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District for up to 80,000 acre-feet, based on the terms described herein.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

	12/16/2004
<hr/>	<i>Date</i>
<i>B. Anatole Falagan</i>	
<i>for Stephen N. Arakawa</i>	
<i>Manager, Water Resource Management</i>	
	12/23/2004
<hr/>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Gilbert F. Ivey</i>	
<i>for Ronald R. Gastelum</i>	
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	

Attachment 1 – Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for 2005 Option and Short-Term Water Purchase and Sale Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Participating Member Districts of the State Water Project Contractors Authority

BLA #3350

**Initial Study
and
Proposed Negative Declaration
for**

**2005 Option and Short-Term Water Purchase and Sale
Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and
Participating Member Districts of the State Water Project
Contractors Authority**

GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

December 2004

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- Project Title:** 2005 Option and Short-Term Water Purchase and Sale Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Participating Member Districts of the State Water Project Contractors Authority.
- Project Proponent:** Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID).
- Project Location:** GCID's service area within Glenn and Colusa Counties.
- Project Description:** Under an option agreement, GCID proposes to sell and transfer to certain State Water Project contractors, and said contractors propose to buy and receive from GCID, a short-term supply of up to 80,000 acre feet of surplus water made available by GCID during the 2005 irrigation season. If said contractors exercise their option under the agreement, GCID will provide this surplus water in accordance with a forbearance program undertaken by GCID in cooperation with its landowners who voluntarily decide to participate in the program.
- Contacts:** O. L. "Van" Tenney, GCID (530) 934-8881
Ben Pennock, GCID (530) 934-8881

This document has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Sections 21000, et seq., Public Resources Code) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15000, et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

Based upon the following Initial Study, it has been found that:

- this project would not have a significant effect on the environment.
- mitigation measures included in the project would avoid potentially significant effects.

SECTION 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.0 PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (“GCID”) proposes to sell and transfer to participating State Water Project contractors (“Buyers”)¹, and Buyers propose to buy and receive from GCID, a short-term supply of surplus water made available by GCID during the 2005 irrigation season. GCID will provide this surplus water in accordance with a forbearance program undertaken by GCID in cooperation with its participating landowners who agree to forego the use of District surface water which they otherwise would have used absent the program. The proposed forbearance program, and the related short-term water transfer purchase and sale agreement between GCID and Buyers (the “Project”), would be performed and implemented for the 2005 irrigation season only.

Buyers are seeking to obtain options for approximately 190,500 acre-feet of transfer water from various willing sellers in the Sacramento Valley during the 2005 irrigation season. Options for this water would allow for a strategy that would lessen potential shortages to these Buyers that may occur as a result of dry hydrologic conditions.

Under the proposed Project, GCID’s landowners, who voluntarily decide to participate in the forbearance program, will commit to forbear from the use of surface water that GCID would otherwise provide to those landowners during the 2005 irrigation season. GCID will verify the amount of surface water that has been forborne by participating landowners and GCID will, in turn, arrange for the sale and delivery of that water to Buyers, if Buyers exercise their option to request the transfer water from GCID. GCID will make up to 80,000 acre-feet of water available for sale to Buyers as a result of the forbearance program. The source of that water will be GCID’s pre-1914 appropriative water rights on the Sacramento River, also referred to as Base Supply under GCID’s Sacramento River Water Rights Settlement Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (“USBR”) (Contract No. 14-06-200-855A).

¹ These Buyers are the following State Water Project contractors: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Antelope Valley-East Kern WA, Central Coast WA, Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WD, Dudley Ridge WD, Kern County WA, Palmdale WD, Santa Clara Valley WD. Depending on hydrologic conditions existing in the spring of 2005, all or a portion of these agencies may elect to receive all or a portion of water optioned.

In order to forbear from taking surface water deliveries from GCID, GCID's landowner participants may voluntarily choose to undertake various actions including, but not limited to, idling acreage or otherwise using their groundwater supplies. GCID anticipates that rice acreage will comprise most of the crop acreage that will be involved as part of the forbearance program. In order to address concerns regarding potential economic impacts,² GCID will not allow more than 20% of the total amount of acreage within GCID that was served with surface water deliveries from GCID during the 2004 irrigation season to be idled as part of the Project. In this regard, 104,800 acres of rice were planted within GCID, and served with surface water deliveries from GCID, during the 2004 irrigation season. The proposed Evapo-Transpiration Rate of Applied Water ("ETAW")³ for rice culture is 3.3 acre-feet per acre, which is consistent with the recent ETAW rates used for water transfers in the Sacramento Valley based on crop idling of rice acreage (*California Water Plan Update. Bulletin 160-98*. November 1998). Thus, if up to 20% of GCID's 2004 rice acreage is idled under the forbearance program ($104,328 \times .20 = 20,866$), the water made available for transfer by such idling would be up to 68,858 acre-feet of water ($20,866 \text{ acres} \times 3.3 \text{ acre/ft.}$).

The balance of the up to 80,000 acre-feet that could be transferred would be made available by GCID landowners who voluntarily undertake other forbearance actions, including, but not limited to, an independent voluntary choice to utilize their groundwater supplies to cultivate their crops. The amount of water made available for transfer by such means will be also be determined based upon the ETAW rate applicable to the crop that is irrigated with groundwater in 2005, as compared to the ETAW rate associated with the crop grown in 2004 with surface water, by the participating landowner.

1.1 Project Location

The Project area, defined by the region in which the water is generated for transfer, is within the GCID boundaries, and situated within Glenn and Colusa Counties. See Figures 1 and 2. The precise location of the lands involved in the Project will be

² Of course, economic effects are not treated as environmental effects under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (CEQA Guidelines § 15131.)

³ ETAW is defined as the portion of the total evapotranspiration that is provided by irrigation. ETAW values used for water transfer calculations are based upon crop water demands reflecting average rainfall and evaporative demand.

dependent upon the actual landowners who voluntarily choose to participate in the forbearance program for 2005. Because participation in the forbearance program will be offered to all eligible growers, GCID anticipates a wide dispersal of acreage enrolled in the program. In any event, adequate water levels will be maintained by GCID in laterals and drains associated with the idled lands, which will avoid any potential wildlife impacts associated with dewatered conveyances.

The wells that may be utilized by landowners who elect to use their overlying water rights are located within GCID's boundaries in Glenn and Colusa Counties as shown on Figure 3. The precise location of any groundwater wells that may be utilized by participating landowners will not be known until any such landowners confirm their participation. In any event, because participation will be offered to all eligible growers, GCID anticipates a wide dispersal of any wells that are utilized.

1.2 Water Availability and Transfer

No new construction by or improvements to GCID or the Buyers' facilities would be necessary for the transfer of water from GCID to Buyers. The point of delivery for any transferred water will be at the intake of GCID's Hamilton City pumping plant at River Mile 206 on the Sacramento River. Water will be delivered on the basis of what the ETAW would have been for the participating croplands that are idled or the participating croplands that are cultivated without surface water from GCID. That is, only the water that would have been consumed in the process of crop use, in this case primarily rice culture, would be available for transfer. The ETAW for rice culture in the Sacramento Valley is calculated at 3.3 acre-feet per acre per growing season (*California Water Plan Update. Bulletin 160-98. November 1998*). Accordingly, for every participating acre of rice production idled or cultivated without surface water from GCID, 3.3 acre-feet of water would be made available for transfer across the growing season. The ETAW values that have been assigned to various croplands that may participate under the Project are identified below in Table 1.1, and rice lands have the highest assigned ETAW value at 3.3 acre-feet per acre. As such, participating landowners will be compensated for no more than 3.3 acre-feet per acre, regardless of the forbearance action taken by the landowner.

Table 1.1

Estimated ETAW Values for Various Crops
For Use in 2005 Irrigation Season Forbearance Program

Crop	ETAW⁴
Rice	3.3 ⁵
Tomato	1.8 ⁶
Safflower	.7
Wheat	.5
Corn	1.8 ²
Sunflower	1.4 ³
Alfalfa	3.0
Melon	1.1 ²
Bean	1.5 ²
Onion	1.1
Vine Seed	1.1 ²
Sudan Grass	3.0
Walnut	3.0
Almond	3.0
Oats	.5
Pumpkin	1.1
Pasture	3.3
Cotton	2.8
Milo	1.65
Silage	1.8
Carrots	1.1

The typical growing season for rice culture is April through October, although surface water is generally applied only from May through September. The potential ETAW demand across these months is shown in Table 1.2 with the corresponding water production expectations assuming that there is enough participation in the program to produce 80,000 acre feet of water for transfer.

⁴ ETAW based on information from DWR and information contained in the Sacramento River Basin-Wide Water Management Plan, October 2004, unless otherwise noted.

⁵ From DWR Dry Year Water Purchase Program.

⁶ Tomatoes and Sunflower have a range of ETAW. It was agreed with Buyers to use the lower end of this range for the 2005 Forbearance Program.

Table 1.2

Water Availability Schedule

	May	June	July	August	September	
ETAW in Percent	15	22	24	24	15	
Water Production In Acre-Feet	12,000	17,600	19,200	19,200	12,000	
Total Production For Transfer in 2005 in Acre-Feet						80,000

Water will be deemed transferred by GCID to Buyers at the point of delivery in accordance with the preceding schedule. Buyers will make arrangements under existing entitlements with DWR for Buyers' conveyance of the transferred water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, pumping the water into the California Aqueduct, and the ultimate delivery of the water to the Buyers' service areas. Transfer of the water will occur within the regulatory parameters for the State Water Project ("SWP"), including all applicable Biological Opinions that govern SWP pumping at the DWR's Banks Pumping Plant located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. As such, water may not be able to be transferred in May and possibly June due to environmental restrictions on SWP pumping during these periods.

DWR estimates that approximately 20% of the water transferred through the Delta would be necessary to enable the maintenance of water quality standards, which are based largely upon the total amount of water moving through the Bay-Delta system. This percentage of water is known as "carriage water." Additionally, DWR may assess against Buyers a 3% system loss due to evaporation and other losses for water received at the Banks pumping plant and transported through the SWP. Accordingly, the transfer of 80,000 acre-feet by GCID to Buyers at the point of delivery would actually yield to Buyers approximately 62,080 acre-feet (based on transfer of direct forgone crop water consumption only). At the end of the irrigation season, the amount of carriage water actually required would be calculated by DWR, and assessed against Buyers by DWR. Depending upon the hydrologic year type and other operational constraints, the actual amount of carriage water assessed by DWR against Buyers for the transfer would vary somewhat from this estimate.

GCID will establish a special reserve fund, which will be held in a restricted account, to be administered and utilized by GCID for the purpose of monitoring and mitigating any and all adverse impacts associated with GCID water transfers. In addition, no adverse economic effects are expected from this transfer,⁷ and in any event, economic effects are not treated as environmental effects under CEQA.

1.3 Use of Water by Buyers

Upon the effective date of the GCID-Buyers option and short-term water purchase and sale agreement, GCID will convey to Buyers an option to purchase up to 80,000 acre-feet of water for delivery in 2005. The initial deadline for Buyers to exercise their options to request delivery of the water from GCID is April 1, 2005, with conditional extensions of the options available until May 2, 2005.

If the water were called, Buyers would divert the delivered water in a manner physically identical to typical SWP deliveries. Each Buyer will be entitled to a proportionate share of the total amount of water purchase options made available as provided in Table 1.3. If a Buyer's final option request decreases from its initial acquisition request or if a Buyer terminates its option, the options made available will be offered to the other Buyers under the Agreement. The acquired supplies would provide additional resource options to Buyers to mitigate potential dry-year water shortage conditions in 2005. Accordingly, any water transferred under the proposed Project would not represent a dependable long-term increase in supply. As such, no adverse Project-specific impacts to Buyers' service areas due to the proposed transfer would occur.

⁷ See California's 1991 Drought Water Bank – Economic Impacts in the Selling Regions. Rand Corporation, 1993.

Table 1.3

Buyers Proportionate Share of water made available by GCID (Percentage)	
BUYERS	Water Purchase Option Percentage
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	1.4
Central Coast Water Agency	7.9
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead	0.5
Dudley Ridge Water District	7.2
Kern County Water Agency	9.5
Metropolitan Water District	66.0
Palmdale Water District	1.3
Santa Clara Valley WD	6.5
Total	100

If Buyers do not elect to take the water, DWR may be assigned Buyers' rights and agree to purchase the water from GCID under similar terms. This water would then be used to offset a water shortage during 2005 within the Place of Use of the State Water Project system. As such, the water would only be used to offset a temporary shortage and does not represent an increase in water normally delivered to SWP customers. Therefore, no adverse impacts would occur. DWR may also elect to purchase any portion of this water for the Environmental Water Account, which would allow DWR to have an alternate supply available for export users, enabling strategic cuts to be made in pumping at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant and the Central Valley Project's Tracy pumping plant to provide for environmental needs.

**SECTION 2
INITIAL STUDY AND
EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The following Initial Study, Environmental Checklist, and evaluation of potential environmental effects were completed in accordance with Section 15063(d)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines to determine if the proposed Project could have any potentially significant impact on the physical environment.

An explanation is provided for all determinations, including the citation of sources as listed in Section 3. A "No Impact" or "Less-than-significant Impact" determination indicates that the proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the physical environment for that specific environmental category. As explained below, all environmental categories were found to have either no impact or a less-than-significant impact with implementation of the proposed Project.

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

- 1. Project Title:** 2005 Option and Short-Term Water Purchase and Sale Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Participating Member Districts of the State Water Project Contractors Authority.
- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
344 East Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** O.L. "Van" Tenney, GCID (530) 934-8881
Ben Pennock, GCID (530) 934-8881
- 4. Project Location:** GCID's service area within Glenn and Colusa Counties.
- 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
344 East Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988
- 6. Description of Project:** Refer to Section 1 of the Negative Declaration.
- 7. Other agencies whose approval is required:**

"Buyer" agencies – contract approval and filing of Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency under CEQA.

California Department of Water Resources – approval of the quantity of water delivered by GCID to State Water Contractors (SWC), and diversion of that water at the H.O. Banks Pumping Plant for delivery to SWC, and filing of Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency under CEQA.

United States Bureau of Reclamation – written consent under GCID's Sacramento River Water Rights Settlement Contract (Contract No. 14-06-200-855A).

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below could be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

I. AESTHETICS – Would the proposed Action:

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a,b,d) No Impact. As there would be no construction activities (e.g., ground disturbing activities) with Project implementation, no potential aesthetic resources would be impacted or altered. In addition, there would be no new sources of light and glare added to the Project site. Hence, there would be no impacts to aesthetics with the proposed Project.

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Issues and Determination:				

- c) **Less-than-significant Impact.** The pattern of cropping in the area within GCID’s jurisdiction would be altered slightly, in that somewhat more land would be idled due to the implementation of the proposed Project (i.e., up to 20% of acreage planted for the specific crop type in 2004). Idled land is a typical feature of the agricultural landscape in GCID’s jurisdiction as a function of normal cultural practices often unrelated to a water transfer and would not differ substantially from the existing environmental setting. As such, there would be a less-than-significant impact to the existing visual character within the farmlands occurring in GCID’s jurisdiction.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: Would the proposed Action:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?

Discussion:

- a-c) **No Impact.** As a one-year activity for 2005 only, the proposed Project would not convert any farmland (Prime, Unique, Important or otherwise) to non-agricultural uses. The proposed activity would result in a reduction in the amount of farmland irrigation during the 2005 growing season and an increase in the amount of land idled for that year. Participation in the proposed Project would be solely voluntary. Zoning, agricultural conversion and Williamson Act issues would not be changed. No impact to agricultural resources would occur with Project implementation.

III. AIR QUALITY: Would the proposed Action:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Attainment Plan?

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-c) Less-than-Significant Impacts. There are different thresholds against which air quality impacts are assessed within the Sacramento Valley. These thresholds, including those for Glenn and Colusa Counties, are set forth in the following Table III-1:

Table 1 Adopted or Assumed CEQA Air Quality Significance Criteria

Adopted or Assumed Significance Criteria	NOx	PM10	CO	ROG
	in lbs. per day			
Shasta County AQMD	137.00	137.00	n/a	137.00
Tehama County AQMD	25.00	80.00	500.00	25.00
Glenn County AQMD	137.00	137.00	n/a	137.00
Colusa County AQMD	25.00	80.00	n/a	n/a
Yolo/Solano County AQMD	82.00	150.00	550.00	82.00
Butte County AQMD	137.00	137.00	n/a	137.00
Feather River AQMD (Yuba Co./Sutter Co.)	25.00	80.00	n/a	25.00
Sacramento AQMD	65.00	n/a	n/a	65.00

Participating landowners will voluntarily and independently undertake forbearance actions, which may involve idling lands to compensate for the release of surface water deliveries, or utilizing their groundwater supplies to produce crops in 2005. As a result, any physical change resulting from these independent decisions of District landowners are indirect changes caused by the Project.

The assessment of potential impacts of air pollutant emissions is related to the effects of participating landowners' independent and voluntary pumping of groundwater using diesel pumps, the amount of groundwater pumping that may occur, and the location of the wells used. It is reasonably anticipated that land idling will make up the vast majority of the forbearance actions taken by participating landowners, and that groundwater pumping by participating

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>		
	<i>With</i>	<i>Less Than</i>	
Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Significant Impact</i>
			<i>No Impact</i>

landowners will be a minor component of the forbearance program. In this regard, most of the existing wells that may be utilized by participating landowners do not have the capacity to provide the early planting season “flooding” heads. In prior years, the District has provided the flooding heads with surface water deliveries from the District, and the production well yield was sufficient to provide only a maintenance flow after stand establishment. This practice will not be followed for participating landowners in this forbearance program, and instead, participating landowners would likely elect to apply groundwater to a very limited portion of their acreage so that the well yield can fully meet demand throughout the entire growing season. In addition, because the participating landowners will not be compensated for each acre-foot of water pumped, but only for the ETAW rate applicable to the crop grown, there is less of a financial incentive for participating by this means of forbearance. Moreover, to the extent that less agricultural land would be cultivated due to land idling, fewer air pollutants would be emitted from normal farming practices (e.g., internal combustion emissions from tilling, seeding, pesticide application, etc.). These reductions in air emissions would be beneficial.

Although the District reasonably concludes that groundwater pumping by participating landowners will be minimal, the District can not determine whether the wells that may be utilized involve diesel pumps, how much water may be pumped from one well vs. any other well, and whether those wells will be located in Glenn Co. and/or Colusa Co. Because these aspects are unknown at this time, the resulting air quality impacts are speculative. (See CEQA Guidelines § 15064(d)(3).) In any event, because participation in the forbearance program will be offered to all eligible growers, GCID anticipates a wide dispersal of any groundwater wells that are utilized.

Based on these circumstances, there should be no significant air quality impacts resulting from the proposed Project.

- d-e) No Impact.** No physical changes under the Project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Odors associated with farming activities would likely lessen to a minor degree, due to the likely decrease in farming activities resulting from land idling.

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the proposed Action:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a) **Less than significant Impact.** Several special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the Project area: the giant garter snake (listed as state and federally threatened), the northwestern pond turtle (listed as a state species of special concern and federal species of concern), the winter-run Chinook salmon (listed as state and federally endangered), the delta smelt (listed as state and federally threatened) and the steelhead (listed as federally threatened).

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>

Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnopsis gigas*)

The giant garter snake may be found in agricultural wetlands such as irrigation and drainage canals. These artificial waterways can potentially be used for purposes such as ease of movement; protection from predators; warmth to aid metabolism, gestation, and digestion and as a food source. (Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. 1999.) While the irrigation patterns throughout GCID would be modified as a result of the proposed Project, water levels in irrigation and drainage canals would be maintained within several inches of non-Project operations and no complete drying out of such conveyances would occur. As such, GCID’s water conveyance system would remain watered and available to the snake and other wildlife that utilize it.

Flooded rice fields in the Sacramento Valley can be used by the giant garter snake for foraging, cover and dispersal purposes. The non-irrigated Project fields would have little or no vegetation, retaining the open character that is currently present in fields that are between plantings or that otherwise have relatively little vegetative cover. Because the maximum increase percentage of land idled in this Project would be up to 20% above the typical idling patterns, at least 80% of GCID’s irrigable acreage would remain unaffected. Lands taken out of production would be dispersed throughout GCID such that the contiguous nature of idled lands would be minimized allowing for a mosaic of lands that could be utilized by the snake throughout the GCID’s jurisdiction. The changes to agricultural fields that would occur under the proposed Project could have minor and temporary indirect effects on the giant garter snake through the decrease in potential cover and foraging areas as a result of the reduction in planted rice acreage. The one-year duration of the proposed Project minimizes any potential disruption to the giant garter snake.

Because the proposed Project would not convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural land uses, the only change would be a temporary, one-year increase in the time between planting of rice crops within a percentage of the GCID farmlands. In addition, at least 80% of GCID’s fields would remain unaffected by the proposed Project. As such, the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact to the giant garter snake within the existing farmlands due to a short-term decrease in potential cover and foraging areas for this species.

Northwestern Pond Turtle (*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*)

The northwestern pond turtle inhabits waters with little or no current. The banks of inhabited waters usually have thick vegetation, but basking sites such as logs, rocks, or open banks must also be present. Pond turtles lay their eggs in nests in upland areas, including grasslands, woodlands, and savannas. Pond turtles could potentially be found in and along irrigation and drainage canals. The proposed Project would not eliminate water from the conveyance canals within GCID’s service area. Therefore the proposed Project would not impact the western pond turtle either directly or indirectly.

Issues and Determination:

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>		
	<i>With</i>	<i>Less Than</i>	
	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>No</i>
	<u><i>Impact</i></u>	<u><i>Incorporation</i></u>	<u><i>Impact</i></u>

Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) and Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a migration corridor and seasonal rearing habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. It provides spawning and nursery habitat for delta smelt. The proposed water transfer water to SWC would be delivered through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with timing identical to SWC’s typical SWP deliveries in conformance with the 1993 Winter-run Chinook Salmon Biological Opinion (NMFS), the 1995 Delta Water Quality Control Plan (SWRCB) and the 1995 Delta Smelt Biological Opinion (USFWS). The proposed transfer would not compromise the environmental regulations that specify minimum flow requirements for winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. Required releases from Shasta Reservoir for the protection of fisheries would continue to be made. As such, there would be no direct or indirect impact from the proposed Project on listed fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The proposed Project would result in less-than-significant impacts to special status species because no special status wildlife would be directly affected by the idling activities and indirect impacts to habitat, such as a decrease in potential foraging and cover habitat for the giant garter snake, would be temporary (i.e, one year) and minimal.

- b) **No impact.** The proposed action would have no effect on riparian or other sensitive habitats because the Project area is not adjacent to or within such habitats. Therefore no impact to riparian or other sensitive habitats would occur.
- c) **No Impact.** No wetlands are located within the boundaries of the Project site and therefore, no impacts to wetlands would occur from the proposed Project.
- d) **Less than significant Impact.**

Waterfowl

The proposed Project would result in the fallowing of up to 20,866 acres of rice fields. Rice fields in the project area serve as foraging habitat for many waterfowl species. However, implementation of the proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the foraging of native-resident or migratory waterfowl because other foraging habitat is abundant both locally and regionally. Because the proposed Project would not convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural land uses, the only change would be a one-year increase in the time between planting of rice in the project farmlands and a minor reduction in the acreage of rice lands available to waterfowl for foraging in 2005. This reduction in foraging acreage is less-than-significant based upon the regional abundance of flooded foraging habitat. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would result to potential wildlife corridors for waterfowl which include the Project acreage.

Fish Species

The proposed Project may increase flows during July through September in the Sacramento River resulting from the movement of transfer water. Such flow increases may have a beneficial effect on fish in the river during the transfer

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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period. Because of the relatively large volume of summer flows in the Sacramento River, changes in flows resulting from the water acquisition would be small and effects on fish in the Sacramento River would be negligible. Therefore, there would be no adverse impact on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish species from the proposed Project.

- e, f) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not conflict with any local, regional or state policy, ordinance or conservation plan in effect for the area. Hence no impact to adopted habitat conservation plans would occur with Project implementation.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the proposed Action:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project does not involve any land alteration and thus no archeological or paleontologic disturbances are possible within the proposed Project's scope. In addition, with no ground disturbing activities proposed, there would be no disturbances to potential burial sites or cemeteries. Therefore, no impact to cultural resources would occur with Project implementation.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the proposed action:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on				

Issues and Determination:	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on strata or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a) **No Impact.** No project facility falls within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as presented in the most recent Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. Hence, no impact relating to fault rupture zones would occur with Project implementation.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Based upon readily available soil map information, most of the Project area is underlain by fine-textured, strongly structured soils, such as clay and silty clay. Such soils have a wind erodibility index of 86 (tons per acre per year) when in a dry, unvegetated condition (U.S Department of Agriculture 1993). Highly wind-erodible soils, such as fine sands and sands, have a wind erodibility index of 134-310. Therefore, the soils in the Project area have a relatively low risk of wind erosion when left in a dry, unvegetated condition. No significant impacts are expected.
- c) **No Impact.** Soils in the proposed Project area consist of clays with a flat terrain. The proposed Project would not result in instability of existing soils. The use of the soils for this short-term Project is in accordance with past farming practices and no landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse have occurred, to date.

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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- d) **No Impact.** Expansive soils are not known to occur within on the proposed Project site. Therefore, no impacts pertaining to expansive soils would occur with Project implementation.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not involve the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater treatment disposal systems to handle wastewater generation. Therefore, no impacts would result implementation of the proposed Project.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the proposed Action:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-h) No Impact. The proposed Project would not involve the transport or use of hazardous materials nor change any public exposure to hazards or hazardous materials beyond what is currently occurring with existing farming practices within GCID’s jurisdiction. Herbicide and pesticides use would decrease by up to 20% from what is now occurring within GCID’s area due to the idling of the rice crops for one year. This minor decrease in the use of such chemicals may be viewed as beneficial, but would not substantially affect the overall physical environment. Overall, there would be no hazardous impacts with Project implementation.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the proposed Action:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there should be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not involve any discharges and thus would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Hence, no impacts to water quality standards would occur with Project implementation.
- b) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** As noted in the air quality impacts discussion in section 2, III, above, participating landowners will voluntarily and independently undertake forbearance actions, which may involve utilizing their groundwater supplies to produce crops in 2005. As a result, any physical change resulting from these independent decisions by District landowners are indirect changes caused by the Project.

The assessment of potential groundwater impacts is dependent upon the amount of groundwater pumping that may occur, and the location of the wells that may be used (i.e., Glenn Co. or Colusa Co.). It is reasonably anticipated that land idling will make up the vast majority of the forbearance actions taken by participating landowners, and that groundwater pumping by participating landowners will be a minor component of the forbearance program. In this regard, most of the existing wells that may be utilized by participating landowners do not have the capacity to provide the early planting season “flooding” heads. In prior years, the District has provided the flooding heads with surface water deliveries from the District, and the production well yield was sufficient to provide only a maintenance flow after stand establishment. This practice will not be followed for participating landowners in this forbearance program, and instead, participating landowners would likely elect to apply groundwater to a very limited portion of their acreage

Issues and Determination:

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>		
	<i>Potentially Significant</i>	<i>With Mitigation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant</i>
	<u><i>Impact</i></u>	<u><i>Incorporation</i></u>	<u><i>Impact</i></u>
			<i>No Impact</i>

so that the well yield can fully meet demand throughout the entire growing season. In addition, because the participating landowners will not be compensated for each acre-foot of water pumped, but only for the ETAW rate applicable to the crop grown, there is less of a financial incentive for participating by this means of forbearance.

Although the District reasonably concludes that groundwater pumping by participating landowners will be minimal, the District can not determine how much water may be pumped from one well vs. any other well, and whether those wells will be located in Glenn Co. and/or Colusa Co. Because these aspects are unknown at this time, any resulting groundwater impacts are speculative. (See CEQA Guidelines § 15064(d)(3).)

In any event, GCID operated a much larger groundwater well agreement program during 1994, a dry year. In 1994, the groundwater well agreement program produced approximately 65,000 acre-feet of groundwater during the summer months. Groundwater levels dropped approximately 30 feet during the pumping period. The water levels fully recovered during the fall of 1994 and the winter of 1995. In addition, because participation in the forbearance program will be offered to all eligible growers, GCID anticipates a wide dispersal of any groundwater wells that are utilized. Based on these circumstances, there should be no significant impacts to groundwater resulting from the proposed Project.

- c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation on- or off-site, or the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. The water forborne would be maintained within existing conveyance and storage systems. No drainage courses would receive water from the proposed Project. In addition, there are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed Project. As such, no impacts relating to water drainage patterns would occur with Project implementation.
- d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems. Also refer to previous response (Items c-d). Hence, no impacts relating to storm water drainage systems would occur with Project implementation.
- e-f) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not result in degradation of water quality. Refer to previous responses, Items a through c. Hence, no impacts to water quality would occur with Project implementation.
- g-i) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or impede or redirect flood flows the proposed Project would not involve constructing any housing. All facilities which would be utilized are existing facilities designed according to standard engineering design practices to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. Therefore, no impact relating to flooding would occur with the proposed Project.

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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j) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not be subject to tsunami or seiche wave inundation because the Project area is not situated near a large enough body of water. Also, the associated facilities are not subject to mudslides. As such, no impacts would result from Project implementation with respect to tsunamis or seiches.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities' conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a-c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not displace or divide an established community, as no new construction activities would occur with Project implementation. Only existing facilities and equipment would be employed. Also, no zoning or land use changes would be required for the participating farmer to enter into an agreement to idle a portion of his or her farmlands. Idling of agricultural land is a typical agricultural practice. Refer to Item IV.f (Biological Resources) with regard to the question on conflicts with applicable habitat conservation plans. Overall, there would be no impacts to land use or planning with Project implementation.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the proposed Action:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Discussion:

a, b) No Impact. As the area is currently used for agricultural purposes only, the one-year idling of some additional farmlands for a one-year period would not result in the loss in the availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State. No impacts to mineral resources would occur with the proposed water transfer.

XI. NOISE – Would the proposed Action result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport of public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-f) No Impact. The proposed Project does not involve the development or enhancement of any new noise emitting devices. In addition, there would be no construction activities, such as ground disturbing activities, associated with the proposed Project. Only existing facilities and equipment would be utilized with the proposed water transfer. As such, no noise impacts would result with Project implementation.

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the proposed Action:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a-c) No Impact. The proposed Project would involve the movement of water in amount which would not exceed historic maximum deliveries for water transported through the California Aqueduct. Further, the water will not be utilized unless there is a demonstrable shortage of normally available supplies. Therefore, there would be no net increase in water supply. No housing would be constructed, demolished, or replaced as a result of the proposed Project, no displacement of people and no substantial population growth would result. Therefore, no impacts to housing or population distribution would occur with the proposed water transfer.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES – Would the proposed Action:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | | | | |
| Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a) No Impact. The proposed Project does not create any new demand for public services or alterations to existing public facilities. The proposed water transfer would occur within existing water conveyance facilities. Hence, no impacts to public services or facilities would occur with Project implementation.

Issues and Determination:

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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XIV. RECREATION – Would the proposed action:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a, b) No Impact. The proposed Project would not create nor does it alter demand for recreational services. The proposed Project would involve the movement of water in amount which would not exceed historic maximum deliveries for water transported through the California Aqueduct. As such, there would be no net increase in recreational opportunities and no impacts to recreational facilities or activities would occur with project implementation.

XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC – Would the proposed action:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-g) No Impact. The proposed Project does not create any new demand for any mode of transportation services as it would involve existing facilities and to forebear water for water supply purposes. Also, there are no construction activities associated with the proposed Project (such as movement of trucks). Therefore, no transportation impacts would occur with Project implementation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the proposed action:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues and Determination:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not place additional demands on nor affect public utilities, particularly wastewater treatment facilities, water facilities, and storm drain systems in the area. No new or expanded water entitlements would be necessary. That is, the proposed Project would involve the movement of pre-existing entitlements of water. No solid waste disposal or disposal facilities would be needed for the proposed Project as well. Therefore no impacts to existing utilities and conveyance systems would occur with Project implementation.

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -
Would the proposed action:**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulative considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** A potential exists to degrade the environment in some resource areas (Biological resources, geologic resources and aesthetics). However, as noted above, these impacts are not significant individually or cumulatively.

Issues and Determination:

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>		
	<i>With</i>	<i>Less Than</i>	
	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>No</i>
	<u><i>Impact</i></u>	<u><i>Incorporation</i></u>	<u><i>Impact</i></u>

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Water transfers from the Sacramento Valley through the Delta for consumptive uses and environmental purposes have been occurring on a large scale for over a decade. The only demonstrable adverse impacts known to have occurred were some impacts within the Feather River watershed to groundwater levels and individual well owners' water supplies during some early transfer activities using groundwater substitution to generate the water for transfers.

The proposed transfer is one of several transfers that could occur in 2005. This Project proposes to sell Buyers up to 80,000 acre-feet of water to meet some of its needs in the event of a shortfall in supplies during 2005. This would be a portion of the up to 190,500 acre-feet Buyers are seeking from willing sellers in the Sacramento River watershed. CALFED's Environmental Water Account could purchase up to 170,000 acre-feet, much of which may come from the Sacramento River watershed. DWR's Dry Year Program may also require about 1,000 acre-feet, some of which may come as a part of this Project as previously discussed. In total then, it is possible that about 361,500 acre-feet of water may be transferred from the Sacramento Valley in 2005. This is within historic transfer volumes as shown in table XVII-1 below and represents about 2.5% of the average annual total water supply available in the Sacramento Valley from surface and groundwater resources for all uses and 4.5% of total average agricultural water use in the Sacramento Valley.⁸ As such, and recognizing that no significant impacts have been noted for transfers within this order of magnitude, no significant impacts are expected within the Sacramento Valley. Delta impacts are likewise not expected to be significant as all of the water shown in Table XVII-1 was pumped in the Delta within existing biological constraints and without incident.

⁸ DWR Bulletin 160-98.

Table XVII-1

Past Water Transfers From the Sacramento Valley in AF Annually									
Program	1991	1992	1993	1994	2001	2002	2003	2004	Potential 2005
DWR Drought Water Banks/Dry Year Programs	820,000	193,246	0	220,000	138,000	22,000	11,355	487	1,000
Environmental Water Act					80,000	145,000	69,914	120,000	170,000
Others					160,000 ⁹	4,515 ¹⁰	124,796 ¹¹		190,500 ¹²
Totals	820,000	193,246	0	220,000	378,000	172,000	206,065	120,487	361,500

- c) **No Impact.** The negative declaration assesses the potential impacts of the proposed Project. There would be no construction activities associated with the proposed water transfer. Typical farming practices with the idling of land would comply with applicable health and safety requirements. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

⁹ Transferred to Westlands Water District.

¹⁰ Transferred to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

¹¹ Transferred to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

¹² Transferred to Participating Member districts of the State Water Project Contractors Authority.

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

For

SECTION 3 REFERENCES

The following documents were used in the preparation of this Negative Declaration.

California Department of Water Resources. *California Water Plan Update. Bulletin 160-98*. November 1998.

State of California, 2002. *California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA Guidelines. Amended January 1, 2002*.

Rand Corporation, 1993. California's 1991 Drought Water Bank – Economic Impacts in the Selling Regions.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1993. *U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service national soil survey handbook*. November. Washington, DC.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnopsis gigas*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. ix+192 pp.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/ssc/ssc.shtml>

<http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species>

**SECTION 4
LIST OF PREPARERS**

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