

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT FOR WHEELING CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER TO SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

1. Westlands Water District (WWD) proposes to divert up to 50,000 AF of 2009-10 Central Valley Project (CVP) supplies for delivery to Semitropic Water Storage District's (SWSD) banking facilities prior to March 1, 2010. SWSD, a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), would return this water in a later year to meet crop demand in the next critically dry water year type.

The parties anticipate that WWD CVP supplies would move to Semitropic for banking during the fall of 2009 and into the winter of 2010, but all deliveries would be made prior to February 28, 2010. The up to 50,000 af of 2009-10 allocated WWD CVP water supply proposed for temporary diversion and storage at Semitropic is currently stored within the federal share of San Luis Reservoir, and scheduled for delivery to WWD prior to March 1, 2010. The WWD CVP water supply would be released from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir and conveyed through the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct, and ultimately delivered at Semitropic turnouts within Reach 10A of the California Aqueduct, and/or Kern County Water Agency turnouts where Semitropic has rights to deliver water to the Kern Water Bank (Reach 12E).

Semitropic would use the delivery of WWD CVP water for in-lieu groundwater banking for irrigation purposes. WWD would receive a banking credit in Semitropic which could be used to return water to WWD during the next water supply shortage.


It is uncertain when the banked supplies will be returned to WWD, but the return water would most likely be State Water Project (SWP) water delivered via exchange to WWD in the next water supply shortage. The return of SWP water to WWD will be into the Kings County portion of WWD via Reach 7, or under a SWRCB change in place of use permit if delivered into Fresno County WWD. The return of CVP water to WWD under a SWRCB permit would be through WWD turnouts in reaches 4-7 of the San Luis Canal. It is uncertain when the banked supplies will be returned to WWD, but the return water would most likely be State Water Project (SWP) water delivered via exchange to WWD in the next critically dry year. The returned water would be delivered to WWD lands currently in production and would result in no new lands being cultivated. When the details are known, Reclamation would approve the return of the banked water under terms and conditions and in accordance with Reclamation approval criteria. Any additional environmental compliance documentation needed for that approval would be done when the details of the proposed water return are known.

2. The public review period during which comments will be received on the proposed negative declaration is for a period of 30 days. The public review period will begin on

October 5, 2009 and end on November 4, 2009.

3. Copies of the proposed negative declaration and all documents referenced therein are available for review at the office of Westlands, located at 3130 N Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93703.
4. The contact person for the project is Tom Glover, who may be reached by telephone at (559) 224-1523.
5. Comments on the proposed negative declaration should be in writing and addressed to Tom Glover, Westlands Water District, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno CA 93703-6056.

Dated: September 28, 2009



Tom Glover – Deputy General Manager - Resources

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT (Lead Agency)
KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY (Responsible Agency)

FRESNO, KINGS, AND KERN COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

Project Title: Agreement Between the Department of Water Resources and Westlands Water District for Wheeling Central Valley Project Water to Semitropic Water Storage District.

Project Description: Westlands Water District (WWD) proposes to divert up to 50,000 AF annually of their Central Valley Project (CVP) supplies for delivery to Semitropic Water Storage District's (Semitropic) banking facilities prior to March 1, 2010. Semitropic, a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), would return this water in a later year to meet crop demand in future and ongoing water supply shortages.

The parties anticipate that WWD CVP supplies would move to Semitropic for banking prior to March 1, 2010. The up to 50,000 AF of 2009-10 allocated WWD CVP water supply proposed for temporary diversion and storage at Semitropic would typically be stored within the federal share of San Luis Reservoir, and scheduled for delivery to WWD prior to March 1, 2010. The WWD CVP water supply would be released from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir, exchanged for State Water Project (SWP) water at O'Neill Forebay and conveyed through the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct by DWR, and ultimately delivered at Semitropic turnouts within Reach 10A of the California Aqueduct, and/or KCWA turnouts where Semitropic has rights to deliver water to the Kern Water Bank (Reach 12E).

Semitropic would use the delivery of WWD CVP water for in-lieu groundwater banking for irrigation purposes. WWD would receive a banking credit in Semitropic which could be used to return water to WWD during the next water supply shortage.

It is uncertain when the banked supplies will be returned to WWD, but the return water would most likely be SWP water delivered via exchange to WWD during future and ongoing water supply shortages. Any return of SWP water to WWD will be into the Kings County portion of WWD via Reach 7, or under a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) change in place of use permit if delivered into the Fresno County portions of WWD. Any return of CVP water to WWD under a SWRCB permit would be through WWD turnouts in reaches 4-7 of the San Luis Canal. The returned water would be delivered to WWD lands currently in production and would result in no new lands being cultivated. When the details are known, Reclamation would approve the return of the banked water under terms and conditions and in accordance with Reclamation approval criteria. Any additional environmental compliance documentation needed for that approval would be done when the details of the proposed water return are known.

Project Location: WWD is located in western Fresno and Kings Counties and Semitropic is located in Kern County.

Environmental Finding: Based on the environmental analysis performed and summarized in the attached Initial Study and Environmental Checklist, Westlands Water District finds that the Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Proposed Project will not result in any adverse effects which fall within the "Mandatory Findings of Significance" contained in Section 15065 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are necessary.

This Negative Declaration will be deemed final and effective if no appeal is filed in the manner specified by Section 45 (b) of the Amended Local Guidelines Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act.

This Negative Declaration was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Submitted by:



Westlands Water District



Date

**Initial Study
and
Environmental Checklist**

**Storage and Exchange of Central Valley Project
Water; Westlands Water District to Semitropic
Water Storage District and Return, with an
Agreement Between the Department of Water
Resources and Westlands Water District**

September 2009

Initial Study

Ongoing Storage and Exchange of Central Valley Project Water; Westlands Water District to Semitropic Water Storage District and Return, with an Agreement Between the Department of Water Resources and Westlands Water District

Project Description

Westlands Water District (WWD) proposes to divert up to 50,000 acre-feet (AF) of its allocated 2009-10 Central Valley Project (CVP) supplies for delivery to Semitropic Water Storage District's (Semitropic) banking facilities prior to March 1, 2010. Semitropic, a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), would return this water in a later year to meet crop demand in the next critically dry water year type. Refer to Figure 1 for locations of these entities.

The parties anticipate that WWD CVP supplies would move to Semitropic for banking prior to March 1. The delivery of up to 50,000 AF of allocated WWD CVP water supply proposed for temporary diversion and storage at Semitropic would typically be stored within the federal share of San Luis Reservoir. The WWD CVP water supply would be released from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir, exchanged at O'Neill Forebay for SWP water and conveyed by DWR through the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct, and ultimately delivered at Semitropic turnouts within Reach 10A of the California Aqueduct, and/or Kern County Water Agency turnouts where Semitropic has rights to deliver water to the Kern Water Bank (Reach 12E).

Semitropic would use the delivery of WWD CVP water for in-lieu groundwater banking for irrigation purposes. WWD would receive a banking credit in Semitropic, which could be used to return water to WWD during the next water supply shortage.

It is uncertain when the banked supplies will be returned to WWD, but the return water would most likely be State Water Project (SWP) water delivered via exchange to WWD to offset ongoing water supply shortages. Given historical hydrologic conditions, it is anticipated that this water will most likely be returned within five to seven years of the initial delivery.

The return of the banked groundwater asset would occur via an exchange. This exchange may be accomplished under three (3) possible scenarios:

- WWD would exchange the requested amount of banked water for an equal amount of Semitropic's allocation of KCWA SWP water. Semitropic's KCWA SWP water would be released from the San Luis Reservoir and delivered to WWD via its turnouts serving Kings County lands within Reach 7 of the joint-use SLC portion of the California Aqueduct. An equal amount would be deducted from WWD's water bank account at Semitropic.
- WWD would exchange the requested amount of banked water for an equal amount of CVP water. Semitropic's KCWA SWP water would be made available at the San Luis Reservoir where it would be exchanged for CVP water and

delivered to lands within WWD as they would normally receive their CVP supply. An equal amount of water would be deducted from WWD's water bank account at Semitropic. Or, if the CVP contractor involved in the exchange is also a Semitropic Banking Partner, such as Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), then the requested amount of the banked asset could be transferred to the SCVWD account in exchange for SCVWD delivering a like amount of their CVP water supply to lands within WWD. CVP water would be delivered to lands within WWD as they would normally receive their CVP supply. An equal amount of water would be deducted from WWD's water bank account and credited to SCVWD's water bank account.

- Semitropic would pump groundwater stored on behalf of WWD into the California Aqueduct. DWR would use that water to meet deliveries to SWP contractors downstream, thereby freeing up SWP Water for delivery to lands within WWD. Water would be delivered to WWD via its turnouts serving Kings County lands within Reach 7 of the joint-use San Luis Canal portion of the California Aqueduct. An equal amount would be deducted from WWD's water bank account at Semitropic.

If any SWP water is scheduled for delivery to lands within the Fresno County portion of WWD, a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) petition for a temporary change in place of use permit will be pursued.

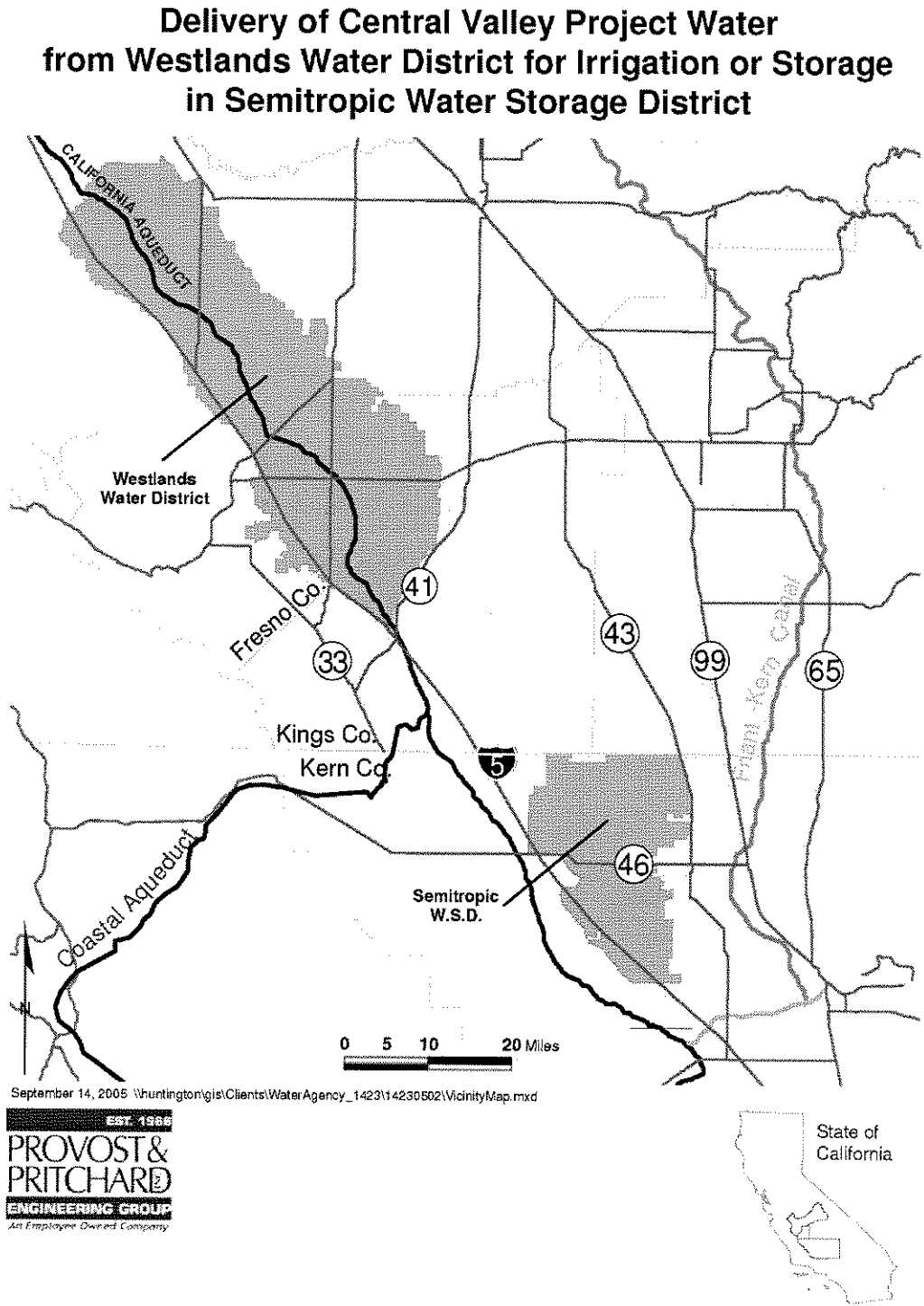
The returned water would be delivered to WWD lands currently in production and would result in no new lands being cultivated.

Related Action

In 2007, WWD banked 7,981 AF in Semitropic under a similar program. At that time, WWD determined that the project was categorically exempt from CEQA and would result in insignificant changes in operations of the CVP and the SWP, and that there was no possibility that the activity in question would have a significant affect on the environment. This initial study and environmental checklist examine the potential impacts associated with conveying additional water for banking in this water year.

In accordance with Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, Reclamation prepared a draft environmental assessment which analyzed the banking of up to 50,000 AF of WWD 2006 allocated CVP water supply and the recovery of banked CVP water as needed up to 20,000 AF per year, including the previously banked 7,981 AF of CVP water that was banked in February of 2007. It is anticipated that a groundwater banking agreement between WWD and Semitropic would be for 10 years, concluding in 2019, or until all of the banked CVP water has been returned, whichever is sooner.

Figure 1. Location Map.



Environmental Setting

The potentially affected environment includes the state, federal and district owned facilities that would be involved in the conveyance and exchange of this water, and are described below. The potential environmental impacts of the storage and exchange program to the participating districts are analyzed in a separate environmental assessment.

The 1994 Semitropic Groundwater Banking Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluated potential impacts of the Banking Program operations on the timing of diversions from the Delta. The studies conducted under the EIR process determined that the timing of these diversions are regulated through operational restrictions under a number of agreements and biological opinions designed to protect sensitive fish species and on this basis, Semitropic operations would not considerably impact the timing of diversions from the Delta (Semitropic, 1994). The Proposed Action would be regulated by the same operational restrictions. Based on the preceding information, the proposed action alternative would result in no major changes to SWP and CVP facilities operations and would not affect surface water resources.

Existing SWP and CVP Facilities and Operation

The San Luis Unit, a part of the CVP and also part of the SWP, was authorized in 1960. Reclamation and the State of California constructed and operate this unit jointly. Some features are "joint-use facilities" of the Federal Government and the State. The principal purpose of the Federal portion of the facilities is to furnish approximately 1.25 million acre-feet of water as a supplemental irrigation supply to some 600,000 acres located in the western portion of Fresno, Kings, and Merced Counties.

The joint-use facilities are O'Neill Dam and Forebay, B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam, San Luis Reservoir, William R. Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant, Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, Los Banos and Little Panoche Reservoirs, and San Luis Canal from O'Neill Forebay to Kettleman City, together with the necessary switchyard facilities. The Federal-only portion of the San Luis Unit includes the O'Neill Pumping Plant and Intake Canal, Coalinga Canal, Pleasant Valley Pumping Plant, and the San Luis Drain.

San Luis Reservoir serves as the major storage reservoir and O'Neill Forebay acts as an equalizing basin for the upper stage dual-purpose pumping-generating plant. Pumps located at the base of O'Neill Dam take water from the Delta-Mendota Canal through an intake channel (a Federal feature) and discharge it into the O'Neill Forebay. The California Aqueduct (a State feature) flows directly into O'Neill Forebay. The pumping-generating units lift the water from the O'Neill Forebay and discharge it into the main reservoir. When not pumping, these units generate electric power by reversing flow through the turbines. Water for irrigation is released into the San Luis Canal and flows by gravity to Dos Amigos Pumping Plant where it is lifted more than 100 feet to permit gravity flow to its terminus at Kettleman City. A State canal system continues to southern coastal areas. During irrigation months, water from the California Aqueduct flows through the O'Neill Forebay into the San Luis Canal instead of being pumped into the San Luis Reservoir. Two detention reservoirs, Los Banos and Little Pacheco, control

cross drainage along the San Luis Canal. The reservoirs also provide recreation and flood control benefits (Reclamation, 2006b).

Both the SWP and CVP are operated pursuant to a complex set of environmental and other operation requirements. Delta export operations are subject to Bay-Delta water quality standards set by the SWRCB, various Biological Opinions under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), provisions of the Coordinated Operations Agreement, and various other criteria, plans and agreements.

Westlands Water District

The current WWD was formed in 1952 with the merger of Westplains Water District and the previously existing Westlands Water District. WWD encompasses more than 600,000 acres of farmland located in western Fresno and Kings Counties and serves approximately 600 family-owned farms that average 900 acres in size. WWD's annual CVP entitlement is 1,150,000 AF under USBR contract 14-06-200-495A-IR1. The current contract's expiration date is February 28, 2010.

CVP water that is delivered to WWD is pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It is delivered 70 miles through the Delta-Mendota Canal to San Luis Reservoir. During the spring and summer, the water is released from San Luis Reservoir and delivered to WWD farmers through the San Luis Canal and the Coalinga Canal. Once it leaves the federal project canals, water is delivered to farmers through 1,034 miles of underground pipe and over 3,300 metered delivery outlets (WWD, 2006).

Semitropic Water Storage District

Semitropic is located in north-central Kern County in the San Joaquin Valley, about 20 miles northwest of the City of Bakersfield. The total area of Semitropic is 220,000 acres with about 159,000 acres irrigated. There are no incorporated cities within Semitropic. Semitropic was organized in 1958 for the purpose of supplying supplemental water within its service area boundaries (Semitropic, 2006a).

Surface water in Semitropic consists of local surface water supplies and water provided under its contract with the Kern County Water Agency for 133,000 AF of SWP water per year. The SWP water is pumped from the Delta and conveyed through the California Aqueduct. The SWP water can be stored in San Luis Reservoir for subsequent conveyance in the California Aqueduct to Semitropic (Semitropic, 1997).

Semitropic Water Bank

The storage capacity of the original phase of the Semitropic Water Bank is 1,000,000 AF. Total program annual withdrawal amounts are restricted by the size of the pump-back facility, contemporaneous scheduled SWP deliveries to the groundwater banking program, and the proportion of the total program capacity that has been contracted to other banking partners. The annual withdrawal capacity includes up to 133,000 AF of SWP water that could be exchanged within the California Aqueduct, and/or an additional 90,000 AF per year of stored water extraction to the California Aqueduct. Thus, the return capacity of the original program is a minimum of 90,000 AF per year,

and a maximum of 223,000 AF per year. SCVWD is a partner in the original banking project and has an annual pumpback recovery capacity of approximately 31,500 AF.

In 2005, Semitropic obtained the necessary permits and began construction on the second phase of its groundwater banking program. This new unit, the Stored Water Recovery Unit (SWRU), increases storage by 650,000 AF to a maximum of 1.65 million AF and when fully operational, increases recovery capacity by 200,000 AF per year for a total guaranteed or pumpback capacity of 290,000 AF per year (150,000 AF of this increased recovery capacity is from a well field that is not anticipated to come online at full capacity within the next 5-10 years). The current recovery capacity under contract in the SWRU is 30,000 AF per year, for a combined total pumpback capacity (between this and the original banking project) of 120,000 AF per year. At complete build-out, the Semitropic Water Bank will have a pumpback capacity of up to 423,000 AF per year of dry-year yield to the California Aqueduct consisting of 200,000 AF per year from the SWRU, 90,000 AF per year from the Original Banking Program and up to 133,000 AF per year of entitlement exchange capability.

Environmental Consequences

WWD would bank up to 50,000 AF of any excess allocated 2009-10 CVP water supply. WWD would not overburden other water resources to make this water available for banking.

The proposed project improves WWD's water supply reliability and operational efficiency, especially during critically dry hydrologic years. The proposed delivery of CVP water to Semitropic and the subsequent banking and return via exchange to WWD would occur through existing SWP, CVP, Semitropic, and WWD facilities. No new facilities would be needed as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would not interfere with the normal operations of the SWP or CVP facilities, nor would it impede any SWP or CVP obligations to deliver water to other contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat. Furthermore, the proposed project would not alter the quantity or timing of diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Delta). Neither WWD nor any CVP or SWP water user would be changing historic land and water management practices as a result of the proposed project.

The 1994 Semitropic Groundwater Banking Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluated potential impacts of the Banking Program operations on the timing of diversions from the Delta. The studies conducted under the EIR process determined that the timing of these diversions are regulated through operational restrictions under a number of agreements and biological opinions designed to protect sensitive fish species and on this basis, Semitropic operations would not considerably impact the timing of diversions from the Delta (Semitropic, 1994). The 1994 Semitropic Groundwater Banking Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluated potential impacts of the Banking Program operations on the timing of diversions from the Delta. The studies conducted under the EIR process determined that the timing of these diversions are regulated through operational restrictions under a number of agreements and biological opinions designed to protect sensitive fish species and on this basis, Semitropic

operations would not considerably impact the timing of diversions from the Delta (Semitropic, 1994). The Proposed Action would be regulated by the same operational restrictions. Based on the preceding information, the proposed action alternative would result in no major changes to SWP and CVP facilities operations and would not affect surface water resources. The proposed project would be regulated by the same operational restrictions.

Based on the preceding information, the proposed project would result in no major changes to SWP and CVP facilities operations and would not affect surface water resources.

The proposed project will allow WWD to bank available CVP water for future delivery to meet crop demands during future and ongoing water supply shortages. This project will reduce WWD dependence upon groundwater resources when the banked water is returned. There are no other impacts to canals, facilities, or operations for delivering surface water supplies, since the proposed project would utilize existing facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project Title:** Agreement among the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Westlands Water District (WWD) for wheeling of Central Valley Project (CVP) water from WWD to Semitropic Water Storage District's (Semitropic) groundwater banking facilities.
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Westlands Water District
3130 N. Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703-6056
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Tom Glover
(559) 241-6215
4. **Project Location:** CVP and State Water Project (SWP) Contractor service areas and existing CVP and SWP project facilities in Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties.
5. **Project Sponsors Name & Address: (Responsible Agency)** Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Dr
Bakersfield, CA 93309
6. **General Plan Designation:** Agricultural
7. **Zoning:** Exclusive Agriculture
8. **Description of Project:** This project contemplates the delivery of up to 50,000 acre-feet (AF) of WWD's allocated 2009-10 CVP supplies for direct irrigation use or to Semitropic's banking facilities within the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) with projected delivery prior to March 1, 2010. It is assumed that this water will be returned to WWD during future and ongoing water supply shortages.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** WWD encompasses more than 600,000 acres of farmland located in western Fresno and Kings Counties and serves approximately 600 family-owned farms that average 900 acres in size. CVP water that is delivered to WWD is pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It is delivered 70 miles through the Delta-Mendota Canal to San Luis Reservoir. During the spring and summer, the water is released from San Luis Reservoir and delivered to WWD farmers through the San Luis Canal and the Coalinga Canal. Once it leaves the federal project canals, water is delivered to farmers through 1,034 miles of underground pipe and over 3,300 metered delivery outlets.

Semitropic is located in north-central Kern County in the San Joaquin Valley, about 20 miles northwest of the City of Bakersfield. The total area of Semitropic is 220,000 acres with about 159,000 acres irrigated. There are no incorporated cities within Semitropic. Surface water in Semitropic consists of local surface water supplies and water provided under its contract with KCWA for 133,000 AF of SWP water per year. The SWP water is pumped from the Delta and conveyed through the California Aqueduct. The SWP water can be stored in San Luis Reservoir for subsequent conveyance in the California Aqueduct to Semitropic.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required:** United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), DWR, Semitropic, and KCWA.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would 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 | |

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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A 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 significant effect(s) 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, if the effect is a potentially significant impact" or potentially significant unless mitigated." 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, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Tom Glover
Signature

9-28-09
Date

Tom Glover
Printed Name

Deputy General Manager - Resources
Title

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

The proposal will utilize existing facilities within the CVP and SWP, which are not located in scenic areas. No operational changes will occur that could cause substantial light or glare. No aesthetic impacts will occur.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

Neither Semitropic nor WWD are changing historic land and water management practices. All water supplies moved as a part of this project will be delivered to existing agricultural lands. All water will move through existing facilities so there will be no changes to land use due to construction of new facilities. Indeed, the return water supplies delivered into WWD would be utilized to meet existing crop demands during extremely dry conditions. Therefore, there will be no impact.

III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

In WWD, the project will result in a decrease in groundwater pumping when the water is returned, which may result in fewer diesel engine pumps from being operated. Subsequently, a marginal improvement in air quality may result. In any case, the impacts to air quality are insignificant; therefore, there will be no impact. As discussed in the Initial Study, it is anticipated that the return water will be returned via exchange of Semitropic's surface supplies—no additional groundwater pumping is anticipated.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, or 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Community Conservation 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:

The project would not adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, candidate, sensitive, or special status species in either local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project does not change, modify, or alter in any way and is consistent with: 1) the Semitropic Water Bank Original Banking Program EIR certified on July 13, 1994 and subject to the Mitigation Monitoring Plan Dated July 1994 and Memorandum of Understanding with neighboring districts dated September 14, 1994 to implement the monitoring plan; and 2) regarding the second phase of the Semitropic Water Bank known as the Stored Water Recovery Unit, the Final Supplemental EIR certified on January 19, 2000 and Addenda to the Final Supplemental EIR dated February 2002 (clarifying the overall storage capacity of the Original Banking Program and the SWRU to be 1,650,000AF) July 2004 (regarding the size and configuration of SWRU facilities) and March 2005 (concerning the delivery point of water delivered for banking). There would be no direct or indirect removal, filling, or interruption of the hydrologic regime of protected wetlands. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

There will be no impact or effects to fisheries. There will be no impact on wetlands. All environmental regulations that specify minimum flow requirements and operational constraints for listed fish and other considerations will be met. Existing programs to enhance and protect biological resources will continue to be implemented to ensure that no significant impacts to biological resources would occur. The project will have no applicable impact or any affect on any listed or proposed threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) provides a migration corridor, spawning, and rearing habitat for several aquatic species including the following threatened, or endangered species: winter-run Chinook salmon; Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon; spring-run Chinook salmon; Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon; delta smelt; steelhead; green sturgeon and longfin smelt.

For this exchange of previously stored CVP water for delivery to WWD, the Delta is a migration corridor and seasonal rearing habitat for winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. It provides spawning and nursery habitat for Delta smelt and Delta longfin smelt. SWP water from northern California is conveyed and delivered to SWP water contractors via the Delta. This exchange would occur within the regulatory parameters for the SWP in conformance with all existing requirements under the ESA, including court orders, which govern SWP operations for the protection of Chinook salmon, delta smelt, and steelhead, including all Biological Opinion requirements. The exchange of previously stored CVP

water for delivery to WWD would not affect these environmental regulations and restrictions or SWP operations under them. As such, there would be no impact from the proposed project on listed fish species in the Delta and associated river systems.

This exchange of previously stored CVP water for delivery to WWD would have no effect on riparian or other sensitive habitats, including wetlands. Water stored in Lake Oroville is released to meet a variety of commitments including to operate the SWP to meet flood control criteria, ensure water supply to senior water right holders along the Feather River, satisfy requirements for management of fish and wildlife, satisfy requirements in DWR's water right permits for water quality standards, satisfy conditions in the Biological Opinions, satisfy conditions in the Coordinated Operations Agreement for CVP operation, and supply SWP water to the long-term SWP water contractors. Lake Oroville elevations would remain the same. All SWP storage, conveyance and delivery facilities, including Lake Oroville, would be operated subject to the current operational constraints and all SWP water deliveries thereto would continue.

This exchange of previously stored CVP water for delivery to WWD would have no effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish species. As stated above, water stored in Lake Oroville is released to meet a variety of commitments including to operate the SWP to meet flood control criteria, ensure water supply to senior water right holders along the Feather River, satisfy requirements for management of fish and wildlife, satisfy requirements in DWR's water right permits for water quality standards, satisfy conditions in the biological opinions, satisfy conditions in the Coordinated Operations Agreement for CVP operation, and supply SWP water to the long-term SWP water contractors. In addition, the flows on the Feather River are governed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The State Water Resources Control Board's Basin Plan governs Sacramento River flows and Delta outflow objectives (X2 Standard). All SWP storage, conveyance and delivery facilities, including Lake Oroville, and required downstream flows in the Feather River and Sacramento, would be operated subject to the current operational licenses, restrictions, and constraints and all SWP water deliveries thereto would continue.

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 project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 an 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:

The banked water would be conveyed in existing facilities to direct recharge basins or to established agricultural lands. No new excavation, construction, tillage, or other land disturbance would occur as a result of the proposal. Consequently, the project is not a type of activity with the potential to affect cultural resources, and there is no impact.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOIL. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issues by the State Geologist for the area or based on 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit 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 (1994), 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:

No land use conversion will result from this action. There is no change or impact to soils or geology. There is no exposure or risk applicable to any seismic related activity, landslides, structures, or property of any kind.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would 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"/>
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:

There is nothing applicable to any hazardous material in any way.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 would 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
erosion or siltation on-or off-site?				
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"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<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 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 by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

The proposed transfer would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The Semitropic Water Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with all adjoining water districts and groundwater users that defines the operational parameters for recharge and recovering groundwater from the local aquifer; a groundwater monitoring committee with representatives from the Semitropic Water Bank and each of the surrounding districts monitors banking operations and the health of the groundwater basin. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

If significant groundwater extraction has occurred from within the Semitropic Water Bank, and if it appears that there could be some potential for isolated impacts to the groundwater aquifer as a result of the potential for continuing significant extraction, Semitropic will manage any extraction to be within the identified extraction capacity of 140,000 AF that has been contemplated under the existing project environmental analysis for the banking projects. Semitropic Water Bank will continue to run its groundwater model to monitor and identify any potential local impacts, and then reviewing the information with the Groundwater Monitoring Committee and Technical Advisory Committee.

Semitropic Water Bank will address any potential impacts by implementing management decisions to modify its pumping program pattern to select for areas of extraction within the Semitropic Water Bank that will provide the desired groundwater extraction yield, while not impacting the groundwater aquifer and pumping water levels, and conform to the recommendations of the regional Groundwater Monitoring Committee and Technical Advisory Committee.

The transfer water would be maintained within existing conveyance and storage systems of the Semitropic Water Bank, and for any subsequent return, within the SWP. No drainage courses would receive transferred water from the proposed project; therefore, the project would not affect or alter existing drainage patterns, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river. No substantial

erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site would occur. In addition, there are no construction activities associated with the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts relating to water drainage patterns would occur with project implementation.

The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water thereby exceeding the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems (see discussion in paragraph above). Therefore, no impacts relating to storm water drainage systems would occur with project implementation.

The proposed project would not involve the construction of housing. The transfer would use existing Semitropic Water Bank and SWP delivery and storage facilities, which were constructed to standard engineering design practices to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. In addition, for this exchange, the timing of the transfer and subsequent exchange would occur within the regulatory parameters for the SWP; the Oroville Facilities are also operated for flood management, water supply, water quality improvement, and fish and wildlife enhancement requirements (DWR, 2007, pg 3.2-9). The proposed project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or impede or redirect flood flows.

The project would not expose people, structures or associated facilities to inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impacts would result from project implementation with respect to tsunamis, seiches, or mudslides.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 community conservation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

There is no land use conversion that will result from this action and no changes or impacts to any land planning or established community.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>

Discussion:

There is no impact or any applicable effect to any mineral resources.

XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 and 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:

There is no applicable effect or impact for noise. There will be no temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels associated with any part of the project.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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housing elsewhere?

Discussion:

There is no applicable impact or effect to population and housing. There is no displacement to any numbers of people nor any net effect or indirect effect from the project related to jobs or housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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:

There is no applicable impact or effect on public services. There is no impact on other public facilities. Services such as Fire, Police, Schools, Parks, and other services are not affected in any way.

XIV. RECREATION.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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"/>
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b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

There is no applicable impact to any recreational resources or activity.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 due 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"/>
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, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

There is no applicable impact or effect to transportation/traffic.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which services 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?				
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"/>
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:

The proposed action relies on use of existing SWP, CVP, WWD, and Semitropic facilities. No new construction or expansion of public service system facilities will be required. There will be no impacts to any utility or service system.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:

The project has no effect on the environment and no applicable impact, reducing habitat or effecting any plant or wildlife. This would include no direct or indirect cumulative impacts.

If significant groundwater extraction has occurred from within the Semitropic Water Bank, and if it appears that there could be some potential for isolated impacts to the groundwater aquifer as a result of the potential for continuing significant extraction, Semitropic will manage any extraction to be within the

identified extraction capacity of 140,000 AF that has been contemplated under the existing project environmental analysis for the banking projects. Semitropic Water Bank will continue to run its groundwater model to monitor and identify any potential local impacts, and then reviewing the information with the Groundwater Monitoring Committee and Technical Advisory Committee.

Semitropic Water Bank will address any potential impacts by implementing management decisions to modify its pumping program pattern to select for areas of extraction within the Semitropic Water Bank that will provide the desired groundwater extraction yield, while not impacting the groundwater aquifer and pumping water levels, and conform to the recommendations of the regional Groundwater Monitoring Committee and Technical Advisory Committee.

This exchange of previously stored CVP water to WWD would occur through existing facilities and require no new construction. It is anticipated that any transfer/exchange would generally occur prior to March 1, 2010. However, any transfer or exchange of the water would be subject to the regulatory parameters for the SWP, including all applicable Biological Opinions requirements under the ESA that govern SWP pumping at the DWR's Banks Pumping Plant located in the Delta. To ensure compliance with all environmental requirements, DWR follows a set of mitigation and environmental programs in operating the SWP. As previously discussed in the biological resources section and cultural resources section of this environmental checklist, implementation of the proposed project would not degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce fish or wildlife habitat or population levels, nor reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory. Furthermore, this exchange will be subject to any additional operational criteria developed following the recent findings and requests of the California Fish and Game Commission to provide additional protections for longfin smelt.