

Attachment No. 1
to Environmental Information for
Petition for Temporary Transfer
License 2685 (Application 1224)
held by Merced Irrigation District

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES

The Merced Irrigation District (Merced) is petitioning to add a place of use and point of redirection to its License 2685 (Application 1224) in order to supply previously stored surface water to agricultural lands located near the boundaries of Merced's authorized place of use. Le Grand-Athlone Water District, Lone Tree Mutual Water Company; East Side Water District; San Luis Canal Company; Chowchilla Water District; and the lands in an area known as Merced's Sphere of Influence Lands (SOI Lands); collectively, are all referred to as "Transferees", which are located in Merced County. The majority of the SOI Lands currently (and have historically) received surface water from Merced during years that Merced's Board of Directors concluded that adequate natural flow is available under its Pre-1914 claims from the Merced River. During months when surface water is not available under Merced's Pre-1914 claims for delivery to SOI Lands, the individual landowners meet their demands through alternate supplies, such as groundwater. The landowners within the nearby water districts would also meet demands through alternate supplies.

Approval of this petition would provide for up to the proposed temporary transfer quantity of 20,000 AF made available from Merced by releases of previously stored surface water. These releases involve the delivery of previously stored surface water to the Transferees, and refill of the reservoir, which normally occurs during periods of high runoff. Merced is willing to accept refill criteria to assure no impact occurs to downstream water right holders. There will be minor changes to Merced's current operations as a result of this Petition. Absent the proposed temporary transfer, Merced would retain the entire quantity proposed for transfer in storage pursuant to its water rights.

Merced is required to release water pursuant to its other existing downstream requirements and commitments. Releases of water from storage will increase the streamflow between Lake McClure and Merced's Main Canal by up to 20,000 AF, during the period of releases, in order to convey stored surface water for redirection to the Transferees. There will be no changes to the crops produced within Merced's boundaries as a result of the temporary water transfer; therefore, Merced will provide the proposed releases over and above existing requirements, commitments, and deliveries. For these reasons, the proposed temporary transfer does not involve any construction or physical changes to the District's facilities. Petitions for temporary transfer of water pursuant to Water Code Section 1725 are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Merced Irrigation District License 2685 (Application 1224)
Attachment to Environmental Information

PHOTOGRAPHS

The present place of use and points of diversion include existing facilities that are well known and documented with the Division. See Attachment 2 for views of typical irrigated lands within the proposed addition to the place of use.

MAPS

The present points of diversion, points of rediversion, and places of use, are shown on maps filed with the Division for License 2685. The proposed additional place of use is shown on the attached map titled "*Merced Irrigation District Map to Accompany Petition for Temporary Transfer under License 2685 (Application 1224) Proposed Addition to Place of Use and Point of Rediversion*".

AB/oh

5520.7/FINAL ATTACHMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL FORM TRANSFER SOI 06 17 2016