



ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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June 10, 2015

Robert Cooke, Chief
State Water Project Analysis Office
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: ***2015 Proposal for Water Exchange between Zone 7 Water Agency and BBID***

Dear Mr. Cooke:

With this letter, Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) requests the Department of Water Resources' support and facilitation of the exchange of water between Zone 7 Water Agency and Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID). As you are no doubt aware, the continuing drought has had a severe impact on water districts across California, and this condition necessitates the implementation of creative and cooperative solutions to address water shortages.

Zone 7 and its water retailers, serving about 240,000 people in the Tri-Valley area¹, have been at the forefront of water conservation efforts in the State of California. In 2014, the Tri-Valley achieved 26% conservation relative to 2013. This year, residents continue to conserve aggressively: as of May 31, 2015, Zone 7 has had to provide 28% less water relative to 2013 for the same time period, saving 4,200 AF. With successful conservation efforts exceeding the State Water Resources Control Board's targets, Zone 7 has more flexibility in managing available water supplies this year. In contrast, BBID, which relies on the Central Valley Project (CVP) and pre-1914 water rights, is anticipating a water shortage. Their agricultural CVP allocation is 0% for the second consecutive year and curtailment of their pre-1914 water rights is imminent. Given these conditions, Zone 7 and BBID have agreed to a water exchange, which would benefit both parties' service areas and the public.

Under the exchange, Zone 7 would provide BBID with 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of its Table A allocation this year. This water would be delivered to BBID at their intakes off the Banks Pumping Plant intake channel, where DWR normally delivers BBID's pre-1914 water supply. BBID agrees to return the water, plus an additional 1,500 AF (1.5-to-1

¹ Includes the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and a portion of San Ramon.

exchange ratio), within three years (2018), depending on hydrologic and water supply conditions. Zone 7 and BBID, under mutual agreement, could extend the return window to five years (2020). The source of the BBID return water would be cropland idling in fields irrigated with pre-1914 water; this portion of the water exchange would be executed consistent with DWR's and United States Bureau of Reclamation's "Water Transfer White Paper."

We appreciate your prompt consideration of this proposed water exchange. BBID is in critical need of water and would like to receive the water from Zone 7 as soon as possible. Please let us know if we could provide any additional information or any assistance to expedite the process.

Sincerely,



G.F. Duerig
General Manager

cc: Rick Gilmore (BBID)
Amparo Flores (Zone 7)
Eric Chapman (SWC)