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Notice of Availability of the 2026-2027 North to South Water Transfers Initial Study and Addendum to the Final Long-Term Water Transfers EIR

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) has released for a 30-day public review for informational purposes under the California Environmental Quality Act an Initial Study (IS) and draft Addendum to the Final Long-Term Water Transfers EIR. The IS evaluates a range of potential single-year water transfers of up to a total of 250,000 acre-feet (AF) per year from Sellers to Buyers, made available from groundwater substitution and reservoir release actions. Transfers of water would occur from Sellers primarily upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to Buyers that primarily receive water conveyed through the Delta. SLDMWA, its member agencies, Contra Costa WD, and East Bay MUD (collectively referred to as the Buyers) may experience water shortages in 2026 and 2027 and are soliciting willing Sellers that may transfer surface water to them. The interested Buyers would negotiate with these interested Sellers to identify potential volumes of water that could be made available for transfer and the specifics of each transfer arrangement through single-year agreements for 2026 and 2027. Proposed project effects would occur within the Buyer Service Area and Seller Service Area and at the reservoirs used for reservoir release transfers. The transfers could originate from Sellers in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The transfer Buyers could be in Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus counties.

The documents are available for review at <https://sldmwa.org/water-transfers/>. Please contact Pablo Arroyave at (209) 832-6200 if you encounter difficulty accessing the documents or would like to request a CD copy. Written comments on the environmental document should be received by close of business May 17, 2025, and should be sent to Pablo Arroyave, SLDMWA, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, CA 93635, or via e-mail to pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org. For additional information, please contact Pablo Arroyave at (209) 832-6200 or pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org.