

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PETITIONS

This form is required for all petitions.

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) can approve a petition, the State Water Board must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED

For a petition for change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

See Attachment No. 1

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

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Coordination with Regional Water Quality Control Board

For change petitions only, you must request consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the potential effects of your proposed change on water quality and other instream beneficial uses. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.) In order to determine the appropriate office for consultation, see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml. Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here, then provide the following information.

Date of Request

May 16, 2019

Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation?

Yes No

Will a waste discharge permit be required for the project?

Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Matt Scroggins (559-445-6042) of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board was contacted in order to discuss the proposed temporary water transfer; and no comments were provided at this time. A copy of this petition has been provided to Mr. Scroggins concurrently with the submittal of this petition to the Division of Water Rights.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Local Permits

For temporary transfers only, you must contact the board of supervisors for the county(ies) both for where you currently store or use water and where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.) Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here.

Date of Contact

May 17, 2019

For change petitions only, you should contact your local planning or public works department and provide the information below.

Person Contacted: Date of Contact:

Department: Phone Number:

County Zoning Designation:

Are any county permits required for your project? If yes, indicate type below. Yes No

- Grading Permit Use Permit Watercourse Obstruction Permit
- Change of Zoning General Plan Change Other (explain below)

If applicable, have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies. Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Not Applicable.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Federal and State Permits Not Applicable.

Check any additional agencies that may require permits or other approvals for your project:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Department of Fish and Game
- Dept of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams California Coastal Commission
- State Reclamation Board U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies. Yes No

For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

Agency	Permit Type	Person(s) Contacted	Contact Date	Phone Number
Not Applicable.				

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Not Applicable.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Construction or Grading Activity

Does the project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed, bank or riparian habitat of any stream or lake? Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Not Applicable.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Archeology

Has an archeological report been prepared for this project? If yes, provide a copy. Yes No

Will another public agency be preparing an archeological report? Yes No

Do you know of any archeological or historic sites in the area? If yes, explain below. Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Not Applicable.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Photographs See Attachment.

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach complete sets of color photographs, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the following three locations:

- Along the stream channel immediately downstream from each point of diversion
- Along the stream channel immediately upstream from each point of diversion
- At the place where water subject to this water right will be used

Maps See Attachment.

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach maps labeled in accordance with the regulations showing all applicable features, both present and proposed, including but not limited to: point of diversion, point of rediversion, distribution of storage reservoirs, point of discharge of treated wastewater, place of use, and location of instream flow dedication reach. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 715 et seq., 794.)

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 794, petitions for change submitted without maps may not be accepted.

All Water Right Holders Must Sign This Form:

I (we) hereby certify that the statements I (we) have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my (our) ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge. Dated at .


Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature
**DARREN B. CORDOVA, MBK ENGINEERS, ON
BEHALF OF MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

NOTE:

- **Petitions for Change** may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.)
- **Petitions for Temporary Transfer** may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game and the board of supervisors for the county(ies) where you currently store or use water and the county(ies) where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.)

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 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. These lands are within an area known as Merced's Sphere of Influence Lands (SOI Lands), an area known as the Red Top Area, Le Grand-Athlone Water District, Lone Tree Mutual Water Company, East Side Water District, Turner Island Water District, and Chowchilla Water District (collectively, "Transferees"), which are all located within 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 determines 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 areas and entities listed above also meet water demands through alternate supplies; and the proposed water transfer would offset a portion of those supplies.

Approval of this Petition for Change Involving Water Transfers (Petition) would provide for a proposed temporary transfer quantity of up to 20,000 AF made available by Merced from releases of stored surface water. The releases by Merced for the proposed water transfer would occur beginning upon approval of this Petition and potentially during a period of up to one year following approval of this Petition. 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 will implement refill criteria to ensure 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, and the Transferees would meet their demands through alternate supplies, such as pumped groundwater. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) directs the Department of Water Resources to develop groundwater basin priorities and identify groundwater basins and subbasins in conditions of critical overdraft. The proposed addition to the place of use includes lands overlying the Merced Subbasin and the Turlock Subbasin. The Merced Subbasin has been identified as a critically overdrafted basin, and the Turlock Subbasin has been designated as high-priority. The proposed temporary water transfer will assist to alleviate groundwater conditions in portions of the subbasins by using the transferred surface water for irrigation in lieu of groundwater pumping.

Merced is required to release water from Lake McClure (New Exchequer Dam) pursuant to its other existing downstream requirements and commitments. Releases of water from storage for the proposed transfer 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 rediversion to the Transferees. There will be no changes to the crops produced within Merced's boundaries as a result of the temporary water transfer; thus, 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 Merced's facilities. Petitions for temporary transfer of water pursuant to Water Code Section 1725 are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The present points of diversion include existing facilities that are well known and documented with the Division of Water Rights (Division). In addition, the present and proposed places of use are also well known and documented with the Division. Therefore, for these reasons, photographs of these points of diversion and places of use are not included.

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" dated May 17, 2019.

CB/

5520.7/FINAL ATTACHMENT 1 TO ENVIRONMENTAL FORM TRANSFER PETITION 2019-05-17