Background on Transfers

• What is a water transfer?
  — Reallocation of water among water users

• Why transfer water?
  — Flexibility of water use in California
Agencies Approving Transfers

• U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  – Central Valley Project (CVP)
• Department of Water Resources
  – State Water Project (SWP)
• State Water Resources Control Board
  – Post-1914 water rights
Overview of Transfers

• Seller must either:
  – Release water from reservoir storage, or
  – forego direct diversion of water

• Where does water go?
  – Northern area of state to central/southern areas
  – Other regions of the state

• How much is transferred?
  – 2013: 277,283 acre-ft processed
Reallocation vs Transfer

• Reallocation within a district do not require State Board approval unless:
  – Change point of diversion, purpose or place of use.

• Transfer needed:
  – Water to be used by other user outside service area.
Pre-1914 Water Right Transfers

• Can change point of diversion purpose or place of use
• Not required to petition State Water Board
• May chose to petition for instream flow dedication.
Types of Water Transfers

• Surface water transfer
  – Stored water
  – Direct diversion water

• Groundwater transfer
  – Use of groundwater in lieu of surface water
  – Banked groundwater
  – Direct transfer

• Imported water transfer