



News for Immediate Release July 19, 2013

Contact: Ted Alvarez, Supervising Engineer, (916) 653-6271
Ted Thomas, Information Officer (916) 653-9712

DWR Announces Comment Period Regarding Proposed Negative Declaration for Proposed State Water Project Supply Allocation Settlement Agreements

SACRAMENTO -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has announced a 30-day public review period on a Proposed Negative Declaration (Proposed ND) for a proposed State Water Project supply allocation settlement agreement with four water agencies that receive water from the State Water Project (SWP).

Released on July 19, the Proposed ND describes the Agreements in Principle that may form the basis of the settlement and related amendments to SWP long-term water supply contracts. The agreements would settle litigation between DWR and four SWP contractor plaintiffs: Solano County Water Agency, the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the City of Yuba City, and the County of Butte.

The underlying issue relates to how California's "area of origin" water rights statute pertains to the SWP contracts and claims for additional water under this statute. In an effort to resolve the litigation, the parties have proposed terms and conditions for settlement, captured in Agreements in Principle, which will be considered for approval by the Parties after public review and comment of the Proposed ND.

Implementing the provisions of the proposed settlement agreements would result in modifying SWP allocations to the four SWP contractor plaintiffs to improve water delivery reliability but not significantly increase overall SWP water deliveries. The expected net change in average annual SWP deliveries as a result of the proposed settlement would be an estimated increase of 0.3 percent over existing deliveries, with all the increases occurring north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

After preparing an Initial Study, DWR has concluded that the proposed settlement

agreements would not have a significant effect on the environment. It also has prepared a Proposed ND for this Proposed Project and a Notice of Intent to adopt the Proposed ND.

Comments on the Proposed ND must be received no later than 5 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) August 19, 2013.

The Proposed ND is available electronically at <http://www.water.ca.gov/calendar/public.cfm> and in hard copy at a number of libraries throughout the state. Addresses for these locations are found in the Proposed ND available at the Web page above.

Comments on the Proposed ND may be submitted in writing by mail to Ted Alvarez, Supervising Engineer, DWR State Water Project Analysis Office, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1620, Sacramento, CA 95814, via fax: (916) 653-9628, or electronically to Ted.Alvarez@water.ca.gov.

-30-

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.