



STANISLAUS COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

Mail to: Patterson Irrigation District

Name: Vince Lucchesi

Address: 998 Orange Avenue

City, State, Zip Patterson, CA, 95363

FILED  
21 APR 26 PM 1:31  
STANISLAUS CO. CLERK-RECORDER  
BY Jocelyn Rodriguez

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

Water Transfer to the South Valley Water Resources Authority

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type):

Notice of Determination

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE STANISLAUS	
COUNTY CLERK ON _____	
Posted <u>APR 26 2021</u>	Removed <u>05/30/2021</u>
Returned to agency on _____	
DEPUTY	<u>Jocelyn Rodriguez</u>

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

Date removed from posting 05/30/2021

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: Stanislaus
Address: 10211 St, Modesto, CA 95354

From:

Public Agency: Patterson Irrigation District
Address: 948 Orange Avenue Patterson, California 95363
Contact: Vince Lucchesi, General Manager
Phone: (209) 892-6233

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Patterson Irrigation District
Address: 948 Orange Avenue Patterson, California 95363
Contact: Vince Lucchesi, General Manager
Phone: (209) 892-6233

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse):

Project Title: Water Transfer to the South Valley Water Resources Authority

Project Applicant: Patterson Irrigation District
Project Location (include county): Stanislaus
Handwritten: 948 Orange Ave, Patterson, CA 95363, 209-892-6233

Project Description:
Please see attached

This is to advise that the Patterson Irrigation District has approved the above described project on April 21, 2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:
948 Orange Avenue, Patterson, CA 95363

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] Title: General Manager

Date: April 26, 2021 Date Received for filing at OPR:

## Project Location

PID is located near the City of Patterson, in Stanislaus County, California along San Joaquin River between the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. PID's service area extends about 8 miles long (east-west) and three miles wide (north-south). PID encompasses approximately 12,660 acres, most of which is irrigated. PID includes approximately 643 landowners and over 400 water users. Irrigated lands served by PID include a variety of orchards and row crops. PID receives water from the San Joaquin River and the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC).

SVWRA is a joint powers authority that provides a mechanism for specific activities to be undertaken by its thirteen (13) public agency members and can include, but not limited to, water supply, flood protection, and watershed management in Kings and Kern Counties covering about 1,300 square miles. Collectively, the SVWRA districts are geographically situated in the lower San Joaquin Valley (Valley), part of the Great Central Valley of California. The Great Central Valley is bordered by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, the Klamath Mountains and Cascade Range to the north, and the Tehachapi Range to the south.

Participating members of the SVWRA that are located within Kern County receive annual allocations of water from the SWP pursuant to their water service contracts with the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA); KCWA contracts directly with DWR for the SWP supply. Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD), the participating SVWRA member located in Kings County, contracts directly with DWR for SWP water. In addition, each of the members of the SVWRA manage local groundwater and surface water resources and/or participate in local/regional groundwater storage programs.

PVWD is a California Water District located in western Fresno County, southeast of the City of Coalinga that includes approximately 38,000 total acres of which 30,000 acres are rated as farmable. PVWD has started importing surface supplies of water to help offset over drafting of its groundwater supply. SVWRA is agreeable to deliver up to 2,000 AF/Y of the PID water to agricultural lands within PVWD. The water would be delivered from the terminus of the San Luis Canal to PVWD through the Coalinga Canal under a pending update to Exhibit C of the existing Warren Act Contract for PVWD and SVWRA.

## Latitude and Longitude

The centroid of each SVWRA member district participating in the Project and PVWD is identified in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1. Latitude and Longitude in Decimal Degrees of Each Participating District**

Member	Latitude	Longitude
Belridge Water Storage District	35.519172° N	-119.720072° W
Berrenda Mesa Water District	35.662932° N	-119.945316° W
Cawelo Water District	35.568376° N	-119.150173° W
Dudley Ridge Water District	35.881798° N	-119.868578° W
Lost Hills Water District	35.724168° N	-119.766801° W
Pleasant Valley Water District	36.113599° N	-120.243027° W
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District	35.382899° N	-119.252035° W
Semitropic Water Storage District	35.606200° N	-119.495446° W
Tejon-Castac Water District	34.856690° N	-118.807712° W
Wheeler Ridge- Maricopa Water Storage District	35.038432° N	-119.016011° W

## Description of Project

The Project consists of a five (5) year water transfer agreement (beginning 2021) between PID and the SVWRA to transfer up to 10,000 AF/Y of surface water conveyed to SVWRA participants; up to 2,000 AF/Y of the SVWRA deliveries may be delivered to PVWD. The water to be transferred would be

comprised of PID's pre-1914 appropriative water right from the San Joaquin River or Replacement Water, then conveyed through existing federal facilities (via an existing Warren Act Contract) to existing SWP facilities for delivery, again through existing conveyances to the SVWRA participants. A current water service contract exists. An update to Exhibit C of the existing contract to address delivery from the Coalinga Canal turnouts (at milepost 14.55 and 14.57) and the California Aqueduct would be needed to be secured prior to any water being transfer to PVWD and SVRWA. PID has entered into similar agreements in the past and this Project is a continuation of existing water transfer activities that have been ongoing between PID and various water purveyors since 2010. Due to aggressive conservation practices and the use of reclaimed water, PID has temporarily developed water supplies in excess of the current water demands within its service boundaries. As a result, PID has excess water that can be transferred, through Water Transfer Agreements to various water districts in the San Joaquin Valley that may have water shortages. Also, due to reduced water supply allocation from the SWP, members of the SVWRA have suffered water shortages in past years and anticipates that this trend will continue. For more than the past decade, farmed lands within SVWRA and PVWD have regularly sought replacement supplies to offset the supply reductions from the SWP. Water transferred due to the Project would be transferred from PID to lands within the SVWRA and PVWD to historically cultivated, farmed lands; no new lands would be brought into cultivation as a result of the Project.

Project activities do not include any new infrastructure, conveyance facilities, construction, or alteration of lands. Water transfers would be provided to SVWRA members via existing turnouts along the California Aqueduct from Reach 8D, 9, 10A, 11B, 12D, 12E, 13B, 14A, 14B, 14C, 15A, 16A, and 17E, and through the turnout from Reach 31A of the Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct. Water would be provided to PVWD through the Coalinga Canal.

The District proposes a five (5) year Water Transfer Agreement between the District and the SVWRA to transfer up to 50,000 acre-feet of water to SVWRA (Project). The water to be transferred is comprised of pre-1914 water right from the San Joaquin River held by the District.

The District also obtains surface water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) pursuant to a contract with the Reclamation entitled "Contract between the United States and Patterson Irrigation District Providing for Project Water Service" dated February 28, 2005, Contract No. 14-06-200-3598 A-LTR1 (District Contract), pursuant to which the District obtains both project water from the CVP and replacement water, replacing its diminished San Joaquin River supplies due to the construction of Friant Dam and the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals.

SVWRA is a California public entity formed and existing pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Gov't Code § 6500, et seq.) and comprised of thirteen (13) public agency general members located in Kings and Kern Counties, and nine (9) of those agencies have entered into an agreement to participate in a multi-year water transfer agreement with the District. The nine (9) public agencies participating in the District transfer are named, along with their State Water Project (SWP) amounts in acre-feet: Belridge Water Storage District (121,508), Berrenda Mesa Water District (92,600), Cawelo Water District 38,200, Dudley Ridge Water District (41,350), Lost Hills Water District (119,110), Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (29,900), Semitropic Water Storage District (155,000), Tejon-Castaic Water District (5,278), Wheeler Ridge- Maricopa Water Storage District (197,008).

RTS Agri Business, LLC., is a landowner that farms both in SVWRA District and Pleasant Valley Water District. An additional 2,000 acre-feet of water per year would be delivered to RTS Agri Business, LLC., lands located in the Pleasant Valley Water District

Due to aggressive conservation practices and the use of reclaimed water, the District has temporarily developed water supplies more than the demands within its service boundaries. As a result, the District has excess water that can be transferred, through water transfer programs with various water districts that may have water shortages. The District has entered into similar agreements in the past with other water districts. This Project, between the District and the participating members of SVWRA is merely a continuation of the current the District practices that has been in place since 2010. Because of continued reduced water supply

allocations from the SWP, SVWRA has suffered water shortages in past years and anticipates that this trend will continue. For more than the past decade, farmed lands within the SVWRA districts have regularly sought replacement supplies to offset the supply reductions from the SWP. Water transferred due to the Project would be transferred from the District to lands within the participating members of the SVWRA to historically cultivated, farmed lands; no new lands would be brought into cultivation as a result of the Project.

The the District Board of Directors has found and determined that the District may be able to make a portion of its water supply available to SVWRA for the next five (5) years through conservation and the District projects and improvements. Other than extremely dry years, a minimum of 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of the District's water is proposed to be made available for transfer and is expected to be surplus to the needs of the District's customers for that five-year period. the District is willing to modify the releases and diversions from its facilities and operations of its delivery systems to make a portion of its water supplies available for transfer to SVWRA participants.