

**SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines, the San Juan Water District hereby adopts a Negative Declaration for the following project:

**PROJECT TITLE:** 2024 Conserved Water Transfer of Pre-1914 Water Rights water to Sacramento Suburban Water District.

**PROJECT PROPONENT** San Juan Water District

**AND LEAD AGENCY:** 9935 Auburn Folsom Road, Granite Bay, CA 95746; Principal Contact:  
Greg Zlotnick, Water Resources and Strategic Affairs,  
916-791-6933

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

San Juan Water District (San Juan or SJWD) is proposing to enter into an Agreement to temporarily transfer up to 6,000 acre-feet (AF) of its pre-1914 appropriative water rights water supplies, conserved pursuant to Water Code §1011, to Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) (hereafter, “Project”).

Pursuant to a settlement agreement, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will divert San Juan’s water right water from Folsom Reservoir; it will be treated at San Juan’s Water Treatment Plant; and it will be conveyed through the Cooperative Transmission Pipeline (CTP) for delivery into SSWD’s northern service area.

SJWD provides wholesale and retail water service to customers in northeastern Sacramento County and southwestern Placer County. San Juan’s pre-1914 water rights water supplies have an 1853 priority date, have been quantified and recorded, and are made available on an annual basis by Reclamation. The water supply is reliable.

Numerous water conservation actions have made a portion of San Juan’s pre-1914 appropriative water supplies available for this proposed transfer. These activities have resulted from implementation of SB X7-7, the Water Conservation Act of 2009, that required urban water purveyors to conserve 20% of their water supplies by 2020. San Juan complied with this legislative requirement as shown in its 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, and continues to preserve its conserved water supplies for use and transfer. San Juan is exercising its right to transfer this conserved water to SSWD pursuant to Water Code § 1011.

SSWD is a retail water supplier with no surface water supplies of its own, but it provides both surface and groundwater supplies to its urban customers by entering into agreements with surface water suppliers to enhance conjunctive management and sustainability of its groundwater aquifer. SSWD serves water to areas in Sacramento County, with its headquarters located at 3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA. 95821. SSWD will receive San Juan’s conserved pre-1914 appropriative water right supplies through the CTP for service to its existing customers. SSWD will forego pumping an equivalent amount of groundwater

from the North American Subbasin (NASb) as the amount of surface water it receives through this proposed conserved water transfer.

For more information concerning the Project, see the *Initial Study 2024 Temporary Water Transfer of Pre-1914 Water Rights to Sacramento Suburban Water District* (the "Initial Study"), which is available for review and copying during regular business hours at San Juan's District office at 9935 Auburn Folsom Road, Granite Bay, CA 95746. The Initial Study is also posted online at [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org).

## **PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

The purpose and need for the Project is to facilitate efficient delivery and re-allocation of water between a willing seller and willing buyer under California law. SSWD will reduce its groundwater pumping and take delivery of conserved surface water supplies made available by San Juan. SSWD will use these transferred surface water supplies to help meet its urban demands.

San Juan is making up to 6,000 acre-feet of its pre-1914 water rights water available for transfer to the SSWD with that availability based upon its prior and ongoing water conservation actions. San Juan has the right to transfer a portion of its pre-1914 water right supply, identified as having been conserved in the transfer year, under Water Code sections 1011 and 1706, which permits a change in the place of use, purpose of use or point of diversion or redirection, as long as the transfer would not cause injury to another party that has a legal right to that water and SJWD complies with the requirements of CEQA.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### San Juan Water District (San Juan)

San Juan's predecessor in interest, the North Fork Ditch Company, was established in 1854, after it had established its first water right claim in 1853. San Juan was formed in 1954 as California's first community services district. San Juan's wholesale area covers approximately 46 square miles and serves a population of approximately 151,000. San Juan's water supply sources are: (1) a settlement contract with Reclamation that provides, in perpetuity without reductions, for the delivery of 33,000 acre-feet of water from the American River based upon the District's water rights, which have priority dates of 1853 and 1928; (2) a permanent repayment contract with Reclamation for 24,200 acre-feet of Central Valley Project water; and, (3) a contract with Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) for up to 25,000 acre-feet of water. All sources of surface water are either temporarily held in or flow through Folsom Lake and delivery is taken at Folsom Dam outlets, either by gravity or pumped by Reclamation's Folsom Pumping Plant.

### Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)

SSWD serves approximately 175,000 people within its service area boundary. SSWD comprises two service areas – the North Service Area and South Service Area – that resulted from the combination of two previously independent water service systems. SSWD serves its customers both surface and groundwater supplies within the entirety of its service area boundary. SSWD serves approximately 35,000 acre-feet of water annually to its customers derived from its surface and groundwater supply portfolio.

## FINDINGS

San Juan has directed the preparation of an Initial Study on the Project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Initial Study has been prepared to assess the Project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the Initial Study, and the findings below, San Juan finds that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the San Juan, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- The water made available for this water transfer resulted from water conservation actions required by SB X7-7, the Water Conservation Act of 2009, as well as subsequent and ongoing conservation actions. San Juan's conserved water is protected for use and transfer under Water Code section 1011. San Juan has the legal right to transfer its Pre-1914 water right water under Water Code section 1706. The proposed project will not preclude San Juan from meeting the water demands of its customers. The conserved surface water that San Juan will transfer to SSWD is within the aggregate baseline amount of water delivered to San Juan's customers prior to SB X7-7 and implementation of the conservation actions associated with it and those that have also been carried out subsequently.
- The proposed short-term water conservation transfer will offset groundwater pumping that would otherwise occur in SSWD's service area. Neither conveyance of the transfer water to SSWD, nor use of the transfer water within SSWD's service area, results in a change in physical environment. The transfer will not result in any significant impact to streams or habitat for listed species, nor result in any growth-inducing impacts in SSWD's service area.
- There will be no impact on the environment because the transfer water complies with all laws and regulations applicable to the transfer of conserved water derived from a pre-1914 appropriative water right and SSWD will reduce use of groundwater by using the transferred conserved surface water supply.
- There will be no significant environmental impact on the operation of Folsom Reservoir, which has a capacity of nearly one million AF, resulting from this Project. Reclamation has been operating the reservoir since 1954 in part to divert, temporarily store as needed, and deliver water to San Juan under its existing water rights and contractual entitlements. There would be no change in Reclamation's operations of Folsom Reservoir resulting from this Project.
- There are no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts from implementation of the Project.
- There are no construction-related activities related to the Project.
- The Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of a special-status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.

- The Project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The Project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- The Project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
- The Project is limited to the single, short-term water transfer, which represents the whole of the contemplated action. The Project is separate and independent, and not related to or part of any past activities, including past water transfer agreements. The Project does not contemplate any future activities or water transfers and does not commit the District to any future activities or water transfers.
- The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.

In accordance with Section 21082.1 of CEQA, San Juan has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Project and finds that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment of San Juan. Based on a review of Project impacts above, it is anticipated that there will be no significant environmental impacts as a result of this Project. Therefore, no mitigation is required, and the Project is hereby approved.

Date: July 17, 2024



San Juan Water District