



STATE WATER
CONTRACTORS
FOUNDED 1982

WATER MANGEMENT TOOLS CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Talking Points – *September 2020*

- Twenty-nine (29) public water agencies (PWAs) hold long-term water supply contracts with the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water.
- Under the existing SWP Contract, water transfers and exchanges are limited, lacking specificity and therefore infrequently used – a constraint on water management and planning.
- PWAs and DWR have been negotiating to clarify and supplement existing water transfer and exchange provisions to improve water management flexibility and reliability:
 - Providing new flexibility for single and multi-year non-permanent water transfers;
 - Adding provisions on reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability;
 - Allowing PWAs to set terms of compensation for transfers and exchanges; and
 - Providing for the limited transfer of carryover and Article 21 water.
- The Water Management Tools Amendment does not:
 - Include any cost or financial provisions for Delta Conveyance;
 - Require any financial commitment from DWR or the State;
 - Increase exports;
 - Change State Water Project operations;
 - Authorize the construction of any water conveyance or water storage facilities; or
 - Require any new financial commitment from contracting water agencies.
- The contract amendment has undergone environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be considered by PWA Boards of Directors for adoption.
 - The Final Environmental Impact Report and CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations comply with CEQA.
- With greater flexibility to move and store SWP supplies through transfers and exchanges, PWAs will be better positioned to manage their water portfolios, particularly in times of drought.
- The amendment offers water agencies the opportunity to better utilize regional water supply projects when necessary and includes clear oversight and transparency measures to ensure the process includes government accountability.
- As California faces the increasing impacts of climate change, from heavy winter floods to periods of extreme drought, it is more important now than ever that PWAs are able to collaborate amongst themselves and with DWR to stabilize and successfully manage our complex water system.

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The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 27 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural land. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.