

CVP Water Transfer Policy

Board Adopted – April 14, 2020

District's Objectives

The District holds a contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a Central Valley Project agricultural water supply (CVP Water). The District allocates the CVP Water to eligible landowners or water users on a pro-rata acreage basis. The quantity of CVP Water made available to the District from this contract is chronically deficient and supplemental surface water supplies can be prohibitively costly and unreliable. Notwithstanding, the District also often seeks to secure supplemental sources of water supply to meet in-District water supply demands. This Water Transfer Policy (Policy) seeks to address the challenge of chronic shortages by balancing the potential benefits of transferring water with the District's need to ensure the District's water supply is protected and that the costs associated with the implementation of this Policy are appropriately allocated and recovered.

Scope

This Policy shall apply to the transfer of CVP Water. Supplemental surface water supplies, and groundwater supplies, whether developed by the District, individual landowners, or water users, are not eligible for transfer. All transfers out of the District shall require approval by the Board of Directors.

Policy

It is the Policy of the District to generally allow for the transfer of CVP Water, provided:

- 1) If the District's water supply, including CVP Water, is insufficient to meet historic in-District water supply demands, as defined by the District, water transfers out of the District will be generally prohibited. However, landowners and water users may request consideration by the Board of Directors in case of hardship. A written request for consideration explaining the hardship must be submitted to the General Manager and will be considered by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 2) If the District's water supply, including CVP Water, is sufficient to meet historic in-District water supply demands, as defined by the District, the transfer of CVP Water out of the District may be allowed.
 - a. All transfers must take place during the water year (March through February) in which the water was allocated. The transfer of water rescheduled into a subsequent water year is subject to the terms of the Bureau of Reclamations then current Rescheduling Guidelines.
 - b. Prior to transfer, the transferee shall pay for each acre-foot of CVP Water requested for transfer: 1) the then current CVP Water supply rate and, 2) the District's Operations & Maintenance rate, each as determined by the District and approved by the Board of Directors.

Any rate components that the District is not required to pay on transferred supplies, or any incremental chargers assessed by the Bureau of Reclamation for use of facilities to effectuate the transfer, shall be calculated and credited or paid prior to the District's request for transfer.

Review

The District's Board of Directors will review and consider this Policy at least annually, and more frequently if circumstances warrant. District staff will provide the Board a report on CVP Water transfers out of the District on a monthly basis.