

California Environmental Protection Agency

State Water Resources Control Board

**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

**P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000**

Info: (916) 341-5300, FAX: (916) 341-5400, Web: <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov>

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
FOR PETITIONS**

**Petition for Change**

**Petition for Extension of Time**

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can approve a petition to change your water right permit or a petition for extension of time to complete use, the SWRCB must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

**1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED**

For a petition to change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

DWR is petitioning the SWRCB to change the authorized place of use of one of DWR's water rights permits. The changes will allow the delivery of a portion of the State Water Project Table A water allocated to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Empire West Side Irrigation District to be delivered to land within Westlands Water District. The water covered by this petition, up to 10,000 AF of SWP water currently allocated to two farming interests in TLBWSD, Hansen Ranches/Vista Verde Farms (Hansen) and Newton Farms (Newton), and Brooks Farms (Brooks) in EWSID will be delivered to lands owned by the same farming interests in WWD (up to 6,000 AF for Hansen, up to 3,000 AF for Newton and 1,000 AF for Brooks). The lands farmed by these landowners in TLBWSD and EWSID are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as cotton, small grains, safflower, and alfalfa. The quantity of water associated with this transfer has been made available through the use of alternate local supplies to farm the lands within TLBWSD and EWSID. Depending on the availability of these local supplies, Hansen, Newton and Brooks will crop shift, or continue with normal farming operations within TLBWSD and EWSID. The lands owned by these landowners in WWD are in agricultural production, consisting of open land that has historically been planted with annual field crops such as alfalfa, cotton tomatoes and wheat, and permanent plantings of almonds and pistachios. The conversion of field crops to high dollar permanent plantings requires a more reliable water supply. In the absence of surface water, growers would likely pump groundwater to meet crop water demands. The water resulting from this transfer will be used to supplement supplies and to reduce the need for groundwater pumping.

*See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_*

**2. COUNTY PERMITS**

**N/A**

a. Contact your county planning or public works department and provide the following information:

Person contacted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

County Zoning Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any county permits required for your project?  YES  NO If YES, check appropriate box below:

Grading permit  Use permit  Watercourse  Obstruction permit  Change of zoning

General plan change  Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

b. Have you obtained any of the required permits described above?  YES  NO

If YES, provide a complete copy of each permit obtained.

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. STATE/FEDERAL PERMITS AND REQUIREMENTS N/A**

a. Check any additional state or federal permits required for your project:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  U.S. Forest Service  Bureau of Land Management

Soil Conservation Service  Dept. of Water Resources (Div. of Safety of Dams)  Reclamation Board

Coastal Commission  State Lands Commission  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

b. For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

AGENCY	PERMIT TYPE	PERSON(S) CONTACTED	CONTACT DATE	TELEPHONE NO.

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Does your proposed project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed or bank of any stream or lake?  YES  NO

If YES, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

The action covered by the petition is limited to the approval by the SWRCB of a Petition for Change in authorized place of use filed by DWR to change its authorized place of use to allow the transfer of a portion of the SWP supply allocated to TLBWSD and EWSID to be delivered to lands within WWD owned by farming interests with land in both districts. The lands to receive the water are currently in agricultural production.

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Have you contacted the California Department of Fish and Game concerning your project?  YES  NO

If YES, name and telephone number of contact: Copies of the Petition for Change are being submitted to the relevant regional office of DFG.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

- a. Has any California public agency prepared an environmental document for your project?  YES  NO  
If YES, submit a copy of the latest environmental document(s) prepared, including a copy of the notice of determination adopted by the California public agency. Public agency: TLBWSD
- b. If NO, check the appropriate box and explain below, if necessary:
  - The petitioner is a California public agency and will be preparing the environmental document.\*
  - I expect that the SWRCB will be preparing the environmental document.\*\*
  - I expect that a California public agency other than the State Water Resources Control Board will be preparing the environmental document.\* Public agency: \_\_\_\_\_

The Petition for Transfer under Water Code Section 1725 is exempt from CEQA, therefore no environmental document is required. However, TLBWSD completed an initial study and proposed Negative Declaration for a long-term transfer by the same parties identical to that being proposed for 2011. The documents were filed with the Office of Planning and Research on December 29, 2009 (2009121084).

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: When completed, submit a copy of the final environmental document (including notice of determination) or notice of exemption to the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights. Processing of your petition cannot proceed until these documents are submitted.

\*\* Note: CEQA requires that the SWRCB, as Lead Agency, prepare the environmental document. The information contained in the environmental document must be developed by the petitioner and at the petitioner's expense under the direction of the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights.

**5. WASTE/WASTEWATER N/A**

- a. Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation?  
 YES  NO  
If YES, or you are unsure of your answer, explain below and contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board for the following information (See instruction booklet for address and telephone no.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Will a waste discharge permit be required for your project?  YES  NO  
Person contacted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What method of treatment and disposal will be used? \_\_\_\_\_

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

**6. ARCHEOLOGY N/A**

- a. Have any archeological reports been prepared on this project?  YES  NO
- b. Will you be preparing an archeological report to satisfy another public agency?  YES  NO
- c. Do you know of any archeological or historic sites located within the general project area?  YES  NO  
If YES, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Attach **three complete sets of color photographs**, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the below-listed three locations. For time extension petitions, the photographs should document only those areas of the project that will be impacted during the requested extension period.

- Along the stream channel immediately downstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
- Along the stream channel immediately upstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
- At the place(s) where the water is to be used.

There will be no change in DWR facilities and no construction required as part of the requested change.

**8. CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the statements I have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: February 14, 2011

Signature: *Nancy Duma*