



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CHANGE TO MODIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PERMIT 16479 (APPLICATION 14443) FOR TRANSFER OF WATER TO WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

On May 8, 2014, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) filed a petition for temporary change to transfer water pursuant to California Water Code section 1725 et seq. The requested temporary change involves the transfer of up to 15,225 acre-feet (af) of water from Biggs-West Gridley Water District (Biggs) to Westlands Water District (Westlands). In order to facilitate the transfer, DWR has petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to modify the authorized place of use of DWR's Permit 16479 to include the service area of Westlands.

Biggs diverts water at Thermalito Afterbay on the Feather River under pre-1914 water rights and a water right settlement agreement with DWR. A water user within Westlands executed a water purchase agreement with Biggs for the transfer of 15,225 af of water made available through idling land that would have been planted to rice. Due to the critically dry hydrologic conditions in 2014 and the agreement of DWR to store transfer water made available in May and June until it can be exported at Banks Pumping Plant, a portion of the transfer water will rely on water available under Permit 16479. Westlands is not within the authorized place of use of DWR's State Water Project. Temporary changes involving the transfer/exchange of water may be in effect for one year from the date of approval.

Any correspondence directed to the petitioner should be mailed to the Department of Water Resources, c/o Nancy Quan, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001 or via email at nancy.quan@water.ca.gov;

Pursuant to California Water Code section 1726(f), any interested party may file a comment regarding the petition. **Comments must be received by the Division of Water Rights by 4:30 p.m. on June 3, 2014. A copy must also be provided to the petitioner at the address above.** To obtain detailed information regarding the proposed transfer, you may view the petition by visiting the Division's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/petitions/transferepetitions.shtml

Should you have any other questions regarding this matter, please contact Patricia Fernandez at (916) 319-9141 or by email at patricia.fernandez@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence or inquiries should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Patricia Fernandez, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Date of Notice: May 19, 2014