
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CHANGE INVOLVING TRANSFER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES PERMIT 16482 (APPLICATION 17512) TO WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT AND SAN LUIS WATER DISTRICT

On May 22, 2026, the Department of Water Resources (DWR or petitioner) filed a petition for temporary change to transfer up to 10,166 acre-feet of water pursuant to California Water Code section 1725, et seq. According to the petitioner, the proposed temporary change would allow the transfer of a portion of Dudley Ridge Water District's allocated State Water Project (SWP) supply to supplement the demands in Westlands Water District (Westlands) and San Luis Water District (San Luis WD).

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSFER

DWR requests approval from the State Water Resources Control Board for a temporary change to add portions of the service areas of Westlands and San Luis WD to DWR's water right Permit 16482 (Application 17512). This temporary change would allow the transfer up to 10,166 acre-feet of SWP water currently stored in San Luis Reservoir to lands outside of Dudley Ridge Water District.

According to the petitioner, the proposed transfer will not result in diversion of additional water from the Delta, a change in the timing of SWP diversions, or an increase of SWP exports. The action is limited to a change in place of use of previously allocated and stored water. In addition, the transfer is also expected to reduce reliance on groundwater pumping and avoid extraction losses associated with groundwater banking, resulting in more efficient use of available water supplies.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Petitioner requests the following temporary changes to its respective water right permit.

1. The temporary addition of portions of the service areas of Westlands and San Luis WD as places of use to DWR Permit 16482 (Application 17512).

The petitioner has requested the temporary changes become effective on July 16, 2026. All temporary changes may be in effect for up to one year from the date of approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Temporary changes petitioned pursuant to Water Code section 1725 are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. However, the State Water Board must consider potential impacts to other legal users of the water and to fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Pursuant to Water Code section 1725, et seq., the State Water Board is authorized to issue temporary change orders, allowing the transfer or exchange of water or water rights after completing an evaluation and finding that the proposed temporary changes:

1. Involves only water that would otherwise have been consumptively used or stored by permittee or licensee;
2. Would not injure any legal user of the water; and
3. Would not unreasonably affect fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses.

Water Code section 1728, subdivision (e) states in part that when evaluating transfers, "...the board shall not deny, or place conditions on, a temporary change to avoid or mitigate impacts that are not caused by the temporary change..." Additionally, Water Code section 1728, subdivision (d) states in part that "...the board shall not modify any term or condition of the petitioner's permit or license, including those terms that protect other legal users of water, fish, wildlife, and other instream beneficial uses, except as necessary to carry out the temporary change..."

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS

Pursuant to Water Code section 1726, subdivision (d), the State Water Board is providing notice of this petition and seeking information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed temporary changes. Comments should identify the application or permit number being addressed. The comments must address one or more of the required findings described above; only comments related to effects caused by the temporary changes will be considered.

The petitioner has the burden of establishing that the proposed temporary changes will not injure any legal user of the water, or unreasonably affect fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses. If the State Water Board determines that the petitioner has established a prima facie case, the burden of proof then shifts to the party that has filed comments (Water Code section 1728). Since at this time the State Water Board has not made a determination regarding whether the petition identified above presents a prima facie case, persons commenting on a petition should provide sufficient information to support claims of injury or effects on fish, wildlife, or other instream uses.

Pursuant to California Water Code section 1726, subdivision (f), any interested person may file a comment regarding the petition. **Comments filed in response to this notice must be received by the Division of Water Rights at WaterRightPetitions@waterboards.ca.gov by 4:30 p.m. on June 22, 2026. A copy must be provided to the petitioner listed below.**

Send comments to:

Vadim Demchuk
Department of Water Resources
Vadim.Demchuk@water.ca.gov

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Patricia Fernandez by email at Patricia.Fernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date of Notice: **June 1, 2026**