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Notice of Preparation of an

**Environmental Impact Report for the Petition Requesting an Extension of Time to
More Fully Exercise Conditional Water Rights for Operation of the State Water Project**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

To: Agencies and Interested Parties

Date: September 30, 2025

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the California Department of Water Resources' Petition to the State Water Resources Control Board for Extension of Time to modify the timeframe of Conditional Water Rights Under the State Water Project Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 for water supply and Permits 16477 and 16480 for hydropower operations

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The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is requesting a time extension to continue the development of its existing water rights permits without altering the existing permitted quantities or rates, purpose of use, season of use, points of diversion, or places of use. The water rights permits that are the subject of this Notice of Preparation are permit numbers 16478, 16479, 16481, 16482, 16477 and 16480 (Water Rights). As the petitioner and project applicant, DWR will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the petition it filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a water right extension of time (Extension of Time) to modify the Water Right development timeframes but otherwise remain consistent with the existing conditions of the permits. The EIR will be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code sections 21000, et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations sections 15000, et seq. DWR will be the lead agency for this EIR.

DWR currently holds several water right permits¹ that authorize the appropriation of water from the Feather River and Delta channels for the purpose of operating the SWP. The permits initially required that construction of the SWP be completed by December 1, 1980, and complete application of the water to the proposed use be completed by December 1, 1990. On July 2, 1991, DWR petitioned for an extension of time and received approval of the petition from the State Water Board. Term 6 of the amended Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 required that construction work be completed by December 31, 2000, while Term 7 required that complete application of the water to beneficial use be completed by December 31, 2009. The same construction and development deadlines are set forth in Terms 7 and 8, respectively, in the power permits (16477 and

¹ Water Rights Permits 16478 (A005630), 16479 (A014443), 16481 (A014445A), and 16482 (A017512) for water supply and Permits 16477 (A005629) and 16480 (A014444) for hydropower operations.

DWR operates the SWP in compliance with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). DWR operates consistent with an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), pursuant to section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code. The ITP permit provides incidental take authority for threatened and endangered aquatic species that are listed under state law.

During the proposed further development of its beneficial use of its Water Rights, DWR shall comply with all state and federal laws and regulations, including as those laws and regulations are modified over time. As DWR expands its beneficial use over time, it will need to seek new permits from multiple state and federal agencies under several different regulatory programs for its long-term operations and for any further construction of SWP facilities.

Project Description

DWR has submitted the petition to extend the time for Terms 6 and 7 in its Water Rights permits to allow for the potential, under possible future conditions, to put the water under its Water Rights to further beneficial use. Importantly, in this petition, DWR is requesting an extension to a date no later than December 31, 2085 without altering the existing permitted quantities or rates, purpose of use, season of use, points of diversion, or places of use. The requested extension would provide additional time to meet changing water supply demands while ensuring environmental protections.

Location of Project

The Water Rights are located in the Feather River watershed and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. The water supply under the Water Rights will be put to beneficial use in the Bay-Delta watershed, and throughout the State of California in the SWP's authorized places of use that span multiple counties including Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Yuba, Yolo, Sacramento, Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Solano, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Merced, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, and Imperial.

The project location currently includes major water conveyance facilities such as the California Aqueduct, Oroville Dam, and various pumping stations (Figure 1). The geographic area in which the effects of the Time Extension will be evaluated for the CEQA process includes the following:

- Oroville Facilities
- Lower Feather River from the Fish Barrier Dam to the confluence with the Sacramento River
- Sacramento River from the confluence with the Feather River to the Delta
- SWP Facilities in the Delta
- Waters within the legal Delta
- SWP Facilities in Suisun Marsh and Bay
- Waters within the Suisun Marsh and Bay
- SWP Facilities south of the Delta

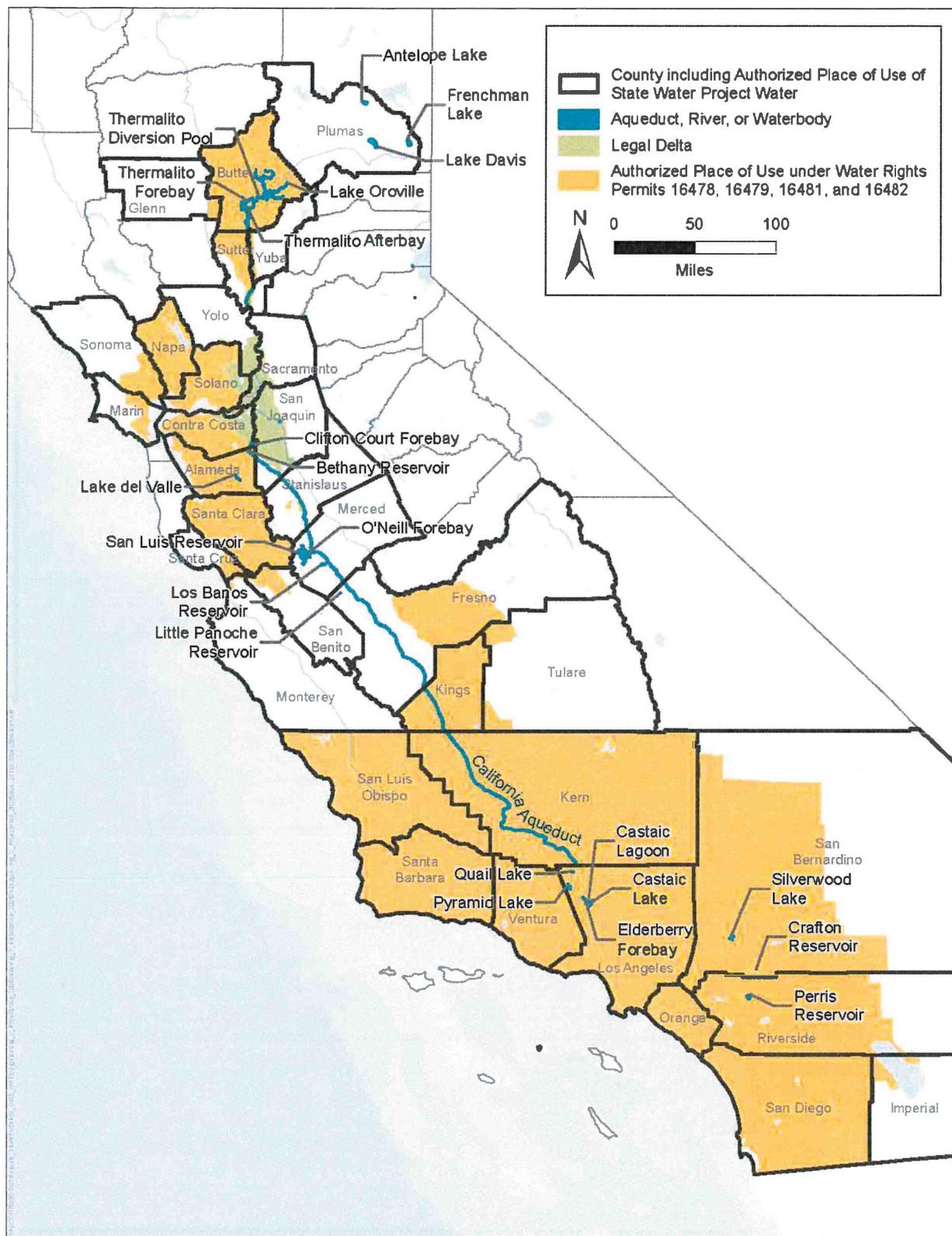


Figure 1. Location of the SWP Authorized Places of Use and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Project Location)