

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FROM: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

TO: Alameda County Clerk
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, California 94607

Amador County Clerk
810 Court Street
Jackson, California 95642

Calaveras County Clerk
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, California 95249

Contra Costa County Clerk
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, California 94553

San Francisco County Clerk
City Hall, Room 168
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102-4678

San Joaquin County Clerk
44 North San Joaquin Street
Second Floor, Suite 260
Stockton, California 95202

San Mateo County Clerk
555 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City, California 94063-1665

Santa Clara County Clerk
70 West Hedding Street, First Fl., East Wing
San Jose, California 95110

PROJECT TITLE: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency's Pilot Water Transfer.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

PROJECT LOCATION: Amador County, Calaveras County, San Joaquin County, Contra Costa County, and Alameda County (See Attachment A, Map).

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

See Attachment B, Project Description.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

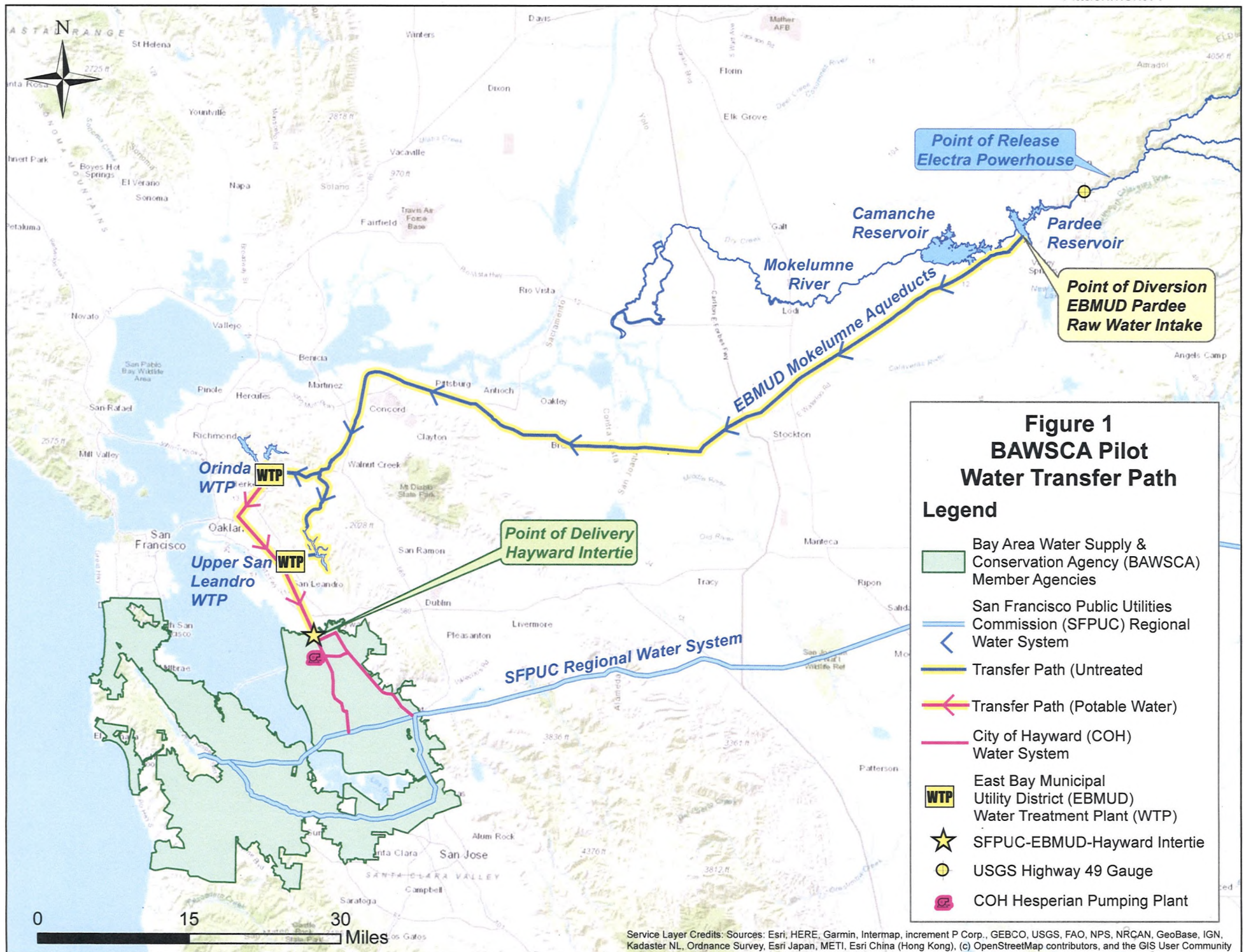
EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption Class 1- Existing Facilities Exemption (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, §15301(b)) and Common Sense Exemption (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, §15061(b).)

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: See Attachment C, Reasons Why Project is Exempt.

CONTACT PERSON: Nicole M. Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager,
(650) 349-3000

Date: 11/21/2019


Nicole M. Sandkulla
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager



Project Description for the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency's Pilot Water Transfer

SUMMARY:

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) is proposing a one-time pilot water transfer under which BAWSCA would purchase up to 1,000 acre-feet of water from Amador Water Agency (AWA) for delivery and use within the BAWSCA service area. AWA holds an entitlement of up to 15,000 acre-feet of water supplies provided by the 1985 Stipulation and Agreement with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) (1985 Stipulation) under various pre-1914 appropriative water rights PG&E holds on the Mokelumne River. The proposed transfer water originates from AWA's contractual Mokelumne River water supply entitlement pursuant to the 1985 Stipulation.

The Project would be located in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties. Water deliveries will occur in Alameda County and may occur in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. AWA would make the transfer water available to BAWSCA from PG&E's Electra Powerhouse, upstream of East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) Pardee Reservoir. The transfer water would be released into the North Fork of the Mokelumne River and flow into Pardee Reservoir. EBMUD would then divert and convey the transfer water through its existing conveyance system, which includes raw water aqueducts, treatment plants, and potable distribution systems, and make the transfer water, less 20% for system losses, available to BAWSCA at the Hayward Intertie at a rate of approximately 13 to 16 million gallons per day over an estimated duration of 20 days. The Hayward Intertie is jointly owned by EBMUD and SFPUC and operated by the City of Hayward. It connects the EBMUD and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Regional Water System (RWS) through the City of Hayward aqueduct system.

The City of Hayward, a BAWSCA member agency, holds a water supply contract with SFPUC. Under the proposed Project, the City of Hayward would modify operation of its water system to take delivery of the Project transfer water through the Hayward Intertie. Transfer water coming through the Intertie would be used by Hayward, in-lieu of water from SFPUC, and additional transfer water would be pumped into the RWS using the City of Hayward-owned Hesperian Pump Station and delivered to other BAWSCA member agencies. Figure 1 illustrates the pathway that the pilot transfer will follow. The Project relies on existing facilities, and will not involve any expansion of those facilities.

The goal of this pilot Project is to evaluate the feasibility of delivering alternative water supplies to BAWSCA member agencies in times of future supply interruptions or water shortages. This pilot transfer will assist with (1) testing the viability of and impacts to the existing infrastructure described above and (2) identifying the necessary elements of the multiple institutional approvals and agreements required to deliver such transfer supplies.

The pilot transfer is planned to occur in January 2020. The pilot would be timed to coincide with a temporary shutdown of the Hetch Hetchy conveyance portion of the RWS.

PARTICIPANTS:

BAWSCA – BAWSCA provides regional water supply planning, resource development, and conservation program services for the benefit of its 26 member agencies. These activities include the planning and acquisition of supplemental water supplies to enhance the supply reliability of 16 cities, 8 water districts, and 2 private water providers that purchase wholesale water supplies from the SFPUC. These agencies provide water to 1.8 million people and businesses in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties. Under the proposed Project, BAWSCA would manage the pilot transfer and coordinate the scheduling and delivery of transfer water with AWA, EBMUD, Hayward, and SFPUC.

EBMUD – EBMUD provides water to approximately 1.4 million people in parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. EBMUD owns and operates a system of surface water reservoirs, raw water aqueducts, water treatment plants, local storage facilities, and distribution pipelines and facilities. EBMUD uses these facilities to supply drinking water to its East Bay service area. Under the proposed Project, EBMUD would use its existing facilities to wheel the transfer water under agreements with AWA and BAWSCA, agree to the use of the Hayward Intertie for the pilot transfer, and make delivery of the wheeled quantity of water, less 20% system losses, to BAWSCA.

AWA – AWA provides water and wastewater services to a large portion of Amador County, including all 5 cities within the County. AWA provides both retail and wholesale water to approximately 27,000 residents through just under 7,000 service connections. Under the proposed Project, AWA would transfer water which it has determined can be made available through its water conservation efforts to BAWSCA.

City of Hayward – The City of Hayward delivers water to over 160,000 residents. The City of Hayward operates and maintains the Hayward Intertie. Under the proposed Project, the City of Hayward would agree to operate the Hayward Intertie and Hayward water system to receive pilot transfer water for use in the City of Hayward, and deliver transfer water south through the City of Hayward-owned conveyance system to SF RWS transmission lines.

SFPUC – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission manages the RWS and provides retail drinking water services to the City of San Francisco and wholesale water to three Bay Area counties. Under the proposed Project, SFPUC would agree to the use of the Hayward Intertie for the pilot transfer and receive transfer water into the RWS. SFPUC will deliver the pilot transfer water received into the RWS to BAWSCA member agencies.

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt:

The pilot transfer water will follow the same route and use the existing facilities utilized by East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) in delivery and treatment of water into its service area. The use of the Hayward Intertie to move water from EBMUD to San Francisco Public Utilities District (SFPUC), through the Hayward water system, during emergencies or planned critical maintenance was studied in the SFPUC-Hayward-EBMUD Water System Emergency Intertie Project - Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, dated February 2004. The Hayward Intertie has been used before to move water from EBMUD to SFPUC through Hayward in essentially the same manner as anticipated for the Pilot Water Transfer. The Hayward Intertie was last used continuously from December 15, 2009 through February 17, 2010 to deliver water from EBMUD to SFPUC during a planned shutdown of the SFPUC system.

The Project is exempt from CEQA under:

1. The Class 1 - Existing Facilities Exemption for the operation of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b)); and
2. The Common Sense Exemption because the Project does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines section 15061.)