

ST38 CA Department of Water Resources

From: Vargas, Alfonso [mailto:avargas@water.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Ryan, John@DeltaCouncil
Subject: Water Transfers

John:

A question to you or whoever you may think may be appropriate in the Delta Council regarding the Delta Plan and Draft EIR. I am reviewing the DEIR with regards to water transfers. Water transfers are encouraged as a means to reduce reliance from the Delta imports. However, many water transfers occur from the north of the Delta (Sacramento Valley rice idling or groundwater substitution) to south of the Delta agriculture or urban. The Delta Plan is not clear with regards to these types of transfers. Does the Plan discourage through delta water transfers but encourages transfers that do not go through the Delta? Or does the Plan encourage water transfers in general without regard of their connection to the delta? ST38-1

Thanks

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Response to comment ST38-1

This is a comment on the project, not on the EIR.

The Delta Plan, as described in Section 2A of the Draft Program EIR, would not prevent water transfers from occurring, but rather would encourage water transfers that are consistent with the Delta Plan. In particular, Delta Plan Policy WR P1 requires proposed actions to export water from, transfer water through, or use water in the Delta to comply with the policy to reduce reliance on the Delta and improve regional self reliance, as further explained in Master Response 5.

Moreover, Delta Plan Recommendation WR R15 in the Revised Project directs that DWR and the SWRCB should work with stakeholders to identify measures to reduce procedural and administrative impediments to water transfers while protecting water rights and environmental resources.