

**Initial Study
and
Proposed Negative Declaration**

for

**Option Agreement
Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District,
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and
the United States Bureau of Reclamation for 2008 Operations,
and Related Forbearance Program**

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GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Option Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the United States Bureau of Reclamation for 2008 Operations, and Related Forbearance Program

Project Proponent: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District ("GCID").

Project Location: GCID's service area within Glenn and Colusa Counties and the service area of participating districts in the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority ("SLDMWA") in Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.

Project Description: Under the Agreement which includes an option provision, GCID proposes to forbear its diversions of surface water which would then be diverted by the Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") under its permits, and then made available to the SLDMWA during the 2008 irrigation season. If SLDMWA exercises its option under the agreement, GCID will provide up to 82,500 acre-feet of surplus water in accordance with a forbearance program undertaken by GCID in cooperation with its landowners who voluntarily decide to participate in the program by crop idling or crop shifting. GCID will also provide up to 2,500 acre-feet of water made available from groundwater substitution produced from two GCID-owned electric groundwater wells.

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This document has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Sections 21000, et seq., Public Resources Code) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15000, et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

Based upon the following Initial Study, it has been found that:

- this project would not have a significant effect on the environment.
- mitigation measures included in the project would avoid potentially significant effects.

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