

# BOARD AGENDA REPORT

Date: March 3, 2026  
Item Number: 8  
APN: N/A

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION FINDING THE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE WATER RELEASED BY THE OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT FOR DIVERSION AND USE BY THE SAN LUIS & DELTA MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Resolution Finding the Agreement to Purchase Water released by the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for diversion and use by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority and the California Department of Water Resources Categorically Exempt Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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**BACKGROUND AND/OR HISTORY:**

The Agreement to Purchase Water released by the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, collectively referred to as "Districts", for diversion and use by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) proposes for up to 50,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to be released at Goodwin Dam by the Districts each year under their pre-1914 water rights (Project). The water proposed to be released will be surplus to the anticipated irrigation demand of the Districts each year of the Project term and would be purchased equally by SLDMWA and DWR. The water would be released during April and May as supplemental enhancement flows to the United States Bureau of Reclamation flow objective under D-1641 at Vernalis for migrating fish. The SLDMWA and DWR would divert the water at the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants at a 1:1 ratio, for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses south of the Delta. The Project has a five-year term, with the potential for renewal of an additional five years upon written notification by the parties. The funds generated from the Project will be applied toward capital improvements and ongoing O&M projects of the Districts. Due to the location of Goodwin Dam, OID and SSJID, and the DWR and SLDMWA facilities, the Project is located in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Merced, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties.

This Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities. There will be no change in operation or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities.

Staff recommends approving the resolution as attached finding the above Project Categorically Exempt from CEQA. Staff will be available to answer any questions that the Board may have.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$357 in County Clerk filing fees (\$57 Stanislaus County; \$50 San Joaquin County; \$50 Contra Costa County; \$50 Alameda County; \$50 Merced County; \$50 Calaveras County; \$50 Tuolumne County)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution 2026-NIL
  - Notice of Exemption
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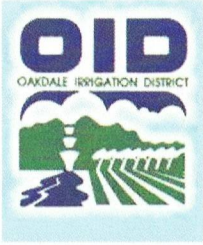
**Board Motion:**

**Motion by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTE:**

Orvis (Yes/No) Doornenbal (Yes/No) DeBoer, Brad (Yes/No) DeBoer, Jacob (Yes/No) Tobias (Yes/No)

**Action(s) to be taken:**



SPACE ABOVE RESERVED FOR CLERK'S/OPR USE

**Lead Agency:**

Oakdale Irrigation District  
1205 East F Street  
Oakdale, CA 95361

**Project Applicant and Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Scot Moody, General Manager  
Oakdale Irrigation District  
Telephone (209) 847-0341  
Email: smoody@oakdaleirrigation.com

**To:**

County Clerk  
County of Stanislaus  
1021 "I" Street, Suite 101  
Modesto, CA 95354-0847

County Clerk  
County of Calaveras  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M. Street, Main Floor  
Merced, CA 95340

County Clerk  
County of San Joaquin  
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 260  
Stockton, CA 95202

County Clerk  
County of Tuolumne  
#2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

County Clerk  
County of Alameda  
1106 Madison Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

County Clerk  
County of Contra Costa  
555 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 95443

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**Title:** Agreement to Purchase Water released by the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for diversion and use by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority and the California Department of Water Resources (Project)

**Project Location:** From the Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam to the San Joaquin River, to the Bay-Delta to the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants, and ultimately to the San Luis Reservoir; located in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Merced Counties.

**Project Description:**

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), collectively referred to as “Districts”, will release up to 50,000 acre-feet of water at Goodwin Dam (Project) in addition to water releases required to be made by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) at New Melones Reservoir to benefit migratory fish on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. The water proposed to be released will be purchased by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The water OID and SSJID release will be surplus to the irrigation demand of each district. The release will occur at Goodwin Dam during April and May of each year between 2026 and 2030 and will be coordinated to assist and supplement Reclamation’s releases in meeting their legal obligations of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the April-May pulse flow objective at Vernalis. The volume of water each year is dependent on the hydrological year type, and is as follows:

Above Normal	up to 50,000 acre-feet
Below Normal	up to 50,000 acre-feet
Dry	up to 50,000 acre-feet
Critically Dry	up to 20,000 acre-feet

The Project agreement may be renewed for an additional 5 years upon written notification by the parties. The delivery volume above would remain the same if renewed.

The Project will be subordinate to the rights of: 1) the Cities of Lathrop, Manteca, Escalon and Tracy pursuant to each city’s Water Supply Development Agreement with SSJID; 2) the Chicken Ranch Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians of California under their Emergency Water Supply Agreement with the Districts, and; 3) the landowners outside the boundaries of OID who are enrolled in OID’s 10-Year Out-of-District Water Sale Program.

If the end-of-month September storage level in New Melones Reservoir is projected to be below 700,000 acre-feet during any year of the Project term, the parties shall consult with Reclamation on an agreeable release amount for that year.

The Districts, in consultation with Reclamation and the Stanislaus Watershed Team, shall be responsible for determining the schedule of the delivery. The released water will be diverted by the SLDMWA and State Water Project Contractors (SWP) at the Jones and Banks pumping stations at a 1:1 ratio.

**Project Purpose:**

The Project will provide water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses in areas south of the Delta. The releases will be timed to coincide with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) spring “pulse flow” for the purpose of improving flow on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to benefit migratory fish. Pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641), Reclamation is responsible for meeting the April-May flow objective at Vernalis. The NMFS 2019 Biological Opinion (BiOp), as revised in 2024, establishes the Spring “pulse flow” identified in the Stanislaus River Minimum Fish Flow Schedule for the purpose of protecting migratory fish in the lower San Joaquin River and Delta, particularly fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. Released water provided by OID and SSJID will supplement flows in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to improve instream flow conditions for migratory fish during April and May each year of the Project. The released water will be

diverted by the SLDMWA and SWP contractors. This water will help those entities offset allocation reductions they may receive during the Project duration. Additionally, OID and SSJID will be paid for the water released at Goodwin Dam, which will in turn be used for capital improvements and ongoing operations and maintenance of the Districts.

**Project Proponents:** OID and SSJID

**Project Beneficiaries:** SLDMWA and DWR

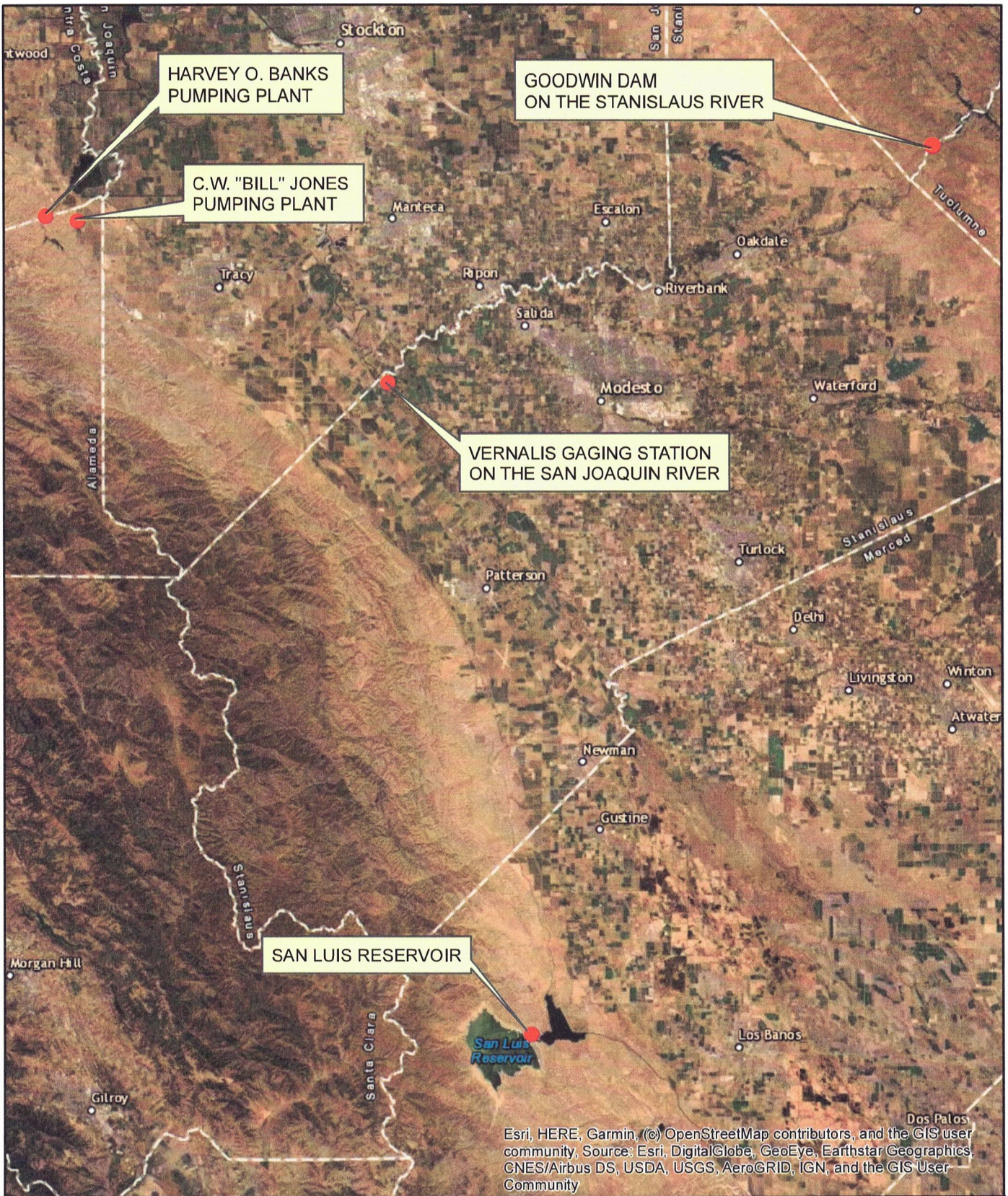
**Lead Agency:** OID

**Exempt Status:**  Categorical Exemption (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Sec. 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities).

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The Project utilizes existing public facilities for the movement of water per the agreement. There will be negligible or no expansion of existing diversion and conveyance facilities as a result of the Project.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

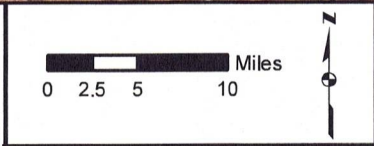
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scot A. Moody, General Manager  
OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

DRAWN BY: ECS  
 CHECKED BY: ECT  
 DATE: 2/26/26  
 SHEET: 4 OF 4

**PROJECT SITE MAP**  
**AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE WATER RELEASED**  
**BY OID & SSJID FOR DIVERSION AND USE BY**  
**SLDMWA & DWR**



**OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026- NIL**

**APPROVING A CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE  
AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE WATER RELEASED BY THE OAKDALE IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT AND THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT FOR DIVERSION AND  
USE BY THE SAN LUIS & DELTA MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), collectively referred to as "Districts", are California irrigation districts operating under and by virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Districts are co-owners of certain water rights on the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative rights to divert water from the Stanislaus River for irrigation of the lands within the Districts, and various post-1914 appropriative rights to store Stanislaus River water in various reservoirs for diversion to irrigate lands within the Districts, as well as to generate electrical power; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) is a California joint power authority operating under and by virtue of Section 6500, et seq., of the California Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) owns, operates and maintains water collection, storage, conveyance and delivery facilities, including but not limited to the State Water Project (SWP), and delivers water to its water service contractors located throughout California; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the applicable requirements of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order D-1641, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) makes releases from New Melones Reservoir to meet water quality and water quantity objectives measured at Vernalis; and

**WHEREAS**, the SLDMWA and DWR wish to purchase surplus water on a multi-year basis from the Districts for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses in areas south of the Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the hydrological year type during each year, the Districts are willing to release up to 50,000 acre feet of water from Goodwin Dam during April and May to supplement the D-1641 flow objectives (Project). The Districts, in consultation with Reclamation and the Stanislaus River Operation Group, shall be responsible for determining the flow and schedule of the delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement term is for five years, with the potential for renewal of another five years upon written notification by the parties; and

**WHEREAS**, such operations in the Delta will be conducted consistent with D-1641 and applicable Biological Opinions; and

**WHEREAS**, the supplemental water will be diverted at the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants at a 1:1 ratio by SLDMWA and SWP Contractors, and OID and SSJID will be paid for every acre foot of water released into the Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project would utilize existing water conveyance infrastructure and no

construction would take place; and

**WHEREAS**, the released water would be used for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes in areas south of the Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project has been determined by the Board of Directors to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities. The Project utilizes existing public facilities for the movement of water per the agreement and there will be negligible or no expansion of existing diversion and conveyance facilities as a result of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Goodwin Dam is located in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties; OID is located in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties; SSJID is located in San Joaquin County; and the SWP diversion facilities are located in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Merced Counties.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this Board of Directors that:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The proposed Project has been determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA under 14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities. There will be negligible or no expansion of existing diversion and conveyance facilities as a result of the Project.
3. OID will act as Lead Agency on behalf of the Districts.
4. A Notice of Exemption is approved
5. OID staff is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse and at the Clerk's Office of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Merced, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties in the manner prescribed by CEQA.

Upon motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and duly submitted to the Board for its consideration the above titled resolution was adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026.

## **OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

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Thomas D. Orvis, President

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Scot A. Moody., Secretary