State Water Project
Excess Entitlement Policies
Approved by Board of Supervisors January 14, 2003

Excess Entitlement - Definition

The District State Water Project “Excess” Entitlement is the portion of the District’s total entitlement that is not contracted to others for their deliverable or drought buffer uses.

Priority of Use

1. Prior to transferring the excess entitlement for any other use, contractors of state water entitlement with capacity in Phase II of the Coastal Aqueduct shall have the first right to utilize the excess entitlement for “drought buffer” (reliability) purposes under the terms of a drought buffer agreement.

2. Preference shall be given to local agencies and water purveyors regardless of whether a transfer is on an annual, multi-year, or a permanent basis.

3. No permanent transfer of the excess entitlement for use outside District boundaries shall be made prior to a final update of the District’s Master Water Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, and then only if the transfer is consistent with the then adopted Master Plan. (See ‘Note’ below)

4. No multi-year transfer for use outside District boundaries shall be made with a term in excess of five years prior to a final update to the District’s Master Water Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, and then out of District transfers can only take place if the transfer is consistent with the adopted Master Plan.

5. On any out-of-District transfer, preference shall be given to those that provide: a) revenues that recover current costs and some or all of the District’s past costs, b)
maintain the District’s right to use the water in the future, or c) which are used for environmental mitigation.

6. The Public Works Director is authorized to determine the annual amount of the excess entitlement to transfer to the State Water Project “Turnback Pools” established under the existing terms of State Water Agreements. In making that determination, the Public Works Director shall first consider local needs and how the use of the Turnback Pool might impact other potential transfers.

Note:
These policies were adopted by the Board of Supervisors “with the understanding there will be no permanent sales outside the District.”