

1 further exacerbate these conflicts. Simply put, the overall system as it is currently designed and  
 2 operated does not appear to be sustainable from an environmental perspective, and so a proposal to  
 3 implement a fundamental, systemic change to the current system is necessary. This change is  
 4 necessary if California is to “[a]chieve the two coequal goals of providing a more reliable water  
 5 supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.” (California  
 6 Public Resources Code Section 29702, subd. [a]).

7 This section presents the Lead Agencies’ Project Objectives, which are required by the State CEQA  
 8 Guidelines, and the Purpose and Need Statement, which is required by the CEQ NEPA Regulations.

#### 9 1.1.4.1 Project Objectives

10 CEQA requires that an EIR contain a “statement of the objectives sought by the proposed project.”  
 11 Under CEQA, “[a] clearly written statement of objectives will help the Lead Agency develop a  
 12 reasonable range of alternatives to evaluate in the EIR and will aid the decision makers in preparing  
 13 findings or a statement of overriding considerations. The statement of objectives should include the  
 14 underlying purpose of the project” (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15124[b]). Here, as the CEQA  
 15 lead agency, DWR is adopting project objectives separately from the federal agencies’ Purpose  
 16 Statement as set forth in Section 1.1.4.2, Purpose and Need, as well as the description of Project Need  
 17 as set forth in Section 1.1.4.2.

18 DWR’s fundamental purpose in proposing the proposed project is to make physical and operational  
 19 improvements to the SWP system in the Delta necessary to restore and protect ecosystem health,  
 20 water supplies of the SWP and CVP south of the Delta, and water quality within a stable regulatory  
 21 framework, consistent with statutory and contractual obligations.

22 The fundamental purpose is informed by past efforts taken within the Delta and the watersheds of  
 23 the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, including those undertaken through the CALFED Bay-Delta  
 24 Program and Delta Risk Management Strategy. The fundamental purpose, in turn, gives rise to the  
 25 following project objectives.

26 Address adverse effects to state and federally listed species related to:

27 The operation of existing SWP Delta facilities and construction and operation of facilities for  
 28 the movement of water entering the Delta from the Sacramento Valley watershed to the  
 29 existing SWP and CVP pumping plants located in the southern Delta.

30 The implementation of actions to improve SWP and/ or CVP conveyance that have the  
 31 potential to result in take of species that are listed under the ESA and CESA.

32 Improve the ecosystem of the Delta by reducing the adverse effects to certain listed species of  
 33 diverting water by siting additional intakes of the SWP and coordinated operations with the CVP.

34 **Restore and protect the ability of the SWP and CVP to deliver up to full contract amounts,** when  
 35 hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient water, consistent with the  
 36 requirements of state and federal law and the terms and conditions of water delivery contracts  
 37 and other existing applicable agreements.

38 In addition to the project objectives enumerated above, the project objectives listed below guide the  
 39 development of the proposed project and alternatives.

40 To meet the standards identified in the ESA and the California Fish & Game Code, including the  
 41 CESA or NCCPA, by, among other things, minimizing and fully mitigating the impacts of take, and,  
 42 if possible, protecting, restoring, and enhancing aquatic and terrestrial natural communities and