

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



October 18, 2021

Mr. Edward Hill
County Administrative Officer
County of Kings
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, California 93230

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has received your letter, along with the supporting information from Kettleman City Community Services District (KCCSD), requesting an additional allocation to address KCCSD's projected supply shortage. In the petition letter, you identified a 96 acre-foot need to meet baseline health and safety supply needs of Kettleman City. Additionally, it identifies a 214 acre-foot amount necessary to meet the projected use by the commercial entities supplied by KCCSD.

Let me first share with you the information I provided before the State Water Resources Control Board last month regarding the plan for allocating State Water Project (SWP) supplies. On September 21, 2021 I explained that the extreme hydrology that California has seen this year has heavily depleted the SWP's storage. I also identified the priorities for which scarce water supplies would be directed in 2022. First for health and safety supplies, second to protect and benefit endangered species, third to conserve critical storage in case of a dry 2023, and fourth to meet additional water supply needs if sufficient supplies exist.

With these priorities in mind, DWR will be working with the County of Kings (County) in an effort to ensure that Kettleman City can meet basic sanitation, domestic supply, and fire suppression needs. Meeting these needs, along with meeting similar needs from many of our other customer agencies, will be the SWP's first priority.

As for the 214 acre-feet requested in addition to the health and safety need, that falls under the fourth priority identified for direct SWP water supply use in 2022. While the water supply conditions for next year are unknown, it is very possible that water will not be available to meet these requests. However, DWR has already engaged with other customer agencies to identify those that may be able to transfer a portion of their supplies to KCCSD via the County. DWR is prepared to meet with KCCSD and its commercial water users to help arrange their purchase of water from another contractor if that is an option for the County and KCCSD. DWR cannot use state funding to purchase water for commercial businesses.

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If you have questions regarding this information, or would like additional engagement with DWR in investigating transfer opportunities, please contact John Yarbrough, Assistant Deputy Director to the SWP at (916) 803-9203.

Sincerely,



Karla A. Nemeth
Director