

HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN WATER AUTHORITY
POLICY STATEMENT
ON INTERBASIN WATER TRANSFERS
Adopted November 9, 2018

BACKGROUND

1. Sustainable water resources are necessary for member counties of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority to maintain their valued quality of life and natural environment as well as to achieve a diversified and stable economy, and enhance natural resource-based industries, including mining, agriculture, ranching, recreation and tourism. Once water is transferred outside of a county, that potential economic resource is forever lost to the county, its citizens, and its future.
2. In determining whether an application for an interbasin transfer of groundwater should be approved or rejected the State Engineer must consider, among other things, whether the proposed action is an appropriate long-term use that will not unduly limit the future growth and development in the basin from which the water is exported and any other factor(s) the Office of the State Engineer determines to be relevant.
3. HRBWA member counties are authorized to adopt a plan for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including water, to promote the general health, safety, welfare and prosperity of the region and its residents.

HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN WATER AUTHORITY POLICY

It is the policy of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority that all decisions regarding interbasin water transfers should rely on policies or plans adopted by HRBWA member counties that have been formulated in advance to articulate clear public interest considerations for their communities and the environment.

It is the policy of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority that in determining whether an application for any interbasin transfer of water should be approved or rejected the State Engineer must consider “local public interest” including future sustainability of water and other natural resources in the basin of origin and potential economic losses to the community.

It is the policy of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority that the State Engineer should not approve an interbasin water transfer including, a change of use and a change of point of diversion, unless it is allowed by and complies with a water management plan approved by the county or counties within the basin of origin.