

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Department of Water Resources
Division of Operations and Maintenance
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with § 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Agreement between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) for Construction, Operation and Maintenance of the High Desert Water Bank Turn-In/Turnout. (#22601)

State Clearinghouse Number: 2017061030

Lead Agency: Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency

Project Location: The project is located in Los Angeles County near Milepost 308.34 of the California Aqueduct's East Branch

Project Description: AVEK, in partnership with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, is developing a new groundwater storage facility, referred to as the High Desert Water Bank, to increase water supply reliability by storing excess State Water Project supply in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Included in this project is the construction of a new turn-in/turnout in the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. An agreement is required with DWR for the construction, operation and maintenance of a new turn-in/turnout.

This is to advise that the California Department of Water Resources, as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project of an agreement between DWR and AVEK for construction, operation and maintenance of a new turn-in/turnout on February 27, 2022 and has made the following determinations:

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Pursuant to CEQA, AVEK, as a lead public agency, prepared a mitigated negative declaration for this project. An addendum was also prepared in October of 2021. DWR independently reviewed and considered this environmental documentation prior to approving the project.
3. Findings were not made by DWR pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081.
4. Mitigation measures as described in the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan (SCH 2017061030), **were** made a condition of the approval of the project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by AVEK for this project.

DWR's decision and determination are based on the documents described herein, which are available for review at the office of AVEK, 6500 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: B.G. Heiland (916) 902-9877

Signature: John Leahigh
John Leahigh

Date: 3/2/2022

Title: Water Operations Executive Manager, Division of Operations and Maintenance

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____