

**LAKEVIEW RANCHOS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
SCH NO. 2016021040**

**ADDENDUM TO THE CEQA INITIAL STUDY AND  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
WELDON, KERN COUNTY CA**

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KERN COUNTY, CA

During the construction phase of the subject project, the project proponent, Lakeview Ranchos Mutual Water Company (LRMWC), identified a modification to a portion of the alignment of the proposed pipeline that would shorten the length of proposed facilities, better utilize existing infrastructure, and lower capital and operating costs. This CEQA Addendum addresses the proposed pipeline realignment.

**Proposed Project Change**

The proposed alignment modification is located between LRMWC's existing Well No. 2 and a location along Bull Run Road approximately 475 feet east of Brooks Road. The proposed pipeline is shown in Figure 1. The proposed pipeline will commence as originally proposed at Well No. 2. From the terminus of the adjusted alignment, the proposed pipeline continues east as originally proposed along Bull Run Road, proceeding to the LRMWC's storage tank site. The pipeline will also continue west along Bull Run Road as originally proposed to connect to LRMWC's Well No. 1 site. Buried communication conduit is proposed parallel and adjacent to the water pipeline.

The previously examined pipeline alignment commenced at Well No. 2, then proceeded west to Brooks Road, then north to Bull Run Road, and then east along Bull Run Road, continuing to the LRMWC's storage tank site. The length of the portion of the pipeline alignment no longer proposed is approximately 950 feet.

The proposed pipeline alignment modification commences at LRMWC's Well No. 2, and proceeds north/northeast within existing easements and property owned by LRMWC (APN 425-060-06-00), continuing to Bull Run Road. The portion of the pipeline to be realigned will be located west of and parallel to an existing drainage. LRMWC proposes to utilize an existing pipeline from Well No. 2 for a distance of approximately 360 feet. A new pipeline will be continue to Bull Run Road, a distance of approximately 345 feet. The condition of the existing pipeline is unknown. If the existing pipeline is determined to not have sufficient integrity to continue in service, it will be replaced by a new 4-inch diameter pipeline along the same alignment as the existing pipeline. Buried communication conduit is proposed parallel and adjacent to the realigned water pipeline.

A revised description of the proposed water pipeline improvements is below. LRMWC aims to pursue all other improvements proposed in the original CEQA document, including drilling of Well No. 5 (completed), equipping of Well No. 5, improvements to LRMWC's existing wells, and replacement of the two storage tanks.

**Proposed Water Pipeline**

A 4-inch water transmission pipeline is proposed between three existing wells (Well No. 1, Well No. 2, and Well No. 4), Well No. 5 (drilled but not yet equipped), and LRMWC's tank site. This pipeline will be a dedicated transmission pipeline from the wells to the tank site, and will not have any customer

connections. The purpose of this pipeline is to allow blending of water from the system's wells to produce water with quality below maximum contaminant levels (MCL). The pipeline will be installed using cut and cover methods. A segment along Bull Run Road will be encased in concrete where it crosses a wash. LRMWC has obtained permits for this and another wash crossing from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (SPK-2017-00986) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (WDID #5C15CR00100).

The transmission pipeline will connect the proposed Well No. 5 to the storage tanks. Along this segment of pipeline, between Well No. 5 and Long Canyon Road, a second water pipeline will be installed to provide potable water to between one to four residences near the intersection of Bull Run Road and Windsong Court that currently are not shareholders of the water company and do not receive water from the LRMWC. Some or all of these residences may become shareholders of the LRMWC. Only properties that become shareholders of the LRMWC will receive water from the LRMWC.

Parallel to the proposed transmission pipeline, a communication conduit will be installed to allow data transmission, monitoring, and automation of the wells and tank site. Well No. 5 is the proposed site of the central hub for the internet-based communication, monitoring, and control of the LRMWC's wells and tank site. At the tank and at some well locations, a radio antenna or a small radio dish (less than 24" diameter) will be installed to communicate with Well No. 5. The radio antenna or dish will be mounted on a slender steel pole which will be approximately 5 to 15 feet tall. Boulders and rocks removed from the pipeline trench will be relocated locally for landscaping purposes and to protect surface features of pipelines (fire hydrants, blow off valves, air release valves).

#### **Supplemental Cultural Resources Investigation**

LRMWC's consultant, Tierra Environmental Services, conducted a supplemental investigation of cultural resources along the portion of the pipeline to be realigned and of the entirety of an LRMWC-owned parcel (APN 425-060-06-00). The supplemental investigation consisted of a records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, the National Register of Historic Places, the California Inventory of Historic Resources, and the California Historical Landmarks. The investigation also included contact with the Native American Heritage Commission, and a field visit conducted on May 10, 2019. The supplemental Letter Report for the supplemental study (May 16, 2019) notes that no cultural resources were identified in the supplemental study area. The Letter Report does not recommend changes to the original CEQA document's mitigation measures.

#### **Supplemental Biological Resources Investigation**

LRMWC's consultant, RCA and Associates, conducted a supplemental General Biological Resources Assessment along the portion of the pipeline to be realigned and of the entirety of an LRMWC-owned parcel (APN 425-060-06-00). The supplemental investigation consisted of databases of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Natural Diversity Database, and a field visit conducted on May 1 and 8, 2019. The supplemental General Biological Resources Assessment (May 29, 2019) notes that no wetlands, vernal pools, or critical habitat for special status species are located in the immediate project area. However, there is an adjacent drainage east of the proposed realignment. Tracy's Eriastrum (*Eriastrum tracyi*) was not observed in the project area. There is not suitable habitat in the project area for species listed under the Endangered Species Act. No federal or state listed species were observed in the project area. No federally proposed

or candidate species were identified in the project area. The proposed project is not anticipated to have any effect on federal or state listed special status animal or plant species. The supplemental General Biological Resources Assessment does not recommend changes to the original CEQA document's mitigation measures.

### **Mitigation Measures**

The original CEQA document noted several biological and cultural resources mitigation measures. LRMWC intends to continue compliance with these measures. The mitigation measures consist of the following:

- BIO M-1 Prior to the commencement of project activities a preconstruction biological survey will be conducted to identify the presence of listed State or Federal species by a qualified Biologist.
  
- BIO M-2 There is a low potential for bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that could nest within the proposed project area. However, it is recommended that any vegetation disturbance be conducted outside of the breeding bird season. The breeding bird season generally occurs between 15 February and 31 August. If vegetation disturbance is to occur during the avian breeding season a survey should be conducted within 5-7 days prior to commencement of work activities. If active nests of such birds are found, then work should not commence until the eggs have hatched and the birds have fledged. If no active nests are found within the impact areas, then work activities can commence.
  
- BIO M-3 There is a low potential for federally-listed sensitive plant species to occur within the project area. However, impacts to any locations of sensitive plant species identified during preconstruction survey should be avoided. Once the project details have been finalized, and the limits of disturbance have been staked, a qualified biologist should walk the limits of disturbance to document and transplant any sensitive plant species encountered. The supplemental cultural resources and biological resources studies did not recommend changes to the original mitigation measures.
  
- Cul M-1 Due to the relatively high frequency of historic and prehistoric resources in the vicinity it is recommended that all ground disturbing activities including grubbing, grading, excavation, and trenching be monitored by a qualified archaeological monitor. This recommendation is further supported by the presence of 11 new prehistoric and historical resources within the project area.

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