



State Water Resources Control Board

November 13, 2023

Mr. Pietro Cambiaso
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
6075 Kimball Avenue
Chino, CA 91708

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Nov 13 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Mr. Pietro Cambiaso:

RECIRCULATED SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (REIR) FOR INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY (AGENCY); CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER OPTIMUM BASIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE (PROJECT); LOS ANGELES, RIVERSIDE, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2020020183

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY PERMIT AMENDMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to review the REIR for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW Hollywood, Metropolitan, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Mojave Districts. These DDW Districts issue domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified source of domestic water supply or new domestic water system components pursuant to Waterworks Standards (Title 22 CCR chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a new water supply permit amendment when changes are made to a domestic water supply source, storage, or treatment and for the operation of new water system components- as specified in the Waterworks Standards. The Project stakeholders may need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

FUNDING

We understand that the Agency and/or Chino Basin Stakeholders may pursue Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing for this Project. As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Board is providing the following water quality comments on the REIR.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the DWSRF Program (Program). The primary purpose for the Program is to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for drinking facilities improvements to provide clean potable drinking water,

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

All applicants seeking funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provide appropriate documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities, see [CEQA Requirements](#). In addition, because the Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency additional federal environmental documentation (cross-cutters) may be required. For additional Program information, the complete environmental application package and instructions, please visit:

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Forms and Instructions](#).

Following are specific comments on the Agency's REIR:

- There seems to be confusion about the State Water Board's jurisdiction as Table 1.3-1 Program Approvals, contains discrepancies regarding our programs. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water is the agency responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act, not the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
 - The Division of Drinking Water transferred from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Board in 2014. Please update the table to reflect the correct agency (PDF pages 20 and 163).
- The last row in the table lists the State Water Resources Control Board as "a responsible agency if permits or funding are requested from the State Revolving Fund Program or Division of Drinking Water". To clarify, the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance administers the State Revolving Fund Program and does not issue permits. The Division of Drinking Water issues water supply permits as stated above.
- The Department of Water Resources regulates the California Well Standards for well destruction, not the State Water Resources Control Board. Please update Section 3.5.1.6 Well Destruction with the correct agency (PDF pages 104 and 132).
- Mitigation Measure 4.5-11 discusses closing abandoned wells and mentions "If contamination is identified, the entity shall report the discovery to the appropriate parties, including the owner (if known) and the regulatory agencies. The Watermaster shall monitor the status of the well until residual contamination is remediated." Please identify who will oversee remediating contamination and who are the regulatory agencies involved.
- Please discuss how often groundwater monitoring, ground-level monitoring, and plume monitoring data will be evaluated once Storage and Recovery Program applications are approved to ensure mitigation measures determined by the Watermaster and the applicant are successful (Mitigation Measure HYD-13).

If an application for funding will be submitted, please upload to Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool the following applicable documents for the proposed Project, according to the Agency's CEQA process: (1) one copy of the draft and final REIR with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), (2) the resolution adopting

the REIR and MMRP, (3) all comments received during the review period and the Agency's response to those comments, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino County Clerks and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

If funding will not be pursued, please forward the requested documents to Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov of the State Water Board, Special Project Review Unit.

If a permit application is needed or drinking water well is destroyed, the Agency or stakeholder should be sure to inform the appropriate DDW District and submit the needed documentation. Contact information for the appropriate Districts can be found here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Agency's draft REIR. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 449-5285, or by email at Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov or contact Mrs. Bridget Binning at (916) 449-5641, or by email at Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

cc: State Clearinghouse

Bridget Binning, Division of Financial Assistance

Wei Chang, Division of Drinking Water

Helene Baribeau, Division of Drinking Water