

**EAST ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Lead Agency: Orange County, County Clerk-Recorder
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Contact: Jeff Smyth
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Project Title: East Orange County Water District VanderWerff Well Project

State Clearinghouse Number: Not yet assigned

Project Location: The project proposes two well locations. Well Location #1 is located across the street from the East Orange County Water District Offices at 210 N. McPherson Road, Orange, CA 92869, which is located in Orange County. Well Location #2 is located within the East Orange County Water District Offices at 185 N McPherson Road, Orange, CA 92869. The project proposes solar arrays, batteries, and inverters within both the Well #2 and Well #1 sites and a water treatment system at the Well #1 site. The project sites are located within Section 28, Township 4 South, Range 9 West of the USGS 7.5 Minute Orange, CA topographical quadrangle. The approximate GPS coordinates of Well #1 are 33.789445°, -117.822533°, while the approximate GPS coordinates of Well #2 are 33.789536°, -117.821876°

Project Description: The proposed project is located at two locations along McPherson Road in Orange, California. The District will install a single production well, as a part of the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP), at one of two sites owned by the District: either within or across the street from the EOCWD Offices on McPherson Road. Well Location #1 is located across the street from the District Offices at 210 N. McPherson Road, Orange, CA 92869, which is located in Orange County. Well Location #2 is located within the District Offices at 185 N McPherson Road, Orange, CA 92869. Additionally, a water treatment system will be installed concurrent with the proposed well development. A standby emergency generator may also be installed, as well three solar arrays, three batteries, and three inverters split between the District Office site and the District storage site.

Finding: The East Orange County Water District’s decision to implement this proposed project is a discretionary decision or “project” that requires evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the information in the project Initial Study, the City has made a *preliminary* determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be the appropriate environmental determination for this project to comply with CEQA.

Initial Study: Since the State has issued an Executive Order during the threat of COVID-19 and the District facilities may be closed to the public; a copy of the Initial Study may be obtained by contacting Tom Dodson & Associates at (909) 882-3612. The 30-day public review period for the Initial Study begins June 29, 2020 and ends on July 28, 2020. Any interested person or agency may comment on this matter by submitting their written comments before July 28, 2020. Comments should be sent to Jeff Smyth at the East Orange County Water District’s office at 185 N McPherson Road, Orange, CA 92869, as well as on their website at www.eocwd.com/contact. For additional information, Mr. Smyth may be contacted at (714) 538-5815 or at jsmyth@eocwd.com.

Mitigation Measures: All mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study are summarized on pages 62-64 and are proposed for adoption as conditions of the project. These measures will be implemented through a mitigation monitoring and reporting program if the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted.

DRAFT
Signature

Title

Date