



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director

Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director

Steve Mason, Assistant Director

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED Golden State Water Company Water Storage Tank and Access Road Case No. 19CUP-00000-00059

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes installation and operation of a new water storage tank and improved access road on their property located at 4989 Foxen Canyon Road in the Sisquoc area.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located at 4989 Foxen Canyon Road, APN 129-190-007, in the Sisquoc Area, Fifth Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Santa Barbara County P&D is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 20NGD-00000-00014. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on February 8, 2021 at 5 p.m. Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: Applicant is proposing installation and operation of a new water storage tank and improved access road. The proposed water storage tank would have a capacity of 200,000 gallons, height of 27 feet, a diameter of 48 feet, and would be painted a non-reflective tan color. The water storage tank would be located at an approximate elevation of 551 feet in order to meet the minimum pressure requirements necessary for successful operation. Access would be provided via the proposed access road, which would extend from the existing dirt driveway off Foxen Canyon Road to the new tank location. Four Coast Live Oak Trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) are proposed for removal, and two will have impacts to the critical root zone. Native Oak trees removed or impacted will be replaced on the subject property and remaining mature native oak trees on the property would be protected with tree protection fencing. The project would include new landscaping to provide screening of the water tank. Excess tank overflow and storm water would be captured and directed to two new retention basins located at the northeast and east corners of the property. The proposed project would result in approximately 97,400 square feet (2.24 acres) of site disturbance, including approximately 13,401 cubic yards cut and 7,727 cubic yards of fill. Two hooded security lights are proposed for use during emergency nighttime maintenance only. The proposed water storage tank would provide adequate and accessible water supply for fire protection and emergency services in the community of Sisquoc and the surrounding area. Golden State Water Company customers would not experience any interruption of service during project implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (20-NGD-14) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a Mitigated Negative Declaration affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Potentially significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Biological Resources, Geologic Processes, Noise, Water Resources/Flooding.** If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is not attached, the draft MND may be obtained and all documents referenced in the draft MND may be reviewed at Planning & Development office located at 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria **AND** on our website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org/environmental/active.cfm. Draft documents are also available for review at the Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, CA 93454.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Tina Mitchell, at 624 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455, Phone: (805) 934-6289, Fax: (805) 934-6258, or email tmitchell@countyofsb.org prior to the close of public comment on February 8, 2021 at 5 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in future hearings, please contact Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.