

March 22, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 23 2022

Lassen County
Attn: Nancy McAllister
707 Nevada Street, Suite 5
Susanville, CA 96130

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

LASSEN COUNTY (COUNTY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE USE PERMIT #2021-002, PARCEL MAP #2021-001, INITIAL STUDY #2021-001 GAJJ, GONDAL PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH # 2021020471

Dear Ms. Nancy McAllister:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) regulates public water systems in Lassen County and is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

“Public water system” means a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. A public water system includes the following: (1) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of the system that are used primarily in connection with the system, (2) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator that are used primarily in connection with the system”, and “(3) Any water system that treats water on behalf of one or more public water systems for the purpose of rendering it safe for human consumption,” (Health and Safety Code, division 104, part 12, chapter 4, article 1, section 116275 [h]). The Project will construct and operate a 30-space recreational vehicle park, with a maximum occupancy of 80 people. The Project will create a new public water system and will require Joginder Gondal and Sukhpal Gall to obtain State Water Board, DDW approval for a water supply permit.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the County's draft MND:

Project Description Clarification

- Please describe the water system in the project description, including an explanation of water sources and new water system infrastructure that will be installed as part of the Project to provide water to the Recreational Vehicle (RV) sites, restroom / laundry / shower facility, and other water needs of the Project. The discussion should also include, but not be limited to:
 - If individual RV sites will include both sewer hookup and domestic water
 - If non-potable or domestic water will be used at the sewage dump station
 - How close the existing well is to underground storage tanks.

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

- The CEQA document does not mention if the existing well will be used as a water source for the RV park. The application marks new wells as the water supply, but then later indicates “Existing well for adjacent convenience store / gas station.” Please explain if a new well will be drilled for the RV Park or the water source for the convenience store and gas station will also be used for the RV Park.
- The Project includes a new leach system for wastewater disposal and may require domestic water and sewer lines at each RV site. The Project also includes an existing well near a gas station. California Waterworks Standards (CWS), title 22, division 4, chapter 16, article 4, section 64572 and title 22, division 4 chapter 16, article 6, section 64560 requires separation of water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination. Drinking water sources that are installed or occur near possible contaminants may require alternatives to the separation standards in the CWS. If the Project will include implementing an alternative (title 22, division 4 chapter 16, article 6, section 64551.100) to CWS, please include the alternative in the CEQA document as part of the Project analysis.
- Is the rerouting of the drainage a required component for implementation of the Project, or can the Project be implemented without the drainage rerouting (considered a separate project)?
 - If the drainage rerouting is required to implement the Project then the CEQA document should include discussion of the rerouting of the drainage as part of the Project description.
 - Note: The California Fish and Wildlife (CFW) comment letter, identifies CFW as a responsible agency, and does not indicate they will be taking lead on the rerouting of the drainage.

Hydrology, Water Quality, and Utilities Analysis.

- “The document states, “The construction of any new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities associate(d) with the proposed project will have less than significant impacts on the environment” (PDF page 46). For new water facilities, please discuss how this conclusion was reached. If a new well will be drilled, please also include a discussion on discharges from well drilling, operational discharges, and any associated permits that will be obtained.
- The document states, “CalFire, acting as the Lassen County Fire Warden’s Office, has recommended conditions (to be implemented as mitigation measures) related to the access, water supply, and hydrant requirements for RV parks and mobile home parks” (PDF pages 39 and 44). Please include the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection mitigations measures in the document.
- PDF pages 18 and 24 mentions “...if leach field capabilities are found to be inadequate; that sewage dumping on site only be permitted for occupants of the RV Park.”
 - Will the leach field be adequate to serve all the individual RV sites and the restroom, as the proposed alternative? If it is not known, further explain what alternative actions will be taken if the leach field is not adequate enough to support the individual RV sites and restroom. Please also provide support for the ability of the alternative to work.
- Under the Utilities and Service Systems checklist d) asks if the Project would “have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?” Has any water quality monitoring been completed to ensure current groundwater is an adequate source for drinking water? If so, explain the monitoring done and the results to address the

question as to if sufficient water supplies are available. Otherwise explain how sufficient supplies were currently determined to be available.

- Under Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969, the State Water Board has authority for the protection of water quality for State surface waters, wetlands, and groundwaters and Federal delegation to the State and Regional Boards of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program. If the rerouting of the drainage is part of the Project, the discussion and analysis for the Biological Resources (c) and Hydrology and Water Quality (a), (c-f) should consider and include: identification of the waterway as a “Water of the United States” or “Water of the State”, a delineation of the waterway, potential impacts of the rerouting of the waterway, and mitigation measures that will be applied to reduce possible significant effects.

In accordance with Health and Safety Code section 116527(b) (1), “Before a person submits an application for a permit for a proposed new public water system, the person shall first submit a preliminary technical report to the State Board at least six months before initiating construction of any water-related improvement.” The report must include: “(2) A discussion of the feasibility of each of the adjacent public water systems identified pursuant to paragraph (1) annexing, connecting, or otherwise supplying domestic water to the applicant’s proposed new public water system’s service area. The applicant shall consult with each adjacent public water system in preparing the report and shall include in the report any information provided by each adjacent public water system regarding the feasibility of annexing, connecting, or otherwise supplying domestic water to that service area.” The proposed water system shall submit a report to the State Board.

If the Project proposes an alternative to CWS (section 64551.0), approval for such alternatives shall also be obtained from the State Water Board, DDW Lassen District Office.

CCR Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 16, Article 3, Section 64560 requires that for any well that will serve a public water system the well designs and specifications shall be submitted to the State Water Board. The water system should submit well designs to the State Water Board, DDW, Lassen Office prior to the Project construction.

Once the MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of the new public water system’s permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Lassen District Office:

- Copy of the draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the MND and MMRP; and
- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Lassen County Clerk’s Office and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Steve Watson of the State Water Board, DDW Lassen District Office at (530) 224-4828 or Steve.Watson@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

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Ms. Nancy McAllister

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Environmental Scientist
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Special Project Review Unit
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Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Steve Watson
District Engineer
Lassen District