

July 13, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Irvine Ranch Water District
Attn: Jo Ann Corey
15600 San Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA Zip 92618

DRAFT IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND), FLEMING ZONE 8 RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2021060289

Dear Ms. Jo Ann Corey:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the MND for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board) is responsible for issuing water supply permits (WSP) administered under the Safe Drinking Water Act and will require a new or amended WSP for the above referenced Project. A project requires a WSP if it includes water system consolidation or changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment.

The proposed Project includes the demolition of the existing Fleming Zone 8 Reservoir and Pump Station at 7431 Santiago Canyon Road, Silverado, California. The Project also includes the construction of a new 1.3 MG concrete reservoir, and a new pump station housed in a pump station building. The new pump station building would include an operations room with a restroom. A sewer holding tank would be installed and serviced by a certified pumping company with tanker trucks. Stormwater drainage facilities, electrical power facilities, a new diesel generator, telecommunication facilities, and site improvements within the same general footprint would also be constructed. Drought-tolerant landscaping would be installed to stabilize slopes and the site access road would be widened to allow access for emergency vehicles. A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system would also be installed. The Project would bring the facility up to District criteria and operational requirements for storage and pump redundancy for its customers within the Santiago Canyon Area.

The State Water Board as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the District's draft MND:

- The document lists non-discretionary approvals on page 29, pdf page 39. The requirement of a permit amendment for the Project is a discretionary approval for the Division of Drinking Water Santa Ana District office and should be listed as such.

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

Project Description:

- “Additionally, the existing pump station and reservoir would be kept in service during construction.” page 129 / pdf 139. In the project description, please clarify if the tank will be built in the same location as the old tank and a temporary tank will be required or if the new tank will be built in another location and the old tank will then be destroyed. Please include a figure that overlays the old facilities structures over the current plans.
- “While the Project would increase the capacity of the existing facilities, the project’s primary purpose is to bring the existing facility into compliance with current IRWD criteria and operational requirements for potable and fire water storage,” Page 115/ pdf page 125. In the Project Description, please further specify the details of the existing facilities compared to the new Project.
 - What is the capacity for the old tank?
 - What was the capacity of the old pump station?
- “Water Treatment permits would be obtained and followed in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations,” (page 94 / pdf 104). Please identify the treatment that may be required. If the treatment is more than chlorination, please expand on this and the needed facilities for this in the document.

Section 3.4 Biological Resources

- Under Section 3.4 c the document indicates that “The Southern portion of the project site features updates to an existing outlet structure. The outlet does not currently connect to a natural or man-made drainage features and instead sheet flows to the south towards Santiago Creek.” State Water Board has jurisdiction over “waters of the state” under Porter-Cologne. Waters of the state means any surface water or groundwater including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state. Please indicate if there are any desert washes on the project site and if so, how they will be protected from degradation.

Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

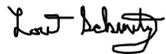
- The document discusses how sewer is not available at the site. Instead an underground wastewater holding tank would be installed on site. Under Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality a., when discussing surface and ground water quality, please indicate how the project will be meeting drinking water regulation standards to ensure the separation of wastewater and drinking water and prevent any drinking water contamination as outlined in the California Water Works Standards under Title 22, Chapter 16, Section 64572.
- The State and Regional Board have regulatory authority over discharges to surface and groundwater. Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality a. discusses permitting for stormwater but did not discuss discharges related to the removal of the old tank and preparing of the new tank for operation. The section also did not discuss any emergency operational discharges required for the cleaning of the tank.
 - Please discuss construction and operational discharges for the water system, including the plans for discharge, the quality of discharge, and any permits or waivers that will be obtained from the State or Regional Board.

When the review process has ended, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, Santa Ana District Office:

- The draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP)
- The Resolution or Board Minutes certifying and adopting the MND and MMRP and approving the Project;
- The date stamped Notice of Determination (NOD) filed at the Orange County Clerk's Office or Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, and
- Any comment letters received and the District's responses, as appropriate.

Please contact Yen Tran at Santa Ana District Office, at (714) 558-4707 or email at yen.tran@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding water supply permitting requirements.

Sincerely,



Lori Schmitz

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Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Yen Tran
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Santa Ana District