

July 16, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 16 2021

City of Claremont
Attn: Brad Johnson
207 Harvard Avenue
Claremont, CA

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CITY OF CLAREMONT (CITY), NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)/ INITIAL STUDY (IS) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR), CLARA OAKS SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH # 2021060463

Dear Mr. Brad Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the NOP/IS prepared for the EIR for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board) is responsible for issuing water supply permits administered under the Safe Drinking Water Act and may require a new or amended water supply permit for the above referenced Project. A project requires a permit if it includes water system consolidation or changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment. The State Water Board is a responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed Project includes a Specific Plan that would allow for 40 lots for custom residential homes. Other Project components include a public trail parking lot/drainage lot and booster pump station (Lot A- 0.88 acres), potable water tank site (Lot B- 0.21 acres), dedicated open space areas (Lot C- 73.43 acres and Lot D- 4.66 acres); onsite access roads (1.60 acres) and off-site roadway connection to Webb Canyon Road, and associated utility connections and infrastructure. The total Project site acreage is 102.75. The proposed Project would preserve 78.09 acres of open space (Lot C and Lot D), which would include a single-track loop public trail in the northern portion of the Project site.

The State Water Board as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the City's NOP/IS for the proposed EIR:

- "The Golden State Water Company would be the water purveyor to provide domestic water supplies and fire flows to the Specific Plan area," (page 9/ pdf page 14). Please clarify in the document which Golden State Water Company system will provide the water.

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

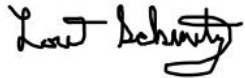
- “GSWC has indicated that the Project site is not within their jurisdiction, and thus, approval from the California Public Utility Commission would be required prior to construction improvements to the water system,” (page 9/ pdf page 14). Please further detail if Golden State Water Company cannot get approval from the Public Utilities Commission, what alternate plans there are for a water system to provide the water.
- “New water infrastructure would be required to provide service to the Project site. A new water pipeline would be connected to existing GSWC infrastructure within Base Line Road and would be constructed within the alignment of Webb Canyon Road, through the MWD parcel, and into the Specific Plan area. Other infrastructure improvements include a booster pump station to be located within Lot A, as well as proposed water tank, to be sized according with County fire flow storage requirements, located Lot B, as shown on Figure 5, Conceptual Land Use Plan and Figure 6, Draft Tentative Tract Map No. 73942,” (page 9 /pdf page 14). Please provide a site map (including water main sizes and lengths, tank size and height, and booster pump station components) and a description of the water system in enough details to be able to determine if a water supply permit amendment will be required and the environmental impacts the construction and operation of the infrastructure will have. If a water supply permit amendment will be required, please add us to the list of Responsible agencies, in the EIR.
- “The Specific Plan area lies within an area considered a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), (page 5/ pdf page 11). Please consider fire flow requirements to ensure protection against wildfires when figuring tank size and water demands.
- The hydrology and water quality section of the document should discuss any waste discharge for the construction and operation of the system and discharge permits that will be obtained for the new water system infrastructure.
- State Water Board also agrees that discussions on groundwater recharge, impacts on groundwater supplies, and any conflicts with a sustainable groundwater management plan should be discussed in the EIR.

If a Water Supply Permit Amendment is needed, when the review process has ended, please forward the following items in support of GSWC- Claremont’s permit application to the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water Hollywood District Office:

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

Please contact David McElheny at the Hollywood District Office, at (815) 551-2050 or David.McElheny@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Schmitz". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA

cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

David McElheny
District 7- Hollywood
Los Angeles District Office