



July 20, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**July 21 2021**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

City of Fresno  
Attn: Jose Valenzuela  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, California 93721

CITY OF FRESNO, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND), MND FOR THE WATER WELL PUMP STATION NO. 372 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO P19-04891 PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2021060471

Dear Mr. Jose Valenzuela:

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) is responsible for issuing water supply permits administered under the Safe Drinking Water Act and will 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 or a waiver or alternative from Waterworks Standards (California Code of Regulations [CCR] title 22, chapter 16 et. seq). The State Water Board is a responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed Project includes drilling a new water well, constructing a 29' X 9'-4" equipment building to house electrical panels and chemical injection equipment, and erecting a seven-foot tall perimeter chain link fence with slats. The project will also include installation of a telemetry antenna, installation of a Pacific Gas and Electric transformer, and planting of a 10-foot landscaping strip along South Northpointe Drive and East Prime Avenue for screening. A chlorination system will also be installed and covered with a roof. Public Works improvements like curb and gutter, lighting, street paving, and sidewalks will be constructed. An emergency 100-400 horsepower generator with above ground fuel tank will also be installed on a concrete pad. Two vehicular access points will also be constructed and secured by chain-link fence gates.

The Project may also include installation of a package iron and manganese filtration system, a granulated activated carbon (GAC) treatment system, and a 12-foot diameter, 10-foot tall de-aeration tank, tank, through future phases of the project, as needed. The GAC treatment system may have two to six 12-foot diameter, 15-foot tall vessels. Any vessels installed will be constructed in a 5-foot pit to decrease their profile above grade.

The Project also includes the operation of the system, (Pump Station 372). As part of the operation of the system, if a granulated treatment system is installed spent carbon will be changed out and recycled or destroyed by a licensed contractor during the water system's operational process. The project will occur on a .3-acre site at 3709 South Northpoint Drive, in Fresno, CA.

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

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

- CCR §64560. New Well Siting, Construction, and Permit Application states:
  - (a) to receive a new or amended domestic water supply permit for a proposed well, the water system shall provide the following information to the State Board in the technical report as part of its permit application:
    - (1) A source water assessment as defined in Section 63000.84 for the proposed site;
    - (2) Documentation demonstrating that a well site control zone with a 50-foot radius around the site can be established for protecting the source from vandalism, tampering, or other threats at the site by water system ownership, easement, zoning, lease, or an alternative approach approved by the State Board based on its potential effectiveness in providing protection of the source from contamination;
    - (3) Design plans and specifications for the well; and
    - (4) Documentation required for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Please add the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, District 11 to the list of required project approvals in the table on page 9 and on page 25.
- Hydrology and Water Quality (b), - Would the Project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin, and (e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan.
  - The Project is in the San Joaquin Valley-Kings Groundwater Basin 5-022.08 a basin listed as a critically over-drafted in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118. The CEQA document mentions "A well is intended to serve existing and planned urban development which itself was the subject to environmental and service delivery analysis."
    - Please explain the purpose of this well. Will it be used as a replacement well, a backup well for the existing system, to meet existing need, or serve future growth, etc.?
    - Please analyze the specific impacts of this well including how this well will impact the critically over-drafted basin. Please cite if this well was included in any other CEQA documents.
    - Please address cumulative impacts to the groundwater.
- A groundwater sustainability plan was adopted for the basin on November 21, 2019 by the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, in which the City of Fresno is a member. Please briefly explain how this project will follow the adopted plan and help meet the 2040 sustainability deadline for the basin.

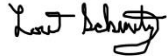
When the review process has ended, please forward the following items with your permit application to the Merced District Office:

- Copy of the draft and final MND, with any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes certifying and adopting the MND;

- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination (NOD) filed at the Merced County Clerk's Office or Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Adam Forbes at the Merced District Office, at (559) 447-3137 or [Adam.Forbes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Adam.Forbes@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Sincerely,



Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Adam Forbes  
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer  
Merced District