



July 28, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

County of San Mateo  
Attn: Angela Chavez  
455 County Center, Second Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94134

**July 29 2021**

## STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO (COUNTY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND), VIDA VERDE EDUCATION CAMP PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2021060533

Dear Ms. Angela Chavez:

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 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 title 22, chapter 16 et. seq).

The proposed Project includes establishing a camp for low income, 4th-6th grade students through the Vida Verde Nature Education non-profit organization. The proposed overnight camping would accommodate up to 35 people, including 30 guests (students/chaperones) and five permanent staff, housed in the existing residence.

New proposed development includes a new 2,890 square foot (sq. ft.) two-story barn (for meeting, cooking and eating, plus restrooms on lower floor; restrooms and sleeping rooms upstairs for staff), three 400 sq. ft. and one 320 sq. ft. outdoor camping structures for student and chaperones, a new 100 sq. ft. detached student restroom, a new 735 sq. ft. equipment storage building, a minor remodel of the existing house to accommodate permanent operational/educational staff and provide an ADA-accessible unit, installation of a new septic system, improved water storage facilities, a 200-panel ground-mounted solar system, a fire hydrant, and new driveway turnouts to serve the development. A two-bedroom farm labor housing unit is also proposed to be located on the second floor of the proposed barn. The installation of improved water storage facilities, including installation of a new water distribution, treatment, and storage infrastructure (potable water and fire suppression storage tanks).

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

- “The camp function will operate from 30-35 during the standard school year and for a maximum of three weeks in the summer. The maximum number of visitors would be 30 people to be on site for three days and two nights permit.” (page 8, pdf page 14). Please clarify these statements and explain if more than 25 people will be served for at

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

least 60 days out of the year. Please also consider any use from the farm labor housing unit as part of the calculation.

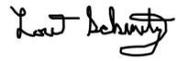
- “Given the proposed project scope the service is determined to be a “State Small Water System” and is regulated by the State of California, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Review and certification of the system will require final approval by DDW. The applicant has submitted their preliminary application to DDW which includes a technical report and water supply plan both of which have been completed by Questa Engineering Corporation dated March 1, 2021, and October 2019 (respectively) which is currently under review. Based on these assessments there is no expectation that the improved water system will result in significant environmental effects”, (page 34, pdf page 40).
  - San Mateo County Environmental Health regulates state small water systems. A State Small Water System is a system that serves water to 5-14 service connections and serves fewer than 25 people daily for at least 60 days out of the year.
  - The State Water Board oversees larger systems that serve 15 or more service connections or 25 people daily for at least 60 days out of the year. According to discussion and coordination with the DDW District staff, your system is anticipated to serve 40 visitors per day and 10 residents on site and so would likely become a transient non-community water system and be regulated by DDW, as such. Please further explain your best projected numbers in the document and clarify the correct regulatory agency based on these numbers.
- “The project also includes water storage tanks for fire suppression,” (page 23/ pdf page 29). Please explain the capacity of the tanks and if the tanks will be tied to the drinking water system.
- “The project also includes upgrades to the existing domestic water system. The well, which currently provides the domestic service will be abandoned and a second (previously approved) well will be energized. The new service will also include treatment and storage facilities,” (page 34, pdf page 40). Identify and further clarify all water system components that exist, will be modified, and will be installed to provide for the use of the drinking water. Refer to your C2 designs (or any updated designs) in the explanation. If the final components are not yet determined, consider all the probable design options that may be used, (Ex. cartridge filters instead of slow sand treatment.)
- Explain any discharge and discharge permits associated with any new backwash treatment system and/or other new components of the system that would require discharge.

Once the MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of Vida Verde Nature Education’s permit application to the State Water Board, Santa Clara District Office:

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

Please contact Tsungchu (George) Chien at Santa Clara District Office, at (510)-620-3461 or [tsungchu.chien@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tsungchu.chien@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> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Tsungchu (George) Chien  
Sanitary Engineer  
Santa Clara District