



October 8, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Inland Empire Utility Agency
Attn: Ms. Sylvie Lee
6075 Kimball Avenue
Chino, CA 91708

Oct 08 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY (IEUA), NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR); INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES CHINO BASIN PROGRAM PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH # 2021090310

Dear Ms. Lee:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the NOP prepared for the EIR for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) 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 proposed Project will treat non-potable and recycled water supplies with advanced treatment to be stored in the Chino groundwater basin every year and pumped from the basin to the local State Water Project (SWP) contractor, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (District). The water would be sent to IEUA members and other local water agencies during dry and critically dry years.

The treated water would be used in exchange for SWP supplies from Lake Oroville in Northern California, that would normally have been imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and delivered to southern California. An equivalent amount of water would instead be transferred from the Oroville Reservoir and released in pulse flows on the Feather River during hydrologically dry periods, which will then flow downstream, through the Sacramento River watershed, and ultimately to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay Delta).

The Project will include construction of a advanced water purification facility, 16 injection wells, 17 extraction wells, four monitoring wells, a two and a half million gallon storage tank, a five million storage gallon tank, three pump stations, three transformers, groundwater treatment facilities, and a piping distribution network connecting the facilities to the District, IEUA members, and other local public water systems within San Bernardino County. Project piping will include 38.65 miles of eight to 72-inch diameter piping for water and brine conveyance. This piping will include a pipeline for the disposal of brine generated from the advanced water purification facility that will be connected to the existing Non-Reclaimable Wastewater System pipeline that transports brine to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for treatment. The project will also include the use of nine existing IEUA member agency wells, the Agua De Lejos Water Treatment Plant Clearwell, and the Lloyd Michael Water Treatment Plant Clearwell.

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

The extraction well water would be chlorinated and pumped through 12-54-inch diameter piping to a new blending and storage reservoir. A newly installed regional pipeline would connect the portable water facilities through up to six, 12-72-inch diameter turn outs to the member agencies. Some IEUA member agencies may also be provided with up to nine new wells or two to three wellhead treatment systems to existing active or off-line wells (in-lieu local), for up to a 6,000 acre-feet per year. In-lieu local water would then be pumped through IEUA member's existing conveyance structures.

17,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water would be treated at the constructed advanced water purification facility, resulting in 15,000 acre-feet of purified water that would be injected into the Chino Basin each year. This would create a new local water supply for the District, IEUA member agencies, and other local public water systems that can be used through agreements with Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the District, and other project partners.

The Project will provide up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of water to be used in the Chino Basin during hydrologically drier years for up to three years and 375,000 acre-feet of water can be pumped from the Chino Basin over 25-years.

The Project will also provide water supplies for water improvements and emergency response benefits, including rehabilitation of the District's pipelines within their service area and protection against subsidence in the Chino Basin, and improved habitat conditions for native salmonids and other federally listed species with the Bay-Delta watershed.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, would like to see the following addressed in the EIR.

- A Project requires a State Water Board, DDW water supply permit or permit amendment if the Project includes water system consolidation or changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment or a waiver or alternative from Waterworks Standards (CCR title 22, chapter 16 et. seq). The Project includes multiple water supply infrastructure components, including extraction wells, distribution reservoirs, interconnections, and wellhead treatment that typically require water supply permit amendments from the Division of Drinking Water. Please include a list of all the water systems within the Project, the water system's number, and water system components that will be added to each system that will trigger a drinking water supply permit amendment. Please also include a description of these new or modified components of the Project in enough detail to determine if a new water supply permit or permit amendment will be required.
- Please provide a Project site map that includes all new or modified water system components with the water system they belong to.
- Please include the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, in any list of agencies that will be approving a permit, and the drinking water permit(s) mentioned under any list of permits needed.

Once the EIR is ready to be circulated for public review, please ensure that the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water, Central District is notified. The State Water Board staff will review the draft EIR and provide additional comments, if necessary.

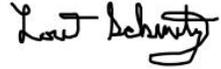
Please contact Terrence Kim of the Central District Office, at (818) 551-2029 or Terrence.Kim@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Ms. Sylvie Lee

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Schmitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a prominent "S".

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

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Terry Kim
Associate Sanitary Engineer
Central District