

CEQA FINDINGS FOR A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CEQA RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS
WELLS 81A, B, C NORTH ANTELOPE/POKER PROJECT

I. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The California Department of Water Resources (“Department”), as a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), makes the following findings with regard to the application submitted by Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) for state funding for a portion of the costs of constructing the Wells 81A, B, C North Antelope/Poker Project (Project). SSWD, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, prepared and adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (“IS/MND”) for the Project. In December 2021, the SSWD as responsible agency (SCH #2021100578), filed a Notice of Determination (“NOD”).

In December 2021, SSWD prepared an IS/MND to evaluate the Project for the potential to impact the environment.

The Project consists of the construction of water supply well facilities to serve as replacement potable water supply sources for the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) North Service Area. The Project’s components include replacement of three water supply wells, above ground well mechanical improvements and components including wellheads and associated equipment, a two-million gallon storage reservoir (125 feet in diameter by 30 feet high), an 80 feet by 30 feet building required to operate the replacement wells, a 40 foot by 60 foot area for manganese treatment, a 300,000 gallon backwash settling tank (45 feet by 30 feet), a large emergency natural gas generator, and an eight-foot-high concrete block perimeter wall, as well as a new 1,250-foot long, eight-inch diameter sanitary sewer line within Antelope North Road. Construction of these facilities will require clearing and grubbing of the Project site. The Project is described in the IS/MND.

The Department, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, has reviewed and considered the documentation prepared by SSWD, the Lead Agency. The Department has carefully considered the environmental effects of the Project and has reached its own independent conclusion on whether and how to approve the provision of state funding for the costs of constructing the Project.

The Department’s role in the Project would be to provide funding to SSWD pursuant to a Funding Agreement (4600015463) for the Project construction costs. The Department has no police power authority over the Project, and it has no authority over the Project as a permitting or regulatory agency.

Based on its independent review of the Project, the Department makes the following findings.

II. NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Based on the Department's independent judgment and analysis, the Department concurs in the determination by SSWD that there is no substantial evidence that the Project would have a significant effect on the environment.

III. NO STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS OR FINDINGS REGARDING ALTERNATIVES ARE REQUIRED

Because the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment, CEQA does not require the Department to consider alternatives to the Project or adopt a statement of overriding considerations.

IV. NO SUPPLEMENTAL OR SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IS REQUIRED

The Department finds that no supplemental or subsequent environmental review is required. In particular, the Department finds that there are no substantial changes in the Project, no substantial changes in the circumstances surrounding the Project, and no new information of substantial importance, which gives rise to a new significant environmental impact or otherwise triggers the need for additional CEQA review under Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines.

In December 2021, SSWD prepared an IS/MND to evaluate the Project for the potential to impact the environment. Based on the Department's independent review, the Department concurs in the determination made by SSWD.

V. ADOPTION OF FINDINGS BY THE DEPARTMENT

The Department hereby formally adopts the findings set forth herein.

Date
4/23/2024

Signature



Steve Rothert, Division Manager
Division of Multibenefit Initiatives