

March 14, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 15 2022

Calimesa, City of
Attn: Kelly Lucia
908 Park Avenue
Calimesa, CA 92320

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CITY OF CALIMESA (CITY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE COUNTY LINE ROAD AND CALIMESA BOULEVARD ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH # 2022020531

Dear Ms. Kelly Lucia:

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, DDW) is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. 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 above referenced Project will require an amended water supply permit.

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

- The document indicates the Project requires a full take of the South Mesa Water Company (SMWC) Well 11, a water well along County Line Road in the City of Calimesa (APN 411-080-005). The document also indicates that the water well will be relocated from its existing location to a nearby location. The new SMWC well site and well will need to be reviewed and approved by the State Water Board, DDW through a site review and a water supply permit amendment. Please add "State Water Board, DDW" to title "2.9 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required" under subtitle "State Agencies" (PDF page 15 & 16).
- Please indicate if the well will be replaced within the same Project site indicated in Figures 1-6 (PDF pages 17-23). If not, please modify the Project site to include the well replacement site and consider the well construction and operation in the Project analysis.
- Please discuss discharges from well drilling, operational discharges, and any associated permits that will be obtained. (Note: Drinking Water discharges to Waters of the US may fall under waste discharge SMWC ID 4DW0535 the Statewide General NPDES Permit 2014-0194-DWQ for Drinking Water Systems Discharges, another general permit, individual permit, or waiver).
- The Project falls within the Upper Santa Ana Valley- Yucaipa Groundwater Basin, a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act high priority basin. If the new replacement well will include a higher capacity pump than the existing well, please discuss well impacts on groundwater supplies.

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

- The Project is located within the flood zone, Federal Emergency Management Agency Zone AE. Discuss any impacts the Project may have on the flood flows and discuss design features included to protect the well against contamination.

CCR Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 16, Article 3, Section 64560 requires that for any well that will serve a public water system the well designs and specifications shall be submitted to the State Water Board. SMWC should submit well designs to the State Water Board, DDW Riverside District Office prior to the Project construction.

Once the MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of South Mesa Water Company's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Riverside District Office:

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

Please contact Omar Khan of the State Water Board, DDW Riverside District Office, at 619-525-4961 or Omar.Khan@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding permitting requirements.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

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

Omar Khan
Water Resources Control Engineer
Riverside District