

DENNIS R. KELLER

CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEER, INC.

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JAMES H. WEGLEY, R.C.E.

JAMES A. BLAIR, R.C.E.

EDWARD D. GLASS, JR., R.C.E.

NICHOLAS I. KELLER, B.S.C.E.

209 SOUTH LOCUST STREET

P.O. BOX 911

VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93279-0911

PHONE 559/732-7936

FAX 559/732-7937

KELWEG1@AOL.COM

April 1, 2022

Mr. Ralph Gutierrez, Manager
Woodville Public Utility District
16716 Avenue 168
Tulare, CA 93274

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO: 2022030119

Dear Ralph:

The Woodville Public Utility District (District), has received comments regarding the District's Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration associated with its Replacement Well Project (SCH No. 202230119). Please find attached, a copy of the comment letter and an Addendum that addresses the review comments. This Addendum is to be added to the District's Initial Study. It is our position that the completion of the "current version" of the checklist (Appendix G) is not warranted, as the completed checklist and attached Addendum address the relevant issues related to the Project.

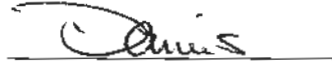
For the record, it should be noted that the District initially completed the CEQA process for the Project in 2020 (SCH No. 2020029076) pursuant to its adopted CEQA Guidelines. During State Revolving Fund contract preparation, the Division of Financial Assistance – Environmental Review Unit identified what they felt were administrative discrepancies and required the preparation of document additions and the completion of a reevaluation of the revised documents. This revision was required to be followed by a readoption of same after a full public comment period.

Please insure that the District Directors receive a copy of this Addendum as a part of adoption of the now proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. The record should reflect the receipt of the comment letter, this Addendum and the consideration of the content of both in the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Mr. Ralph Gutierrez, Manager
April 1, 2022
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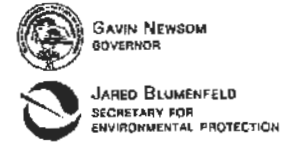
If you have any questions regarding the procedures that should be followed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis R. Keller
Consulting Civil Engineer

DRK:js
Enclosures



March 30, 2022

Woodville Public Utility District
Attn: Dennis Keller
16716 Avenue 68
Woodville, CA 93258

WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT (DISTRICT), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND), FOR THE REPLACEMENT WELL PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022030119

Dear Mr. Dennis Keller:

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 a new or amended water supply permit.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the District's draft Initial Study/MND:

- Please state which existing well is being replaced, where it is, and if it will be destroyed or registered under another use. Also, please provide the capacity of the existing and new wells.
- Discuss any actions that will be taken during construction and operation to ensure the protection of water quality standards and to meet waste discharge requirements.
- The document includes an old version of the Appendix G checklist. Please use the current version of the Appendix G and answer the following questions for Hydrology and Water Quality and Utilities and Services Systems:
 - Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
 - Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?
 - Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Visalia District Office to DWPDIST12@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;

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

- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the MND and MMRP; and
- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Tulare County Clerk's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding State Water Board CEQA comments.

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

Linda Ramirez
Sanitary Engineer Technician
Visalia District

Adam Forbes
District Engineer
Visalia District

ADDENDUM
CEQA REVIEW COMMENTS RESPONSE
REPLACEMENT WELL PROJECT
WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

This Addendum provides response to comments and questions received by the Woodville Public Utility District (District) on March 30, 2022, from the Special Project Review Unit of the Division of Financial Assistance of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

EXISTING SOURCE SUPPLY DISCUSSION

The District's existing two (2) active wells (Nos. 1A and 3) experience both water quality and mechanical failures that periodically require a well to be placed in an out of service position. With one well out of service, the District does not meet Waterworks Standards regarding quantity of water supply. Well No. 4 will be used to replace an out of service well and enable the District to provide sufficient water supply meeting water quality standards. Currently Well No. 1A does not meet water quality standards due to Nitrate contamination exceeding the MCL. Consequently, the Project will not result in an increased demand on existing groundwater supplies. The District does not have any plan to destroy an existing well at this time. Existing wells will continue remain available to provide domestic water supply. A project to blend the discharge from Well No. 1A is in process. This combination of projects will allow the District to meet Waterworks Standards once again. Anticipated well capacity is summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1
WELL CAPACITY (1)
REPLACEMENT WELL PROJECT
WOODVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
1A	412 gpm
3	<796 gpm
4	800 gpm
Maximum Month Demand	663 gpm
Peak Hour Demand	994 gpm

Note:

(1) Source of Data: Proposition 1 Drinking Water Planning Grant – Final Project Engineering Report, December, 2018.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS/WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

The Project's Construction Plans and Specifications include provisions to address required water quality standards and waste discharge requirements during the construction period. The proposed well design incorporates a conductor casing to protect compliant water bearing strata from strata with non-compliant water quality characteristics. Requirements established in the well drilling permit will determine the extent and nature of waste discharge requirements. Routine operation of the replacement well will not result in any discharge of waste.

INITIAL STUDY – ADDITIONAL REQUESTED RESPONSES

Will the Project:

1. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. The Project will not result in an increase of groundwater pumping over existing conditions. Pumping from the new well will occur while an existing well is off or out of service. Pumping will respond to existing water demands of the District.

The Project will not impede sustainable groundwater management. The District's use of the groundwater supply is recognized and incorporated into the groundwater management structure through its membership and participation in the local groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) and its associated Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

2. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The Project does not conflict with the provisions of any water quality control plan or Groundwater Sustainability Plan. See response to Question No. 1 for additional information.

3. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project (sic: service area) and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

No Impact. The Project does not result in an increase of groundwater pumping over existing conditions. The Project is not in response to a recent increase in service area demand. The Project results in improved water supply reliability for the District while meeting required water quality standards. The design of the new well takes into account the interception of sufficient water bearing zones to develop the required yield during normal, dry and multiple dry years.