

April 27, 2022

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

San Benito County  
Attn: Mr. Stan Ketchum  
2301 Technology Parkway  
Hollister, CA, 95023

**Apr 28 2022**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

SAN BENITO COUNTY (COUNTY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE PLN200017 SAN BENITO TRAVELERS STATION CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND SITE/ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022040024

Dear Mr. Stan Ketchum:

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 may require a new or amended water supply permit.

The Project appears to meet the definition of a new public water system. "Public water system" means a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year," (Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 116275 [h]). The State Water Board, DDW regulates public water systems in San Benito County.

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

- The CEQA document should provide an estimate of the total number of people that will be served by the proposed water system per day and the number of employees.
- "The State Water Board, DDW Water Supply Permit" should be added to "7. Regional and State Agencies" (required permits) (PDF page 12).
- The CEQA document should describe all water system infrastructure that may need to be permitted as part of the new public water system. If consolidation is feasible, it should be included as part of the Project.
- The CEQA document should discuss potential groundwater impacts on the Gilroy-Hollister Valley-North San Benito groundwater basin.
- The Project includes installation of a mounded leach field system. California Waterworks Standards (CWS), Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 16, Article 4, Section 64572 and Title 22, Division 4 Chapter 16, Article 6, Section 64560 requires separation of water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination. Projects that install multiple public services (a septic treatment system and potable water system) may require alternatives to the separation standards in the CWS. If the Project includes an alternative,

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

approval for such alternatives should be obtained from the State Water Board, DDW Monetary District Office (Section 64551.0 of the CWS). If the Project will include implementing an alternative, please include alternative information in the Project analysis.

Once the MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of the new water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District Office to [DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST05@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;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the MND and MMRP, and
- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Monterey 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](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov), if you have any questions regarding State Water Board CEQA comments.

Sincerely,

*Lori Schmitz*

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Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
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Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Jonathan Weininger  
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Monterey District