

September 6, 2022

San Benito County  
Attn: Abraham Prado  
2301 Technology Parkway  
Hollister, CA 95023



SAN BENITO COUNTY (COUNTY), ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BETABEL COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONAL USER PERMIT PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022040455

Dear Mr. Abraham Prado:

Thank you for the opportunity to review 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 pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The proposed Project may create a new public water system that will require issuance of a water supply permit. A project requires a permit if it includes the creation of a new water system or a permit amendment for changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the County's draft initial study EIR:

- A public water system is defined as a system that provides water for human consumption to 15 or more connections or regularly serves 25 or more people daily for at least 60 days out of the year. Please coordinate with applicant to confirm that a new public water system will be created by the proposed Project.
- Water supply permits are subject to an application review. Applications for new public water systems are subject to Health and Safety Code section 116527 (aka SB 1263) which requires potential public water systems to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating with nearby water systems through a preliminary technical report that must be sent to DDW at least six months prior to starting construction of a new public water system. Please 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.
- Please describe all new and existing components of the proposed new public water system in the EIR.

Once the EIR is certified, please forward the following items in support of the new water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District Office at [DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov):

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

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

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 this comment letter.

Sincerely,

*Lori Schmitz*

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

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Jonathan Weininger  
District Engineer  
Monterey District