

July 19, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 21 2022

Fresno County
Attn: Marissa Parker
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor,
Fresno, CA 93721-2104

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

FRESNO COUNTY (COUNTY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND), FOR THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION 3724 & INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION NO 8151 PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022060512

Dear Ms. Marissa Parker:

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

- Please describe all components of the proposed drinking water system.
- Given the Project is located within a critically overdrafted groundwater basin, please compare the amount of groundwater that will be used by the Project versus the amount groundwater used under existing conditions and discuss any impacts from the Project on the overdrafted basin, including cumulative impacts on the sustainable management of the basin (Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 5, section 15064 [h]).
- Please provide feasible mitigation measures to reduce the potential impacts on the groundwater basin, if applicable (California Public Resources Code Division 13 Environmental Quality, Chapter 1, section 21002).

If 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 Fresno District Office to DWPDIST23@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of the 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 Fresno 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 this comment letter.

Sincerely,

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

Lori Schmitz

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
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Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Jose Robledo
District Engineer
Fresno District