

October 24, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Stockton East Water District
Attn: Mr. Darrel Evensen
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95215

STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT), NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND) FOR THE EXTRACTION WELL TWO PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH #2022090402

Dear Mr. Darrel Evensen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 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. The District will need a water supply permit for this Project. A project requires a water supply permit if it includes 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 District's draft initial study/ND:

- Please use the current Appendix G checklist. Be sure to discuss if the Project will:
 - Degrade groundwater quality.
 - Create impacts through the addition of impervious surfaces.
 - Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan (The Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin Plan) or sustainable groundwater management plan (San Joaquin Valley- Eastern San Joaquin (5-022.01)).
 - Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. In this discussion, please explain the water balance of the groundwater basin to further support this determination.
 - The document states "Wet years will recharge the groundwater supply" (PDF page 8)." What is the source(s) of water that will recharge the groundwater basin in the wet years?
 - If it is surface water, how will this affect aquatic species and riparian habitat?
 - How much water will be pumped into the groundwater basin, from where, from what infrastructure, and when?
 - How much of the groundwater will be pumped out by the new well and when?
 - Will the amount of water extracted be less than, equal to, or more than the amount of water pumped into the aquifer?
- Please explain the need for the concrete slab. Will the well or other components of the Project be built on it? Is this to ensure protection from flooding?

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

- The document states “Additionally the project will submit a permit and adhere to permit requirements of the State Water Quality Control Board which will contain water quality monitoring and additional mitigation criteria” (PDF page 8). Please clarify:
 - What permit or permits will be obtained and if these permits will be from the State Water Resources Control Board or a Regional Water Quality Control Board.
 - Please discuss with the permit agency the “additional mitigation criteria” referred to in the document and what Project specific mitigation measures will be required in the permit, if any. If impacts will be mitigated, please check the “Less Than Significant with Mitigation” box for the impacts, discuss the impacts, and include the mitigation measures in the document. If mitigation measures will not be required, please otherwise clarify the language in the document to reflect this.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Stockton District Office at DWPDIST10@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the draft and final ND with any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the ND; and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the San Joaquin 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,

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

Robert Lapp
Water Resources Control Engineer
Stockton District

Bhupinder Sahota
District Engineer
Stockton District