

State Water Resources Control Board

Regina Houchin
Buttonwillow County Water District
P.O. Box 274 289 North Main Street
Buttonwillow CA 93206



Dear Regina Houchin:

IS/MND FOR BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT; WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT(PROJECT); KERN COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2022120090

We understand that the Buttonwillow County Water District (District) is pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-8515-110). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following water quality comments on the IS/MND circulating for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program (Program). The primary purpose for the Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

All applicants seeking funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provide appropriate documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities, see [CEQA Requirements](#). In addition, because the Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) additional federal environmental documentation (cross-cutters) may be required. For additional Program information, the complete environmental application package and instructions, please visit:

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund Forms and Instructions](#).

Following are specific comments on the District's draft IS/MND:

1. Section IIa and IIe have conflicting acreage of important farmland that will be used. IIa page 13 states that an approximate 2 acres for the solar farm will remove important farmland from farming activity, while IIe page 14 states that an

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

approximate on-acre site designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance will be converted to water supply production. Can you please clarify if these are two separate sites or if I should state two-acres?

2. The attached 2022 BRA mentions a sewer pipeline that would follow approximately the same path as the proposed water pipeline in the IS/MND. Can you please confirm that the sewer pipeline is no longer a part of this project?

Thank you for the opportunity to review the District's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 341-5879, or by email at Kristen.Way@waterboards.ca.gov or contact Brian Cary at (916) 449-5624, or by email at Brian.Cary@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristen Way
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse
(Re: SCH# 2022120090)
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

bcc: Brian Cary, Division of Financial Assistance