

RECEIVED WITH FEE  
RECEIPT # 151497120

FILED  
KERN COUNTY

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

FEB 21 2023

To: Kern County, Clerks Office  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: Buttonwillow County WATER DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 274 (289 N. Main Street)  
Buttonwillow, CA 93206  
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
WATER CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
DEPUTY

and  
Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project  
Project Title

#2022120090	Ms. Regina Houchin	(661) 764-5405
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone/Extension

**Project Location:** The Buttonwillow County Water District (BCWD or District) located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, is about 25 miles west of downtown Bakersfield. The proposed project consists of replacement of a small, poorly performing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and installation of support facilities required to allow the District to meet waste discharge requirements with the treated effluent. The unincorporated community had a population of 1,337 residents in 2020, according to U.S. Census data. The WWTP is located on District-owned land about 0.5 mile north of the Buttonwillow community, in Section 13, Township 29 South, Range 23 East, MDB&M. The facilities will occupy a portion of 70 acres of District property. Historically, the District has grown feed and fodder crops on the western 40 acres using wastewater effluent for irrigation; in recent years, the effluent has been disposed of by percolation and evaporation from the existing ponds. The current WWTP site is bisected by electric transmission lines limiting use of much of the site for uses other than farming and/or ponds.

**Project Description:** *Existing Facilities.* The existing Buttonwillow WWTP consists of two side by side pre-engineered modular biological treatment systems constructed in 2010. The modular units are constructed of painted steel and sit on a concrete slab and are entirely above grade. The primary components include an equalization tank, rotating biological contactor, Bio-wheel followed by a flat plate membrane filtration system designed to remove biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids. The system is also designed to nitrify/denitrify. Effluent from the membranes is distributed to one of two unlined recycled water ponds. These ponds provide for percolation of the effluent into the soil and sediments beneath the ponds and evaporation to the atmosphere. Effluent from the ponds may also be applied, if needed, to feed and fodder crops on the 40 acres adjacent to the WWTP, but the District has not used this disposal method in recent years. At the current flow of wastewater to the WWTP (0.091 MGD), effluent entering the ponds percolates and evaporates quickly, leaving little or no water available for irrigation. *Proposed Facilities.* The primary focus in the Project Report is the evaluation and selection of a treatment alternative to prevent future discharges that are out of compliance with the 2009 Waste Discharge Requirements. According to the Report, the existing WWTP has been plagued with operational issues since it was commissioned in 2010. Due to operational issues, the WWTP has consistently been out of compliance with the WDR limits. In short, the WWTP has not operated as originally designed and this has resulted in secondary treatment capacity not being used and discharge requirements, such as Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Electrical Conductivity (EC), and Total Nitrogen. The net effect of this situation is that the existing WWTP needs to be

Copy of Environmental Document  
Filed by County Clerk on 2/21/2023  
for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

MS

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, PAGE 2**

**Project**

**Description (cont):** upgraded or an alternative treatment system needs to be installed. After evaluating four alternatives in the Project Report, Alternative 2, the Biolac Extended Aeration System, was selected as the recommended alternative for treatment and disposal. The Biolac System can meet the nitrogen disposal requirements and eliminates the acquisition of additional crop land and access to supplemental irrigation water.

This is to advise that the Buttonwillow County Water District has approved the above described project on  Lead Agency  Responsible Agency

2/15/2023 and has made the following determination regarding the above described project:  
(Date)

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan was adopted.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study and record of project approval is available to the general public at:

BCWD, P.O. Box 274 (289 North Main Street), Buttonwillow, CA 93206 or at [www.bcwd.specialdistrict.org](http://www.bcwd.specialdistrict.org)

 Chairman 2/15/2023  
Signature Title Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (Rev. 1/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: — 02212023 — 15149760
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 2/21/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Kern	DOCUMENT NUMBER 23800	

PROJECT TITLE  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (SCH #2022120090)

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (661 ) 764-5405
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS P.O. BOX 274 (289 NORTH MAIN STREET)	CITY BAKERSFIELD	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93206

PROJECT APPLICANT (check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,839.25	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,764.00	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program document (CRP)	\$1,305.25	\$	_____

Exempt from fee  
      Notice of Exemption (attach)  
      CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	_____ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		\$	_____

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED**    \$    2,814.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE J. LOZANO, KERN COUNTY CLERK, ADMINISTR COORD
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