

RECEIVED WITH FEE
RECEIPT# 1515301

FILED
KERN COUNTY

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

MAR 21 2025

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

From: Buttonwillow County Water District
P.O. Box 274 (289 North Main Street)
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

and
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.

2025 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 portions 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. 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.* According to the District, 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 being exceeded. The net effect of this situation is that the existing WWTP needs to be upgraded or an alternative treatment system needs to be installed.

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 03-21-2025
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

25540

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, PAGE 2

Project

Description (cont): 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 Buttontwillow County Water District has approved the above described project on

Lead Agency Responsible Agency

March 19, 2025 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 in 2024, and an Addendum to this Initial Study was processed in February and March 2025.
3. No new Mitigation measures [were were not] made as a condition of the approval of the project and the original Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan will continue to be implemented.
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), Buttontwillow, CA 93206 or at www.bcwd.specialdistrict.org


Signature

CHAIRMAN
Title

3/19/25
Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 15 — 03212025 — 15151301
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 3/21/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Kern		DOCUMENT NUMBER 25540
PROJECT TITLE 2025 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT		

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (661) 764-5405
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO BOX 274	CITY BUTTONWILLOW	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)	\$4,123.50	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	<u>2,968.75</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee			
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			
<hr/>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	<u>50.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	<u> </u>

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 3,018.75

SIGNATURE X 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE M. HERNANDEZ, KERN COUNTY CLERK, FSS
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