

## State Water Resources Control Board

January 5, 2023

City of Santa Maria  
Attn: Mr. Cody Graybehl  
110 South Pine Street, Suite 101  
Santa Maria, CA 93458



CITY OF SANTA MARIA (CITY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE WELL 6S INTERTIE PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2022120105

Dear Mr. Cody Graybehl:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the MND 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 Project is within the jurisdiction of DDW Santa Barbara District. DDW Santa Barbara District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a modified source of domestic water supply or new domestic water system components pursuant to Waterworks Standards (Title 22 CCR chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a new water supply permit amendment for changes to a water supply source, storage, or treatment and for the operation of new water system components including new distribution tanks equal to or over 100,000 gallons, new wells, and treatment systems. The City will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the City's MND:

- The MND indicates "The Project does not include an operational phase" (PDF page 4.). However, the document also indicates, "The Well 6S Intertie Project would convey raw water from the existing Well 6 to the existing discharge pipeline from Well 11" (PDF Page 17). Please clarify in the document if operation of the water system infrastructure is considered part of the operation of the Project. Please update other sections in the document, as needed to reflect the clarification. If operation of Well 6S will not be part of the operation of the Project, please be sure to provide DDW with an appropriate environmental document that analysis the operation environmental impacts of the Well 6S prior to start of the well operation.
- If Well 6S is considered part of the operation of the Project

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

- Under “Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required” PDF Page 18, Add State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, for a water supply permit amendment.
- If dewatering wells will be included in the Project plans, please discuss where and how the water will be discharged and the discharge permit that will be obtained.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Santa Barbara District Office at [DWPDIST06@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST06@waterboards.ca.gov):

- Copy of the draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of any 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 date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Santa Barbara 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](mailto: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, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Laureen Tan  
Water Resources Control Engineer  
Santa Barbara District