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GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Jennifer Ares
Yucaipa Valley Water District
12770 Second Street
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 6 2023

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Dear Ms. Ares:

IS/MND FOR YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT; NORTH BENCH RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM PROJECT (PROJECT); SAN BERNADINO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2023010081

We received a copy of the District's draft IS/MND from the State Clearinghouse for the Project. Since the Project may be eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing information on our program should the District decide to pursue CWSRF financing in the future.

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](#).

If the District does decide to pursue CWSRF funding, the State Water Board is also required to review the Project's compliance with certain federal laws and regulations. If the District pursues the CWSRF Program or federal funding, please address the following comments on the draft IS/MND:

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

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

1. Mitigation measure BIO-5 states that “impacts to Oak Glen Creek shall be avoided either through Project design or construction methods,” but the Project pipeline is currently planned to cross the Oak Glen Creek in four locations (page 4-28). Can you elaborate on what possible construction methods would avoid impacts? Is there is a possibility that Project design would lead to a new pipeline route to avoid Oak Glen Creek?
2. Will there be night lighting for this Project? Page 4-5 states that there will be “security lighting for the water storage reservoirs, booster stations, and appurtenant structures,” but page 4-36 uses the fact that the booster and reservoir sites will not be lit with night lighting as a determining factor for potential impacts in Section 4.4.2 (d).
3. The southwestern willow flycatcher, a federally endangered species, has designated critical habitat approximately 100 feet away from the Project site, and three recent records of the species within five miles of the Project site, but did not see the species mentioned within Section 4.4.1.7 on wildlife species occurrences. Can you please elaborate on southwest willow flycatcher’s potential to occur, and if the Project has the potential to impact both the species and its critical habitat indirectly through construction noise and possible nighttime lighting?

Thank you for the opportunity to review the District’s draft IS/MND. The State Water Board staff are more than happy to discuss the CWSRF Program environmental requirements in more detail if you decide to apply for CWSRF financing. 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# 2023010081
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

bcc: Brian Cary, Division of Financial Assistance