

State Water Resources Control Board

Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA, 93727
HGuerra@tularecounty.ca.gov



Dear Mr. Guerra:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR TULARE COUNTY (COUNTY); MATHENY TRACT WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND PIPELINE INTER-TIE PROJECT (PROJECT); TULARE COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2023010516

We understand that the County is pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project. 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 of 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, and thereby protect and promote the 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 County's draft IS/MND:

1. Page 32 of the MND indicates "the BE provides supplemental analysis of biological resources beyond the project limits of the DEIR for the Matheny

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

Tract Wastewater Project's for the proposed Project's pipeline component leading to connection with the DWWTP."

- a. The State Water Board, SRF Environmental Review Unit is in possession of the County's June 2017 Environmental Impact Report for the "Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Study" submitted for their "Matheny Tract Wastewater Collection, Treatment, Disposal Project" SRF construction application. Are these projects the same?
2. Page 25 of the MND indicates the Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys Nitratoides nitratoides*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) are unlikely to occur on the project site, mitigation measures are not warranted, and the project will have less than significant impacts. In other words, does the biologist believe the project will have no potential to affect these species?

Thank you for the opportunity to review the County's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 341-6983, or by email at Cedric.Irving@waterboards.ca.gov or contact Brian Cary at (916) 449-5624, or by email at Brian.Cary@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cedric Irving
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse
Re: SCH# 2023010516
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

bcc: Brian Cary, Division of Financial Assistance
Jennifer Toney, Division of Financial Assistance