

State Water Resources Control Board

July 3, 2023

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Attn: Mr. Mark Swanson
560 Magnolia Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223



BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (BCVWD), ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE NOBLE WATER STORAGE TANK NO 2 AND TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2023060275

Dear Mr. Mark Swanson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EA 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 the State Water Board, DDW's Riverside District. DDW Riverside District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or 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- as specified in the Waterworks Standards. The BCVWD may need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project, for the addition of the Noble Tank No. 2.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the BCVWD's EA:

- Please specify if the Noble Tank No. 2 will meet the definition of a distribution reservoir (California Code of Regulation (CCR) §64551.10). "Distribution reservoir" means any tank or other structure located within or connected to the distribution system and used to store treated/finished drinking water.
- If Noble Tank No. 2 qualifies as a distribution reservoir under CCR §64551.10, in section 2.2 Permitting and Authorization Summary, Table 2. Permits and Approvals, please add "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water" and "Drinking Water Supply Permit Amendment" (PDF page 12).
- As the lead agency carrying out the Project, the BCVWD is responsible for CEQA.

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

Under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 14, "If a lead agency finds that an EIS or finding of no significant impact for a project would not be prepared by the federal agency by the time when the lead agency will need to consider an EIR or negative declaration, the lead agency should try to prepare a combined EIR-EIS or negative declaration-finding of no significant impact. To avoid the need for the federal agency to prepare a separate document for the same project, the lead agency must involve the federal agency in the preparation of the joint document."

Please explain why a federal document was prepared by your agency instead of a CEQA document or Joint CEQA/NEPA document for this Project. Was a federal document already circulated and approved by the NEPA lead agency? How do you plan to meet CEQA requirements?

When the CEQA/NEPA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Riverside District Office at DWPDIST20@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the draft and final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)-EA 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-EA and MMRP; and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Riverside 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, 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, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Chun Huang
District Engineer
Riverside District

Mitchell Martinez
Water Resource Control Engineer
Riverside District