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## State Water Resources Control Board

September 22, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 11 2023

City of McFarland  
Attn: Paul M Saldana  
401 West Kern Avenue  
McFarland, Ca 93250

### STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CITY OF MCFARLAND (CITY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE BROWNING ROAD STORAGE TANK AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2023080715

Dear Mr. Paul Saldana:

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 the State Water Board, DDW's Visalia District. DDW Visalia 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 City will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the City's Initial Study (IS) / MND:

- The IS/MND appears to be an old checklist. Please use the most recent Appendix G template to draft the IS/MND.
- The reference to "piping and a water well" appears to be an error. Please update the reference to "piping and a water well" on PDF page 39 to reflect the initial IS/MND Project description.
- The IS/MND indicates 2,500-feet of piping will be installed to connect to an existing stormwater retention basin. The location of the piping is not included in locations identified in the document on PDF page 4 but is included in Figure 1. Please include the pipeline construction location under the Project Locations.
- Please indicate if the spent Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) resin will be hazardous, how often it will need to be replaced, and the process for replacement and disposal.

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

- The IS/MND indicates that no waste discharge will be associated with this project (PDF page 47). However, waste discharge will occur with the tank and as part of the backwash process with the GAC treatment system. Please discuss these waste discharges, where they will discharge to, and what permit(s) the discharge will fall under.
  - The Statewide Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, a regional waste discharge permit, an individual waste discharge permit, and/or waiver may be applicable. Please contact Alexander Mushegan of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), Fresno District at (559) 488-4397 or [Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov) for more information on regional waste discharge permits, individual waste discharge permits, and/or waivers.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with your permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Visalia District Office at [DWPDIST12@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST12@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 Kern 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

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

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CVRWQCB, Waste Discharge Requirements