
State Water Resources Control Board

December 19, 2024

Lea Simvoulakis
City of Ceres
2220 Magnolia Street
Ceres, CA 95307

CITY OF CERES (CITY), ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE COPPER TRAILS SPECIFIC PLAN AND ANNEXATION PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2023090637

Dear Lea Simvoulakis:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EIR 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. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW's Stockton District. DDW Stockton District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to public water systems pursuant to Waterworks Standards (Title 22 California Code of Regulations [Cal Code Regs.] chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a water supply permit amendment when changes are made to a domestic water supply source, storage, or treatment and for the operation of new water system components as specified in the Cal. Code Regs. § 64556.

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

- The City will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for approval of a new source (well) and operation of a new storage reservoir (PDF page 57). In the EIR, under subsection 1.3 EIR Requirements and Intended Uses, on PDF page 14, when identifying other potential responsible agencies, please include "the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Stockton District." In Table 3-3 Required Permits and Approvals, Copper Trails Specific Plan (PDF pages 60 and 61), please include under "Agency"- "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Stockton District" and under "Permit/Approval"- "Approve water supply permit amendment."
- The EIR states that Cere's groundwater supplies are treated at wellheads (PDF page 283). Possible contaminants in the Turlock Subbasin include: arsenic, uranium, manganese, sulfur, total dissolved solids, nitrates, salinity, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, tetrachlorethylene, and dibromochloropropane (PDF page

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

182). Please discuss the anticipated water quality of the new well at the proposed well site. If treatment may be needed, please discuss the possible types of treatment infrastructure that may be needed and the possible disposal of treatment waste, if applicable.

- The Project is proposing 2,392 new single and multi-residential units and the City currently has 11,881 connections, meeting the “project” and “public water system” thresholds under the Water Code, section 10912. The California Department of Water Resources Guidebook for Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 610, identifies the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment (WSA) as occurring at a specific plan project level (<https://cawaterlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/guidebook.pdf>, PDF page 15). Please provide the required WSA and summarize the information in the EIR. Otherwise, please further explain why a WSA does not apply.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Stockton District Office at DWPDIST10@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes certifying the EIR and adopting the MMRP; and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Stanislaus County Clerk’s Office and the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov, for 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

Bhupinder Sahota
District Engineer
Stockton District

Robert Lapp
Water Resources Control Engineer
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