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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

Ms. Kathleen Mitchell  
Riverside County Planning Department  
P.O. Box 1409  
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY (COUNTY); RAMONA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PROJECT); RIVERSIDE COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2023090660

We understand that Western Water Conservation is pursuing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing for this Project on behalf of the Ramona Water Company. 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 DWSRF Program (Program). The primary purpose for the Program is to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for drinking facilities improvements to provide clean potable drinking water, 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 additional federal environmental documentation (cross-cutters) may be required. For additional Program information, the complete environmental application package and instructions, please visit:

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Forms and Instructions](#).

Following are specific comments on the County's draft IS/MND:

1. Under Section "G. Other Public Agency Involvement and Required Permits" please include the State Water Resources Control Board for possible approval of funding.
2. Please note the IS/MND has identified the wrong agency and funding source for the planning, design, and construction of the project throughout the

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

document. The IS/MND should state “The applicant has applied for the State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funding for the planning, design, and construction of the RWS Improvement Project.”

3. The Project includes the construction of a 115,000-gallon reservoir. Please discuss if a detention basin will be required on the El Toro Tank site to address emergency tank discharge and tank discharge maintenance. If so, please include the detention basin in the Project Description and address environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the detention basin. If a detention basin will not be installed at the El Toro Tank site, please explain if there is an existing offsite detention basin the discharges will be sent to or if there are other plans to address these discharges. If there is an off-site discharge basin be sure to include the main to the detention basin as part of the Project description and address any impacts related to the main’s installation.

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) 449-5285, or by email at [Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov) or contact Mrs. Bridget Binning at (916) 449-5641, or by email at [Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

cc: State Clearinghouse

Bridget Binning, Division of Financial Assistance

Robyn Mendoza, Division of Financial Assistance

Lawrence Sanchez, Division of Financial Assistance