



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

November 2, 2023

Shawn Nevill
Principal Planner
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92728



RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, DATED OCTOBER 05, 2023 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2023100188](#)

Dear Shawn Nevill,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an NOP of a DEIR for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project. The proposed Project would include the installation of groundwater extraction wells and conveyance piping, filtration to reduce sediment load, treatment with liquid-phase granular activated carbon (“GAC”) to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations, discharge treated water to the sewer, and further treatment by the public-owned treatment works at Orange County Sanitation District Plant 1 and the Orange County Water District Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility. The proposed Project would comprise approximately eight extraction well alignments, consisting of a total of approximately 75 extraction wells, approximately 84 monitoring wells, approximately 10,000 feet of collection and discharge piping, and local treatment systems for suspended sediment and contaminant removal.

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DTSC has identified that this project may affect multiple sites within the project boundaries therefore, based on our project review, we request the consideration of the following comments:

1. The proposed Project encompasses multiple active and nonactive mitigation and clean-up sites where DTSC has conducted oversight that may be impacted because of this Project. This may restrict what construction activities are permissible in the proposed Project areas to avoid any impacts to human health and the environment.
2. Due to the broad scope of the Project, DTSC is unable to determine the locations of the proposed Project site, whether they are listed as having documented contamination, land use restrictions, or whether there is the potential for the Project site to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, DTSC recommends providing further information on the Project site and areas that may fall under DTSC's oversight within the DEIR. Once received, DTSC may provide additional comments on the DEIR as further information becomes available. Please review the project area in [EnviroStor](#); DTSC's public-facing database.

DTSC believes the Orange County Water District must address these comments to determine if any significant impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will occur and, if necessary, avoid significant impacts under CEQA. DTSC recommends the department connect with our unit if any hazardous waste projects managed or overseen by DTSC are discovered. Please refer to the [Orange County EnviroStor Map](#) for additional information about the areas of potential contamination

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or

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would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
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