

State Water Resources Control Board

November 7, 2023

Kettleman City Community Services District
Attn: Mr. Brian Skaggs
P.O. Box 1122
Handford, CA 93232-1122



KETTLEMAN CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM),
NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND), FOR THE NEW GROUNDWATER WELL PROJECT
(PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2023100257

Dear Mr. Brian Skaggs:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the ND 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 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 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 Waterworks Standards. The Water System 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 Water System's Initial Study (IS)/ND:

- Under "10 Other public agencies whose approval is required" please add "Division of Drinking Water for a water supply permit amendment."
- The IS/ND indicates the new well will replace another well (PDF 28 page).
 - Please identify the name, location, capacity of the replaced well, and when its use was or will be decommissioned.
 - Was or will the old well be decommissioned according to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin No. 74-81 and Bulletin No. 7490, Part III Destruction of Wells? Please clarify the status of the old well in the ND.

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

- Indicate if treatment is needed for the water and if so, what treatment. If the water may need pretreatment prior to the surface water treatment plant, also discuss additional components that will be added at the well for this.
- The Project falls within the San Joaquin Valley-Tulare Lake Basin according to the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act prioritization dashboard (DWR SGMA Prioritization Dashboard). The San Joaquin Valley-Tulare Lake Basin is a high priority critically overdrafted basin, (DWR SGMA prioritization Dashboard). Under the SGMA, Southwest Kings is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the basin and no Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan has been approved by the DWR (SGMA portal).
 - Please explain how much groundwater the old well pumped in acre-feet and how this compares to the estimated maximum 300-acre feet that could be pumped annually with this new well. If water use would increase, discuss impacts to the overdrafted basin.

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:

- Copy of the draft and final ND with any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate.
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the ND, and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Kings 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

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

Adam Forbes
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