

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: GROUNDWATER WELL PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: KETTLEMAN CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the project. The Kettleman City Community Services District (KCCSD or District) is the CEQA lead agency and Project sponsor because it is responsible for implementation and operation of the Proposed Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located in western Kings County near Kettleman City. The Proposed well and connection pipeline will be completely within the fenced Surface Water Treatment Plant facility and all land within the immediate vicinity of the project site is developed to the treatment plant. The ground surface within the fenced area is either paved with asphalt or graveled. The land outside the fence is undeveloped and barren. The California Aqueduct is southwest of the Proposed Project site and the Kettleman City is to the northeast.

Description

Kettleman City Community Services District (KCCSD or District) plans to install a new groundwater well within the existing surface water treatment plant. The proposed well will have a depth of approximately 800 feet and a capacity of 900 gallons per minute (gpm). A new well manifold and pipeline will be installed. The well will be used as a supplementary water supply to the existing water treatment plant during periods when there is insufficient surface water available to meet demands.

Construction activities will include:

- Drill test hole
- Drill bore hole & install casing
- Install well pump and motor

Install well manifold and connection pipeline

Construction is expected to take approximately 4 weeks.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation measures are defined as specific feasible actions to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate, or compensate for any potentially adverse impacts from any part of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Project has been evaluated in an Initial Study. No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

Project Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

The Proposed Project has been evaluated in an Initial Study ("IS") with respect to each item in the environmental checklist set forth in Appendix "G" to the CEQA Guidelines. This completed IS reflects research and analysis conducted to examine the interrelationship between the Proposed Project and the physical environment. The

information contained in the IS has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

There were no determinations of "Potentially Significant Impact" in an IS indicates that a specific adverse environmental effect has been identified in a category which is of sufficient magnitude to be of concern. Such an effect may be inherent in the nature and magnitude of the project or may be related to the design and characteristics of the individual project. No effects rated in this manner were identified for the Proposed Project. The effects analyzed in the Proposed Project are not sufficient in themselves to require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and/or have been mitigated to less-than-significant impacts.

Within the Project Area and vicinity, all new development activity and many ongoing activities may contribute directly or indirectly toward a cumulative impact on the physical environment. The incremental effect contributed by this environmental restoration Project towards such a cumulative effect is not considered substantial in itself.

The Proposed Project is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects in terms of the factors considered on the environmental checklist, including any such factors for which insubstantial impacts have been identified. Cumulative effects of a significant nature are also not expected. The Proposed Project will not result in any adverse effects which fall within the "Mandatory Findings of Significance" contained in Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, the overall conclusion is made that the Proposed Project could not have a potentially significant effect on the environment. As such, KCCSD proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration (following public review).

FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the New Groundwater Well Project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant effects on the environment. The conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The Project would have no impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, agriculture and forestry resources, biological resources, cultural resources, energy resources, hazards and hazardous materials, geology and soils, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.
2. The Project would have a less-than-significant impact on, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Kettleman City Community Services District has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Project (prepared by Summers Engineering, Inc) and finds that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of KCCSD.

I hereby approve the New Groundwater Well Project:



Silvia Maldonado, Chairperson

Kettleman City Community Services District

12/19/23

Date