

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-1217**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA APPROVING THE TORRANCE GROUNDWATER DESALTER EXPANSION (TGDE) PROJECT AND CERTIFYING THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ISMND)**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (“the Board”) initiated the WIN4ALL program, which is an expansion of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California’s (“District”) Water Independence Now (WIN) program to further increase the region’s use of sustainable groundwater supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board continues to pursue projects through its WIN4ALL program to develop local and sustainable sources of water for use beneficial use to reduce reliance on imported water; and

**WHEREAS**, these efforts by the Board have become increasingly important in the face of California’s historic drought conditions and restrictions on imported water to Southern California; and

**WHEREAS**, the Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project (the “Project”) is a component of the District’s WIN4ALL program and when fully operational will treat up to an additional 7,100 acre-feet per year of brackish groundwater from a trapped saline plume in the West Coast Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the treated desalted water from the Project will be a new drought-proof potable supply to local agencies within WRD’s service area;

**WHEREAS**, the District is acting as the lead agency, which has the principal responsibility for approving the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is responsible for the preparation of environmental documents. The District prepared the October 2023 Draft Initial Study- Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft ISMND) in accordance with Title 14, Section 15000 et. seq. The Draft ISMND did not identify any potentially significant impacts that would occur as a result of the Project with implementation of mitigation measures; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2015, the District filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the State Clearinghouse; accordingly, the Draft ISMND was circulated for review and comment for a 30-day period, beginning on November 3, 2023 and ending on December 14, 2023; in accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines,

**WHEREAS**, the District published the NOI in the local newspaper, the Metropolitan News-Enterprise, distributed to approximately 34 public agencies, and made available in a public library in proximity to the proposed project site; and

**WHEREAS**, the District received and responded to ten comments on the Draft ISMND and determined that none of the comments received identified any issues that necessitated any significant change or revision to the Draft ISMND. Written responses to each of those comments were prepared and incorporated into the Final ISMND for the Project, which is comprised of the Draft ISMND and the responses to comments (Final ISMND) ; and

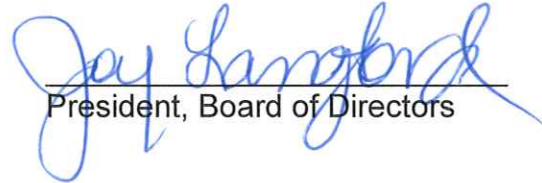
**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HEREBY RESOLVES, DETERMINES, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The District finds that on the basis of the entire record that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures and adopts the Final ISMND attached hereto as Exhibit A; and
2. The Final ISMND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the District; and
3. The Final ISMND, on which the District's decision is based, is available at the District's office (*4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712*) as well as <https://www.wrd.org/public-notice>; and
4. The District considered all comments received during the public comment period, and, based on the entirety of the record, exercised its discretion to adopt the Final ISMND; and
5. The District adopts the Final ISMND for the Project and certifies that the Final ISMND reflects proper assessment of environmental impacts of the Project, and that the environmental impacts of the Project will be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures; and
6. The District will file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk; and
7. The District approves the development and operation of the Project.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS

6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February, 2024.

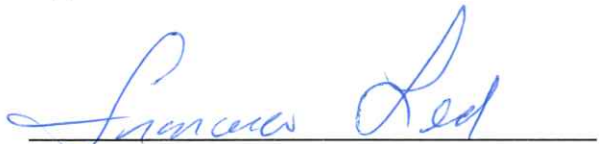
AYES:5  
NOES:0  
ABSENT:0  
ABSTAIN:0

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Directors

Approved as to form:

  
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Leal Trejo LLP, Attorneys for the Water  
Replenishment District of Southern California