



State Water Resources Control Board

April 15, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Stockton East Water District
Attn: Darrel Evensen
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, California, 95215

April 15 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM), INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/ND) FOR THE AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2024030522

Dear Darrel Evensen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the IS/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 Stockton District. DDW Stockton 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 new 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 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the Water System's IS/ND:

- The biological assessment indicates two pipelines will be installed with the well (PDF page 19 / page 1-1). Please include the pipelines in the project description under the Project Description and Background, Description of the Project, PDF page 1.
- Please correct the agency or agencies' name(s) throughout. There is the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). The document throughout uses a combination of these agency names instead of correctly identifying the agency and the permit or permits the project requires. Please correct this confusion

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

starting on PDF page 1 under Project Description and Background, “Other public agencies whose approval is required.” The Project requires a domestic water supply permit amendment from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. If there are additional permits required from either the State Water Board or one of the RWQCBs, please add those to this section and to the IX Hydrology and Water Quality, discussion of a. and f.

- In the IX Hydrology and Water Quality, discussion of a. and f, the document states, “Additionally the project will submit a permit and adhere to permit requirements of the State Water Quality Control Board which will contain water quality monitoring and additional mitigation criteria.” Neither the agency nor the permit is specified. Please state what kind of permit this is referring to and if it is the State Water Resources Control Board or the Regional Water Quality Control Board that is issuing the permit. If it is a Regional Water Quality Control Board permit, state which Regional Board will be issuing the permit. If it is referring to the domestic water supply permit amendment, strike out “and additional mitigation criteria.”
- Please discuss the source of the surface water that will be pumped into the Aquifer Storage and Recovery well (ASR well). Is it a Water of the United States (U.S.) and/or Water of the State? How will it be determined how much water will be diverted from the river(s) into the ASR well? This document only evaluated impacts on the construction area and did not consider the direct and indirect impacts to possible Waters of the US and possible Waters of the State. What are the potential impacts to fish, aquatic species, wetland and riparian habitats that depend on the surface water body or bodies that the water is being diverted from?
- The document should also discuss if there are potential impacts to the aquifer and water quality from injecting the water into the ground, and potentially negative impacts to neighboring wells and their water quality.
- Please include a discussion of whether the Project would conflict with or obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan, question (e) in the current version of Appendix G. Please be sure to use the most recent checklist, as applicable.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Stockton District Office at DWPDIST10@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the IS/ND with all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate.
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the IS/ND, and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the San Joaquin 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, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

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

Bhupinder Sahota
District Engineer
Stockton District

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Water Resource Control Engineer
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