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## State Water Resources Control Board

March 14, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Riverdale Public Utility District  
Attn: Vincent Romero  
20896 Malsbary Street,  
Riverdale, CA 93656

**Mar 14 2024**

**STATE CLEARING HOUSE**

RIVERDALE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE WELL 8 PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024020667

Dear Vincent Romero:

Thanks for the opportunity to review the IS/MND 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 Fresno District. DDW Fresno 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/MND:

- Please indicate if Well 8 will replace an existing well or standby well that has not previously been replaced. What will be done with Well 7? If so, please indicate which well and how the replaced well will be decommissioned or converted to a monitoring only well as part of the Project.
- Given that the Project is in the critically overdrafted San Joaquin Valley- Kings groundwater basin, increased pumping could cause potentially significant environmental impacts or contribute to cumulative impacts to the groundwater basin. Please define the Water System's groundwater pumping (acre-feet per year) [CEQA baseline] and the estimated water system pumping (acre-feet per year) that will occur once the well is added to the system. If water use will

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

increase over the baseline, please discuss the potential impacts to the critically overdrafted basin, and address the following:

- Based on the sustainable yield for groundwater extraction, will the Water System have sufficient water supply now and in the future during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?
- Will mitigation or minimization measures be needed to reduce potential impacts to the groundwater basin?
- The Water System is part of the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NFKGSA) [<https://northforkkings.org/>]. The NFKGSA is conducting a state-required groundwater study on the confined aquifer to understand land subsidence and groundwater flows (ibid). Please discuss if the Project will include installing well monitoring equipment that may be used to support this study.
- Will the well need chlorination treatment? If so, include the infrastructure that will be constructed for this, and discuss the transportation of chemicals, as needed.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Fresno District Office at [DWPDIST23@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST23@waterboards.ca.gov):

- Copy of the IS/MND with all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate.
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the IS/MND, and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Fresno 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](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov), for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Sudarshan Poudyal  
District Engineer  
Fresno District