



State Water Resources Control Board

April 22, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Yuba City
Attn: Jaspreet Kaur
1201 Civil Center Blvd
Yuba City, CA 95993

Apr 24 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

YUBA CITY (CITY), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE USE PERMIT 22-03: SIKH TEMPLE PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024040197

Dear Jaspreet Kaur:

Thank you 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 Valley District. DDW Valley District issues domestic water supply permits 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 California Code of Regulations chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a new water supply permit if it includes the creation of a new public water system or 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. A new public water system created by this Project would need to apply for a water supply permit.

A public water system, as defined in the California Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) section 116275(h), is "a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year."

Health & Saf. Code section 116527(b) requires that any person submitting a permit application for a proposed new public water system must first submit a technical report at least six months before initiating construction of any drinking water-related improvements. The technical report must include an examination of the possibility of connecting to or being annexed by an existing adjacent community water system. Please see the attached What is a Public Water System flier.

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

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the City's IS/MND:

- The IS/MND indicates that the assembly hall would have up to 100 visitors, a priest residence, and kitchen area (PDF page 5 and PDF page 10). This appears to meet the definition of a public water system. The State Water Board, DDW encourages projects like this to connect with nearby community water systems where possible, such as the City of Yuba City, instead of forming a new public water system. If no nearby system will agree to serve the Project, the applicant will need to submit a Health and Saf. Code section 116527(b) technical report to DDW. It would be beneficial to consider connecting to a nearby community water system in the ISMND. The nearest community system is approximately one mile away using existing rights-of-way.
- If a new public water system will be served by the Project:
 - Include "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water", under "2.12 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May be Required" (PDF page 10).
 - Describe the existing and new water system components that would be needed to become a new public water system and discuss impacts associated with construction and operation of the system, including but not limited to the following, as applicable:
 - Will the well need to be rehabilitated or upgraded for its proposed use or will a new well be needed?
 - Is water storage proposed? Include tank size and capacity.
 - Will water for fire protection be provided by the domestic water system or will there be a separate non-potable supply for fire flow?
 - Please discuss the quality of the water and if any treatment may be required. If treatment is required, please consider the treatment infrastructure in the IS/MND.
 - Please compare the annual amount of water pumped by the existing well to the amount of water that will be used by the proposed Project. The California Waterworks Standards (CWS), title 22, division 4, chapter 16, article 4, section 64572 and title 22, division 4, chapter 16, article 6, section 64560 requires separation of water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination. Please indicate if the development of the new septic tank and leach field will meet CWS separation requirements. If not, discuss how drinking water will otherwise be protected.
 - There appears to be a discrepancy. Under Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality, subsection e, the document indicates "The City primarily utilizes surface water for its water source so there will be no significant impacts on groundwater quality." However, the Project proposes to use a groundwater well as a source of water. Please clarify if the City is going to provide water to the Project or is the Project proposing to become a new public water system using groundwater as their source of supply.

If a new water system will be created, once the IS/MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of the new water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Valley District Office at DWPRedding@waterboards.ca.gov:

- Copy of the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the IS/MND and MMRP; and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Sutter 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

Attachment: What is a Public Water System?

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Rebecca Tabor
District Engineer
Valley District