



State Water Resources Control Board

May 28, 2024

Caruthers Community Services District
Attn: David McIntyre
Post Office Box 218
Caruthers, CA, 93609

CARUTHERS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE WEST SIDE STORAGE TANK PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024041239

Dear David McIntyre:

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 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 California Code of Regulations chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires 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. The Water System will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

Waterworks Standards, article 4, section 64658 requires that drinking water suppliers requiring permit approval for treatment shall submit an engineering report to the State Water Board describing how the proposed new treatment facilities will be designed to comply with the treatment, design, performance, and reliability provisions. The Water suppliers shall also submit to the State Water Board for review the design drawings and specifications for each proposed distribution reservoir and well prior to its construction (Waterworks Standards, article 3, section 64585[b] and article 6, section 64560). The Water System should submit these items to the State Water Board, DDW Fresno District Office prior to Project construction. Please contact the Fresno District office for more information.

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 Water System's IS/MND:

- Under section 2.1.6 Description of the Project, Operation and Maintenance, please include the Water System operational plans for the treatment system, tank, and well. Be sure to discuss recycling and/or disposal of granulated activated carbon, emergency draining of the tank, and the anticipated amount of pumping of the new well.
- Please define the estimated gallons per minute and depth the well will be drilled at and if the well will be pumping from the confined or unconfined aquifer.
- 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 pumping will increase over the baseline, please discuss the potential impacts to the critically overdrafted basin. Please consider 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?

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:

- 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, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor

David McIntyre

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May 28, 2024

Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Saul Zamora
Water Resource Control Engineer
Fresno District

Sudarshan Poudyal
District Engineer
Fresno District