

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: County Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

cc: Office of Planning and Research
P. O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA)
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427
Contact: Ray Stokes, Executive Director
805-697-5214

Lead Agency: Montecito Water District
538 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
Contact: Nick Turner, GM
805-969-2271

SUBJECT

Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with 14 California Code of Regulations 15096 and of the Public Resources Code Section 21152

Project Title: Water Management Program Agreement between Montecito Water District and Homer LLC

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024051165

Project Applicant/ Lead Agency: Montecito Water District

Project Location:

The Water Management Program Agreement between Montecito Water District (**MWD**) and Homer LLC (**Homer**) Project involves the use of the following existing facilities:

- Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (**Banks Pumping Plant**), located on the border of Contra Costa County and Alameda County, approximately four miles south of the community of Byron; and
- San Luis Reservoir, located in western Merced County, approximately 12 miles west of the city of Los Banos;
- Kern County Water Agency (**KCWA**) and Homer facilities, located in various cities and unincorporated areas of Kern County; and
- Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank (**Semitropic**), comprised of multiple facilities in unincorporated Kern County with headquarters in the city of Wasco.

Project Description:

1. *Background*

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (**SBCFCWCD**) is party to a long-term water supply contract with the Department of Water Resources (**DWR**) (the "**Water Supply Contract**") that provides for water supply, storage and conveyance services from the State Water Project (**SWP**). In 1991, SBCFCWCD and CCWA entered into the Transfer of Financial Responsibility Agreement, which, among other things, transferred responsibility for the Water Supply Contract to CCWA.

Pursuant to the Water Supply Agreement, dated August 1, 1991, between CCWA and MWD, MWD is entitled to purchase from CCWA a portion of the SWP supply delivered to CCWA.

KCWA also has a long-term water supply contract with DWR that permits KCWA to receive SWP water supply, storage, and conveyance services from the SWP. Semitropic obtains water from the SWP through its contracts with KCWA.

2. *The Project*

MWD prepared an Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Water Management Program Agreement between Montecito Water District and Homer LLC (the "Project"). At its meeting of January 10, 2025, MWD's Board of Directors adopted the IS/ND for the Project.

The Project involves a five-year (2025 to 2029) transfer agreement of SWP supplies between MWD and Homer. Under the agreement, MWD would annually assess its water supplies and determine whether it has surplus Table A SWP water to transfer. If MWD determines it has surplus Table A SWP water, Homer would be obligated to purchase the surplus Table A SWP water at a predetermined unit price. The transfer of Table A SWP supplies would take place at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant. In addition, the Project involves potential single-year transfer agreements of Article 56C (carryover) SWP supplies between MWD and Homer during the period of 2025 to 2029. These agreements may be executed in years when MWD determines it has surplus SWP supplies carried over from prior years. The transfer of Article 56C SWP supplies to Homer would take place at the San Luis Reservoir. Under either type of transfer agreement, Homer would store some or all of the delivered water at the Semitropic Groundwater Storage Bank in Kern County prior to use. These transfer agreements would not change the maximum annual Table A allocations of CCWA, KCWA, or MWD's maximum allocation of SWP supplies from CCWA. As such, the Project would not require additional water supplies to be diverted from the Delta.

No physical infrastructure upgrades would be required to implement these transfer agreements because the surface and groundwater facilities (i.e., the Banks Pumping Plant, San Luis Reservoir, Semitropic) and Homer facilities currently exist and are in regular use for delivery of SWP supplies via KCWA.

This is to advise that CCWA (the Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on March 27, 2025, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Initial Study/Negative Declaration was prepared for this project and adopted by MWD, and was independently reviewed and considered by CCWA pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were not made because there are no significant effects of the Project.

This is to certify that the Initial Study/Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the general public on MWD's website at:
<https://www.montecitowater.com/news/notice-of-intent-to-adopt-a-negative-declaration/>.

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

DocuSigned by: <i>Ray Stokes</i> 009F09CE72D444...	4/1/2025	Executive Director
Signature	Date	Title

Date Received for Posting by County Clerk _____