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## State Water Resources Control Board

July 25, 2024

Cody Graybehl  
City of Santa Maria  
110 South Pine Street #101  
Santa Maria, CA 93458

CITY OF SANTA MARIA (CITY), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA WELL #15 [SP2024-0009] PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024061097

Dear Cody Graybehl:

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 Santa Barbara District. DDW Santa Barbara District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified sources 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 City 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 City's IS/MND:

- The City must apply to the State Water Board, DDW for an amendment to their water supply permit for the addition of a new water source (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, § 64556). Please add our agency's permit to the document, as applicable.
- Public water systems must comply with primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, § 64431 and § 64449]. Please discuss the anticipated water quality of the new well and what kind of treatment will be needed at the well site.
- The IS/MND mentions construction of an intertie and a new connection serving RWC on PDF pages 55 & 72. An intertie would need to be a part of the State Water Board, DDW permit amendment. If RWC and the intertie apply to this

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

Project, please update the Project description to include construction of an intertie and explain who RWC is.

- Please provide the project plans prepared by Cannon, 2023. They are referenced on PDF page 1 but not attached.
- The IS/MND also references a geotechnical report that includes construction and design recommendations and mitigation measures that protect water quality but failed to provide a link or include the report as an attachment. Please make these documents available. Documents incorporated by reference must be made publicly available (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15150 [b]).

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Santa Barbara District Office at [DWPDIST06@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST06@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 Santa Barbara 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  
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

Jason Cunningham  
District Engineer  
Santa Barbara District

Laureen Tan

Water Resource Control Engineer  
Santa Barbara District