
State Water Resources Control Board

September 3, 2024

Greg Thompson
City of Atwater
750 Bellevue Road,
Atwater, CA 95301

CITY OF ATWATER (CITY), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND), FOR THE ATWATER WATER WELL 22 PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024080036

Dear Greg Thompson:

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 Merced District. DDW Merced 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 [Cal. Code Regs.] 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 Cal. Code Regs. § 64556. The City will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for the proposed changes to the domestic water supply resulting from 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 groundwater well will be installed near the City's limits (PDF page 10). Please discuss if there are private wells nearby. If so, discuss if pumping of the new well will have a significant impact on these wells.
- In section 4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality, when discussing water quality standards and waste discharge requirements:
 - On PDF page 66 the IS/MND states, "Additionally, the Project would be subject to review and approval by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), which would ensure water quality standards are met." Please clarify what water quality standards are being referenced here and

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

- which SWRCB Division and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board would ensure that the standards are met.
- Please also discuss where the fluidizing backwash waste from the 1,2,3-granulated activated carbon treatment process will be discharged.
 - Please summarize the information that was provided in the General Plan to support the water supply adequacy determination and/or provide the links and page reference to where this information may be found. 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 Merced District Office at DWPDIST11@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 Merced 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

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Orlando Gonzalez
District Engineer
Merced District

Bruce Ramsden
Associate Sanitary Engineer

Greg Thompson

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Merced District