Print Form

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☐ Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113, Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk
County of: Tulare
Address: 221 S. Mooney Blvd, Room 105
Visalia, CA 93291

From: Lead Agency and Applicant
Public Agency: Pixley Public Utility District
Address: 232 East Davis Avenue
Pixley, CA 93256
Contact: Amanda Rodari
Phone: (559) 757-3878

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Pixley Public Utility District
Address: 232 East Davis Avenue
Pixley, CA 93256
Contact: Amanda Rodari
Phone: (559) 757-3878

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2024080045

Project Title: TCP Mitigation Project GAC Treatment at Wells 3A, 4, 5, & 6

Project Applicant: Pixley Public Utility District, 232 East Davis Ave, Pixley, CA 93256, 559-757-3878

Project Location (include county): unincorporated community of Pixley, Tulare County

Project Description:

See attached Project Description

FILED
TULARE COUNTY
SEP 11 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER
BY:

This is to advise that the Pixley Public Utility District (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency) has approved the above described project on 9/9/2024 (date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:
Pixley Public Utility District, 232 East Davis Avenue, Pixley, CA 93256

Signature (Public Agency): Amanda Rodari Title: Office Manager

Date: 9/9/2024 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Title

Pixley Public Utility District TCP Mitigation Project GAC Treatment at Wells 3A, 4, 5, & 6

Lead Agency Name and Address

Pixley Public Utility District
232 East Davis Avenue
Pixley, CA 93256

Contact Person and Phone Number

Lead Agency Contact

Amanda Rodari
Office Manager
(559) 757-3878
pixleyppud@gmail.com

CEQA Consultant

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Briza Sholars, Environmental Project Manager
(559) 449-2700

Project Location

The proposed Project is located at four existing well sites in Tulare County, California, within and near the unincorporated community of Pixley. The Project is located approximately 210 miles southeast of Sacramento and 38 miles northwest of Bakersfield. The centroid of the Project site is 35° 57' 53.82" W, 119° 17' 45.58" W. The Project is located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 299-084-001, 299-150-034, 298-060-023, 298-060-026, and 314-080-030. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) used for biological and cultural surveys is 16 acres, approximately four (4) acres at each site to allow for access and staging areas.

General Plan Designation and Zoning

Project Area	General Plan Designation	Zoning District
WELL 3A SITE (APN 299-084-001)	Residential (Low Density)	R-1 (Single-Family Residential)
WELL 4 SITE (APN 299-150-034)	Commercial	C-2 (General Commercial)
WELL 5 SITE (APNS 298-060-023/026)	Residential (Low Density)	R-1 (Single-Family Residential)
WELL 6 SITE (APN 314-080-030)	Valley Agriculture	M-1 (Light Manufacturing)

Description of Project

Project Background and Purpose

The District is responsible for providing domestic water to the residents within the community of Pixley. The District currently has 815 connections within its service area. The District solely relies on groundwater for its source of water supply. Currently, the District owns and operates five active wells that are connected directly to its water distribution system. These wells are known as Well 3A, Well 4, Well 4A, Well 5, and Well 6. The most recent improvements to the District's water supply infrastructure resulted in the abandonment of a previous well (Well 2A) and the construction of Well 4A. Well 4A and Well 4 are located on the same site; however, the two wells utilize a bypass switch and are not operated at the same time. Together, the District's wells have a total maximum production efficiency of approximately 2,700 GPM or 3.88 MGD.[1]

The carcinogenic synthetic organic contaminant 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) has been detected at levels higher than the maximum contaminant level (MCL) within the water supply from Wells 3A, 4, 5, and 6.[2] On April 7, 2020, a feasibility study was prepared to investigate and determine what measures could be taken to treat the existing wells and bring them back into compliance. 1,2,3, TCP is an exclusively man-made synthetic organic chemical and a carcinogen. TCP was used as a component in agricultural soil fumigants applied over large areas of the Central Valley, including Tulare County. TCP is heavier than water, very slow to biodegrade naturally, and is sparingly volatile – all characteristics that make it persistent in the groundwater and difficult to treat. The Project would help remediate TCP contamination for Wells 3A, 4, 5, and 6 to ensure compliance with the MCL for drinking water consumption.

Project Description

The District proposes four water treatment systems at four well sites for the remediation of 1,2,3-TCP. Each system would include similar improvements to the existing well sites. Project components would include the following:

Well 3A Site

- GAC wellhead treatment system
    - Includes two 12' diameter GAC vessels
    - Includes 10,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank
    - Includes approximately 300 linear feet of new storm drain pipeline from the Well 3A site south along Walnut Street to the existing storm water basin at the intersection of Walnut and Holste Ave.
    - Includes sand separator with sand separator pit
    - Includes 12.5% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) chemical building and chemical storage building (100-gallon storage drum)
    - Includes site asphalt paving approximately 9,000 square feet (SF)
    - Includes new access road that would be 15' wide and approximately 70' long

Well 4 Site

- GAC wellhead treatment system
    - Includes two 12' diameter GAC vessels

[1] (County of Tulare Resource Management Agency 2015)
[2] (State Water Board 2023)

- Includes approximately 400 linear feet of new storm drain pipeline from the Well 4 site west along Compton Avenue to Main Street. The water main in the alley behind the Well 4 site would be replaced
- Includes sand separator with sand separator pit
- Includes 12.5% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) chemical building and chemical storage building (100-gallon storage drum)
- Includes site asphalt paving approximately 13,800 square feet (SF)
- Includes new access road that would be 15' wide and approximately 145' long

Well 5 Site

- GAC wellhead treatment system
  - Includes two 12' diameter GAC vessels
- Includes approximately 650 linear feet of new treated water and storm drain pipelines from the Well 5 treatment parcel, west along Compton Ave to S Cedar Street
  - New raw water pipeline between the Well 5 parcel and the Well 5 treatment parcel
  - Includes sand separator with sand separator pit
  - Includes 12.5% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) chemical building and chemical storage building (100-gallon storage drum)
  - Includes site asphalt paving approximately 13,300 square feet (SF)
  - Includes new access road that would be 15' wide and approximately 80' long

Well 6 Site

- GAC wellhead treatment system
  - Includes two 12' diameter GAC vessels
  - Includes approximately 200 linear feet of new storm drain pipeline
  - Includes sand separator with sand separator pit
  - Includes 12.5% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) chemical building and chemical storage building (100-gallon storage drum)
  - Excavation at the ponding basin north of the Well 6 site to provide more capacity

Construction Schedule

Construction is anticipated to occur simultaneously lasting approximately 16 months.

Equipment

Construction equipment would likely include an excavator, backhoe/loader, concrete truck, concrete pumper. Construction would require one super, one foreman, two operators, four laborers/carpenters/masons.

Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Project would be consistent with that of the District's other similar facilities and with what presently takes place at the well sites. O&M would continue to be performed by District staff.