



State Water Resources Control Board

Neyba Amezuca
City of Lindsay
251 E. Honolulu Street
Lindsay, CA 93247

Dear Neyba Amezuca:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE CITY OF LINDSAY (CITY); WELL 11 TREATMENT PROJECT (PROJECT); TULARE COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2024120358

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY PERMIT AMENDMENT

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 DDW Tulare District. DDW Tulare 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 [Cal. Code Regs.] chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a new water supply permit if it includes the creation of a new public water system or 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 changes to a domestic source and operation of new treatment.

FUNDING

We understand that the City is also pursuing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing for this Project. As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Board is providing the following water quality related comments on the IS/MND circulating for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the DWSRF Program (Program). The primary purpose for the Program is to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for drinking facilities improvements to provide clean potable drinking water, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

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

All applicants seeking DWSRF funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provide appropriate documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities, see [CEQA Requirements](#). For additional Program information, the complete environmental application package and instructions, please visit:

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Forms and Instructions](#).

Following are specific comments on the City's draft IS/MND:

- The Project will require a water supply permit amendment from the State Water Board, DDW Tulare District, for the operation of Well 11 and the addition of treatment to the City's water system. The City is also working on completing a DWSRF funding application and may receive funding through the State Water Board's Program. Under section 2.1.7 Other Public Agencies Whose Discretionary Approvals May Be Required, please list "State Water Resources Control Board" instead of "State Water Quality Resources Control Board".
- The IS/MND indicated the brine pond would hold elevated levels of arsenic (PDF page 52), but also indicated that provided the perchlorate is removed upstream of the nitrate treatment system, the nitrate brine should be classified as nonhazardous (PDF page 69). Please discuss if testing will be performed on the brine prior to disposal and if other captured secondary contaminants will influence the type of treatment disposal.
- Please discuss how often the perchlorate treatment resin will need to be replaced, who will dispose of the spent resin, and where it will be taken.
- The Project falls within the Kaweah subbasin- a high priority and critically overdrafted basin according to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Sustainable Groundwater Management Act prioritization dashboard. On May 2, 2023, DWR determined that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan for the Kaweah subbasin was inadequate, triggering state intervention (DWR letter). The reactivation of Well 11 may increase the City's overall water system pumping, causing potentially significant environmental impacts and contributing to cumulative impacts to the groundwater basin. Please discuss the amount of groundwater that will be pumped by the City's water system during normal, single drought years, and multiple drought years compared to the amount of the water historically pumped by the City's water system during normal, single drought years, and multiple drought years (CEQA baseline). If the City's water use will increase, discuss any actions that will be taken to reduce impacts from the increased pumping on the overdrafted basin and discuss feasible mitigation measures, as appropriate. Please also discuss any contributing cumulative impacts to the groundwater basin, as needed.

If an application for funding will be submitted, please upload to Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool the following applicable documents for the proposed Project: (1) one copy of the draft and final IS/MND with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), (2) the resolution adopting the IS/MND and the MMRP, (3) all comments received during the review period and the City's response to those

comments, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Tulare County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

If funding will not be pursued, please forward the above requested documents with your permit amendment application to the State Water Board, DDW Tulare District Office at DWPDIST24@waterboards.ca.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to review the City's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 449-5285, or by email at Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov or contact Mrs. Bridget Binning at (916) 449-5641, or by email at Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

cc: State Clearinghouse

Bridget Binning, Division of Financial Assistance

Pete Stamas, Division of Financial Assistance

Shawn Demmers, Division of Drinking Water