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## State Water Resources Control Board

January 21, 2025

Bernardo Iniguez  
City of Bell Gardens  
8327 Garfield Avenue  
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

Dear Bernardo Iniguez:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR CITY OF BELL GARDENS (CITY); WELL 1 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT); LOS ANGELES COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2024121131

### **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 Metropolitan District. DDW Metropolitan 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 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 operation of a new distribution reservoir and a new treatment system.

### **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.

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,

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

and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

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](#). In addition, because the Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency additional federal environmental documentation (cross-cutters) may be required. 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:

- In Section 4. Project Description, when discussing the operation of the new water system components, please discuss the maintenance and staff required.

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 Los Angeles 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 Metropolitan District Office at [DWPDIST15@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST15@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](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov) or contact Ms. Robyn Mendoza at (916) 341-5903, or by email at [Robyn.Mendoza@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Robyn.Mendoza@waterboards.ca.gov).

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: State Clearinghouse

Bridget Binning, Division of Financial Assistance

Robyn Mendoza, Division of Financial Assistance

Chi Diep, Division of Drinking Water

Christina Humphreys, Division of Drinking Water