



State Water Resources Control Board

February 13, 2024

William Via
City of Hollister
1321 South Street
Hollister, CA 95023

Dear William Via:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR CITY OF HOLLISTER (CITY); VALENZUELA WATER SYSTEMS UPGRADE PROJECT (PROJECT); SAN BENITO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2025010436

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 Monterey District. DDW Monterey District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified source of domestic water supply, new domestic water system components and/or consolidation with one or more other water systems pursuant to Waterworks Standards (Title 22 California Code of Regulations [Cal. Code Regs.] chapter 16 et. seq.).

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, 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

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

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:

- The City will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment approval for consolidation with the Valenzuela water system (3500527). Under Table 2.3 Permits and Approvals Needed, please include under: "Agency" "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water", "Permit/Approval" "Water Supply Permit", and "Status/Timing" "Application follows approval of CEQA IS/MND."
- In the Project Description, please identify the location of Valenzuela's water system components identified in Table 2-1 and clarify if the water system components will be removed or remain in place.
- In Section 4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality, please discuss what will occur with the remaining fluids located onsite (e.g. pump and motor oils, backup generator diesel fuel, 20,000-gallon stagnant tank water, ion-exchange treatment backwash tank water, et. cetera). Please also discuss if the old system site location(s) will be returned to natural grade.
- Abandoned wells can be sources of groundwater contamination. Please discuss what will happen to the Valenzuela well. Will the well be properly destroyed according to the Department of Water Resources water well standards (Bulletin 74-81) or other guidance if not repurposed for non-potable use?

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 San Benito 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 Monterey District Office at DWPDIST05@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

Jonathan Weininger, Division of Drinking Water

Nicholas Garibaldi, Division of Drinking Water

Querube Moltrup, Division of Drinking Water