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## State Water Resources Control Board

April 3, 2024

Dana Jacobson  
San Benito County Water District  
30 Manfield Road  
Hollister, CA 95023

SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (SBCWD), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE ACCELERATED DROUGHT RESPONSE PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2025021019

Dear Dana:

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 Monterey District. DDW Monterey District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to public water systems 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 State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the SBCWD's (IS/MND):

- The IS/MND includes conflicting information. On PDF page 70, the IS/MND indicates no potable water supplies would be delivered to customers as part of the proposed Project, contrary to PDF page 9 which states SBCWD proposes to install new pipelines to deliver recovery water from Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells to the City of Hollister's distribution system. Please clarify the discrepancies and explain if the water will be used to supplement the existing City of Hollister water needs (PDF pages 74 and 77).
- The GENNMM-1 needs to be defined or the mitigation measure should be removed, as needed (PDF page 39). If the mitigation measure is from a CEQA document this IS/MND is tiering from, please source the CEQA document. Please then provide a link where the original CEQA document is publicly available (Cal. Code Regs., tit.14., § 15150 [b]).

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

- SBCWD and the City of Hollister will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for a new drinking water source (Groundwater). Please include the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water in Table 2-4 (PDF page 23) and under 10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required (PDF page 24).

Once the IS/MND is adopted, please forward the following items in support of SBCWD's and the City of Hollister's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District Office at [DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov):

- The IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan;
- All comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the IS/MND and MMRP and approving the Project; and
- The date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the San Benito County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or [Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Jonathan Weininger  
District Engineer  
Monterey District

Nicholas Garibaldi  
Water Resources Control Engineer  
Monterey District

William Via  
Public Works Director  
City of Hollister

Michael Grzan  
Environmental Program Manager  
City of Hollister