
State Water Resources Control Board

April 14, 2025

Tim Ruiz
East Niles Community Services District
7443 Niles Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306

EAST NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE NITRATE PIPELINE AND SHALANE TANK ALIGNMENT PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2025030567

Dear Tim Ruiz:

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 Visalia District. DDW Visalia 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.).

An application for an amended domestic water supply permit shall be submitted to the State Water Board, DDW Visalia District prior to a change in treatment (Cal Code Regs. §64556[4]) and prior to the addition of a new distribution reservoir (100,000-gallon capacity or greater) to the distribution system (Cal. Code Regs. § 64556 [a][1]).

“Distribution reservoir” means any tank or other structure located within or connected to the distribution system and used to store treated/finished drinking water. The Water System shall also submit for review the design drawings and specifications for each proposed distribution reservoir prior to its construction (Cal. Code Regs. § 64585[b]).

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the Water System’s IS/MND:

- The Water System will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for a change in treatment process and possibly for an addition of a 100,000-gallon or more distribution reservoir. Please add the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and the Domestic Water Supply Permit

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

Amendment in Table 1 Approvals and Discretionary Permits Potentially Required (PDF page 16) and in Section 10 Other Public Agencies whose Approval is Required (PDF page 18).

- In the Project Description describe the existing facilities at the Project site and the water system infrastructure that will be constructed at the Project site, including at the Well 21 facility and Shalane facility (PDF page 10). Discuss what the “additional Project area improvements” in Section 1.5.1 and Section 1.5.2 refer to (PDF page 10). If new tanks will be added to the domestic system, discuss their locations, capacity, and need. Refer to the figures or add new specific site location maps, as applicable.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Visalia District Office at DWPDIST12@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- 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 Kern 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, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

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

Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Vanessa Andrade
Water Resource Control Engineer
Visalia District

Adam Forbes
District Engineer
Visalia District