



State Water Resources Control Board

July 22, 2025

Will Fourt
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA, 94296-0001

COMMENT LETTER ON THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR), NOTICE OF PREPARATION / INITIAL STUDY FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (NOP/IS) FOR THE REIMAGINING BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2001112104

Dear Mr. Fourt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the NOP/IS for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for regulating public water systems and issuing domestic water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District. The Monterey District issues permits and permit amendments according to the Title 22 California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs) chapter 16.

Public water systems need a permit or permit amendment for modification of the water supply including new sources, new reservoirs with 100,000-gallon capacity or greater, service area expansions of twenty percent or more, and treatment design capacity or process changes as per Cal. Code Regs. § 64556.

Following the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex fire that damaged the Big Basin State Park and water system facilities, DDW inactivated the California State Parks (CSP) Big Basin water system on November 20, 2020. CSP Big Basin will need to apply for a new public water system permit.

The permit application must be prepared by a civil engineer licensed in California with experience in waters supply engineering (Cal. Code of Regs. § 64552). The surface water treatment plant must be designed in accordance with California Code of Regs. § 64658 by a licensed civil engineer with at least three years of experience in water treatment design, construction, operation, and watershed evaluations (Cal. Code of Regs. §64651.66).

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

Please contact the DDW Monterey District at dwpdist05@waterboards.ca.gov to request a list of documents and information required for a permit application package.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has the following comments on DPR's Environmental Document:

- The Department proposes replacement and operation of domestic water infrastructure which is under the Monterey District's permitting jurisdiction. The Department also proposes construction of possible new infrastructure that may be under the Monterey District's permitting jurisdiction. In the Environmental Document, under Section 2.7 Required Permits and Approvals, please add "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water domestic water supply permit and/or permit amendment".
- Under IV Biological Resources (c), please discuss the effect the Project will have on state and federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

Once the Environmental Document is certified, please forward the following items in support of water system's permit application or amendment to the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District Office at DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The Environmental Document and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- The Resolution or Board Minutes certifying the Environmental Document, approving the MMRP, and approving the Project; and
- The Notice of Determination filed at the 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

Jonathan Weininger
District Engineer
Monterey District