

State Water Resources Control Board

May 27, 2025

Alejandra Ricci
City of Galt
495 Industrial Drive
Galt, CA 95632

CITY OF GALT (CITY), INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/ND) FOR THE INDUSTRIAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT TEST WELL CONVERSION AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2025041297

Dear Alejandra Ricci:

Thank you for allowing us to review the IS/ND for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), issues domestic water supply permits under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project falls under DDW's Sacramento District jurisdiction. The Sacramento District issues permit amendments according to Title 22 California Code of Regulations chapter 16. Public water systems need a permit amendment for changes in water sources, new distribution reservoirs over 100,000 gallons, service area expansions over twenty percent (20%), and treatment design capacity or process changes as per Cal. Code Regs. § 64556. The City of Galt must apply for an amendment for the new drinking water source and treatment capacity changes.

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

- The Project will connect the well to the treatment plant (PDF page 3) and increase the water treatment plant capacity with a new 1,150 gallon per minute variable speed pump and a 750-gallon per minute filter vessel (PDF page 46). In the Project Description, please discuss the installation of the filter vessel and if the new filter vessel is the only expansion of the treatment plant that will occur. If not, please discuss what other actions will be taken to expand the treatment plant.
 - If new treatment is anticipated for additional contaminants (e.g. 1,2,3-Trichloropropane and/or per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances), please discuss possible treatment infrastructure that may be installed and analyze the associated construction and operational environmental impacts in the checklist.

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

- The IS/ND states that the purpose of the Project is to add capacity to the City's potable water system to support future residential development and accommodate growth in the water service sector (PDF pages 9 and 53). If the Project is anticipated to support future growth this may be a significant impact that should be analyzed and may require an environmental impact report. Please clarify how the City intends to address the environmental impacts of the future growth supported by this Project.
- Please support the claim that there is sufficient water supplies available to support future residential development and growth during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Identify the estimated residential water demand over 20 years, the infrastructure's water supply capacity, and the amount of groundwater available to meet this demand during wet, dry, and multiple dry years.
- When discussing if the project will substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede a sustainable groundwater management of the basin, the IS/ND states "With relevant permitting and the implementation of DWR [California Department of Water Resources] BMPs including groundwater monitoring, Project impacts are anticipated to be less than significant" (PDF page 47). Please discuss what best management practices will be required to ensure groundwater supplies are not decreased. If this applies to Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan best management practices, please clarify.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Sacramento District Office at DWPDIST09@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The IS/ND with all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the IS/ND and approving the Project; and
- The date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Sacramento 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,

 Digitally signed by Lori Schmitz
Date: 2025.05.27 11:19:22
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Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
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Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Austin Peterson
District Engineer
Sacramento District

Jonathan Sorunke
Water Resource Control Engineer
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