



State Water Resources Control Board

June 9, 2025

Carlos Huerta
Coachella Valley Water District
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Dear Carlos Huerta:

INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM); HIGHWAY 86 WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN PHASE 3 AND 4 PROJECT (PROJECT); IMPERIAL AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2025050494

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 Riverside District. DDW Riverside District issues Domestic Water Supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified source of domestic water supply or new domestic water system components 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.

FUNDING

We understand that the Water System may be pursuing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) construction financing for this Project. 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 that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities, see [CEQA Requirements](#). In addition,

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

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 package and instructions, please visit:

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Forms and Instructions.](#)

Following are specific comments on the Water System's draft IS/MND:

- Under Section 10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required (PDF page 22), the IS/MND lists the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and the amendment to the Domestic Water Supply Permit for Public Water Systems CA3310001. However, this Project does not appear to require an amended water supply permit, as pipelines are not included under Cal. Code Regs. § 64556. Please, remove the approval of a permit amendment.
- Add the "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance under Section 10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required (PDF page 22) for possible funding.
- From reviewing the IS/MND it's unclear if and when mitigation measure HYD-1 would apply to reduce the project's water quality impacts to less than significant levels. Please clarify when this measure would apply to reduce the project's potential water quality impacts to less than significant levels and update your response to the question "a" in the Hydrology and Water Quality Section (PDF page 110) to be consistent.

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 Water System's response to those comments, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Imperial and the Riverside Counties 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 and a Domestic Water Supply permit amendment is needed, please forward the above requested documents with your permit amendment application to the State Water Board, DDW Riverside District Office at DWPDIST20@waterboards.ca.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Water System'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

Kevin Warring, Division of Financial Assistance

Manuel Delgado, Division of Drinking Water

Chun Huang, Division of Drinking Water