



State Water Resources Control Board

Ms. Aranda
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Avenue
Oak View, CA 93022

Dear Ms. Aranda:

INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM); CASITAS-OJAI WATER SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION PROJECT (PROJECT); VENTURA COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2025070808

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 Santa Barbara District. DDW Santa Barbara 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 new water supply permit if it includes the creation of a new public water system or 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 is also pursuing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing for this Project (DWSRF No. 5610024-002C). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Board is providing the following water quality related comments on the IS/MND circulating for the 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.

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

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](#). For additional Program information, the complete environmental application 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:

- The Water System will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment from the Division of Drinking Water Santa Barbara District office for operation of a new storage reservoir, operation of new treatment, and new system expansion. (Please note that temporary tanks will also need review from the Santa Barbara District.) Under Section 8 (PDF page 15) when discussing project permits, please add a domestic water supply permit amendment.
- Documents submitted to the State Water Board during the funding application process (e.g. bid schedule and designs), include project elements that are not reflected in the IS/MND. As part of Section 4 Project Location and Section 6 Project Description please include and/or discuss, as applicable:
 - How the Casitas and Ojai water system are currently connected and the future piping that will be installed to directly connect the two systems [Bid Schedule, PDF page 23, Designs C-104, C-501]. If piping will be installed in Fairview Road, please also add Fairview Road to the maps and list of project locations.
 - The destruction of the Valley View booster pump station [Bid Schedule, PDF page 25]. Please also provide a map of the Valley View booster pump station location and correct the associated location in the Project location description (PDF page 253) [Designs C-106].
 - The construction and operation of the new chemical feed system at the Arbolada Reservoir- including operational storage and delivery of new chemicals to the site [Bid Schedule, PDF page 24]. Also discuss the operation of the new treatment system at the wellfield site (PDF page 255).
 - If a temporary tank is required, while the existing tanks are being replaced or rehabilitated.
 - Which wells will continue to be used by the Water System. If some wells will not be integrated into the Water System, discuss how will they be managed or destroyed to protect water quality.

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 response to those comments, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Ventura County 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, please forward the above requested documents with your permit amendment application to the State Water Board, DDW Santa Barbara District Office at DWPDIST06@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

Jason Cunningham, Division of Drinking Water

Armin Ghavim, Division of Drinking Water