

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS  
2720 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 300  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3500



February 19, 2026

Mr. James Silva, Manager  
St. Johns Water District  
Post Office Box 366  
Farmersville, California 93223

SK Vanderstelt Recharge Basin Project  
SCH# 2026020040  
Tulare County

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Dear Mr. Silva:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the SK Vanderstelt Recharge Basin Project, submitted by St. Johns Water District (District), which describes the development of a three-celled recharge basin on an approximately 35-acre project site located near the City of Visalia and immediately south of the St. John's River in Tulare County.

As defined in sections 6002 and 6003 of the California Water Code, dams 25 feet or higher with a storage capacity of more than 15 acre-feet, and dams higher than 6 feet with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. The dam height is the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier.

Insufficient information is provided in the project description to make an accurate jurisdictional determination with regard to the proposed construction work. The District needs to submit design drawings for the proposed storage reservoir so that DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

If the proposed work is subject to State jurisdiction, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Ian Maki, our Design Engineering Branch Manager, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 820-7795.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer William Vogler at (916) 565-7828 or me at (916) 565-7827.

Sincerely,

*Brandon Cruz*

Brandon Cruz, P.E.  
Southern Regional Engineer  
Field Engineering Branch  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
[state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov)