State Water Resources Control Board

April 1, 2026

Mr. James Phelps
Siskiyou County
806 South Main Street
Yreka, CA, 96097

COMMENT LETTER ON THE SISKIYOU COUNTY (COUNTY), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT) FOR THE MORRILL ZONE CHANGE AND USE PERMIT [Z-23-01, UP-23-04] (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2026030562

Dear Mr. James Phelps:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental Document 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 water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW Klamath District.

A public water system, as defined in the California Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) § 116275 subd. [h], is “a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.” If a new public water system will be formed by the Project, an application must be submitted, and a permit must be obtained from the DDW Klamath District before water can be provided for human consumption. “Human consumption” means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, oral hygiene, or cooking, including, but not limited to, preparing food and washing dishes.” Health & Saf. Code § 116275 subd. [e].

Note, Health & Saf. Code § 116527 subd. (b) requires that any person submitting a permit application for a proposed new public water system must first submit a technical report to the Klamath District at least six months before initiating construction of any drinking water-related improvements. The technical report must include an examination of the possibility of connecting to or being annexed by an existing adjacent community water system. Please see the attached What is a Public Water System flyer.

Cal. Code. Regs. § 64572 and Cal. Code. Regs. § 64560 requires separation of drinking water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination

such as sand filtration systems, septic systems, and dog feces. The Project site includes a sand filtration system, septic systems, and areas for dogs to defecate. If a waiver is needed, the water system will need to provide the Klamath District with alternate plans.

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

- If 25 or more individuals will be served and no nearby systems agree to serve the Project, the applicant will need to submit a technical report to DDW Klamath District (Health and Saf. Code § 116527 subd. [b]). If connecting to an existing community water system is feasible, discuss this alternative and potential impacts in the Environmental Document.
- If a new public water system will be created by the Project:
    - Under heading "10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required", please add to the document "The State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water" as an approving agency and "domestic water supply permit" as the approval,
    - Provide a description of the new and existing water system components and locations. Consider water storage, treatment, and fire flow in addition to the existing wells. Also, discuss the staff required to operate the system.
        - In addition to the two existing wells identified to serve the site (APN 013-120-320 and APN 013-110-330), please discuss if parcel 013-110-350 has an existing well that will be incorporated into the domestic water system.
    - Please discuss the water quality of the existing wells and if the well(s) can currently meet the Waterworks Standards (Ca. Code Regs. tit. 22, chapter 16). If upgrades are needed to meet the standards, discuss what upgrades will be made.

Once the Environmental Document is adopted, please forward the following items in support of the new water system's permit application to the State Water Board, at Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The Environmental Document and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- All comment letters received, and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the Environmental Document and 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

Digitally signed by Lori Schmitz
Date: 2026.04.01 11:06:46 -07'00'

Water Boards

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
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Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Barry Sutter
District Engineer
Klamath District