
State Water Resources Control Board

June 25, 2026

Robert Johnson
Aromas Water District
388 Blohm Avenue
PO Box 388
Aromas, CA 95004

AROMAS WATER DISTRICT (WATER SYSTEM), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR THE DRISCOLL WELL AND PUMP
STATION PROIJECT (PROJECT), STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2026051241

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the IS/MND for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water (DDW), issues domestic water supply permits under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project falls under DDW's Monterey District jurisdiction. The Monterey District issues permit amendments according to Title 22, California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.), chapter 16. Public water systems need a permit amendment for modification of the water supply, including new sources, new reservoirs with 100,000-gallon capacity or greater, service area expansions of twenty percent or more, system consolidations, and treatment design capacity or process changes as per Cal. Code Regs. § 64556. The Water System will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for the new drinking water source and treatment changes.

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

- In Section 1, Project Description, when defining the Project, please discuss the chlorination system (e.g. sodium hypochlorite, PDF page 23) and the handling and disposal of spent filters and waste for the manganese and iron treatment system.
- The IS/MND indicates the site is located on active agricultural fields (PDF page 9). Please consider if the drinking water source will exceed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for chemicals associated with herbicide and pesticide use. If the drinking water source will exceed the MCLs for these chemicals, please discuss this in the IS/MND. Please then include the proposed treatment for this in the Project Description and in the analysis of potential

impacts discuss the construction and operational impacts related to the proposed water treatment.

- The proposed well is in a critically overdrafted groundwater basin. The Well Site Study, included in Appendix E, does not discuss the amount of groundwater available or whether there is sufficient groundwater to serve the Project. Thus, the statement on PDF page 102, "The Well Site Study prepared for the project demonstrates there is sufficient groundwater to serve the new well (Appendix D)" is inaccurate. Please support the claim that there is sufficient groundwater available to serve the Project.

When the CEQA process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Monterey District at DWPDIST05@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The IS/MND, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), and comments received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes certifying/adopting the IS/MND 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,

 Digitally signed by Lori Schmitz
Date: 2026.06.25 08:55:01
07'00'
Water Boards

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Jonathan Weininger
District Engineer
Monterey District

Shaminder Kler
Associate Sanitary Engineer
Monterey District