

State Water Resources Control Board

August 27, 2026

Aaron Bock
Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277

COMMENT LETTER ON THE TULARE COUNTY (LEAD AGENCY), INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT) FOR THE
CARDOZA CONTRACTOR STORAGE YARD (PSP 26-013) (PROJECT); STATE
CLEARINGHOUSE # 2026080007

Dear Mr. Bock:

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 Tulare 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 would be formed by the Project, an application must be submitted, and a permit must be obtained from the DDW Tulare 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 Tulare 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.

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

- The Environmental Document states, there would be up to 27 employees working onsite six days a week (p. 2). If restrooms with sinks, or domestic water usage as described above would be provided to the employees, this would meet the definition of a public water system. If no nearby municipal water systems agree to serve the Project, the applicant must submit a technical report to DDW Tulare District (Health and Saf. Code § 116527 subd. [b]) and apply to the DDW Tulare District office for a water supply permit.
- If a new public water system would be created by the Project, please consider:
 - Water storage, treatment, and fire flow in addition to the existing well and the staff required to operate the system.
 - If an existing well would be used, consider whether the water meets domestic water quality regulations (Ca. Code Regs. tit. 22, chapter 15) and if the well meets the Waterworks Standards (Ca. Code Regs. tit. 22, chapter 16).
 - 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 leach fields and stormwater treatment areas. Please consider how the domestic water system infrastructure can be protected from contamination and if the regulations can be met or if there is a waiver or alternative to Waterworks Standards (Cal. Code Regs. § 64551.100) would be needed. If an alternative is needed, the water system will need to submit an application to the DDW Tulare District office.

Once the Environmental Document is adopted, please forward the following items in support of water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Tulare District Office at DWPDIST24@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The Environmental Document, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), comment letters received, and the lead agency responses as appropriate.
- The Resolution or Board Minutes certifying/adopting the Environmental Document and approving the Project; and
- The Notice of Determination filed at the County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Adrian Dela Calzada of the State Water Board at (916) 341-5167 or Adrian.Delacalzada@waterboards.ca.gov, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dela Calzada

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

Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Shawn Demmers
District Engineer
Tulare District

Enclosures:

1. What is Public Water System?
https://waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/water-partnerships/what-is-a-public-water-sys.pdf
2. New-water-system-approval-factsheet.pdf
<https://www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/New-water-system-approval-factsheet.pdf>