

Lead Agency:

Stockton East Water District

6767 East Main St

Stockton CA 95215

Filed Doc #: 39-10102025-296

Fri Oct 10 11:49:57 PDT 2025

Page: 1 of 28 Fee: \$3018.75

Steve J. Bestolarides

San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: rosaa



DOCUMENT TITLE

Notice of Determination

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☐ Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of: San Joaquin
Address: 44 N San Joaquin St. #260
Stockton, CA 95202

From:

Public Agency: Stockton East Water District
Address: 6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95215
Contact: Darrel Evensen
Phone: 209.948.0333

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025070966

Project Title: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program

Project Applicant: Stockton East Water District

Project Location (include county): 6767 East Main St. Stockton, CA 95215 (San Joaquin)

Project Description:

Stockton East Water District (District) proposes to utilize existing supply Well 74-01 for an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program on the premises of the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Recharge to the aquifer will utilize drinking water from the WTP at an estimated rate of 450 gallons per minute (gpm). The drinking water is derived from the District's diversion of water from the Calaveras River and the Stanislaus River. ☒

This is to advise that the Stockton East Water District has approved the above
(☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on 10 / 7 / 25 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☐ were ☒ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Street, Stockton CA 95215

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: General Manager

Date: 10/7/25 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011

**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 2100, et seq.)
2. PROJECT NAME: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: Stockton East Water District (District) proposes to utilize existing supply Well 74-01 for an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program on the premises of the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Recharge to the aquifer will utilize drinking water from the WTP at an estimated rate of 450 gallons per minute (gpm). The drinking water is derived from the District's diversion of water from the Calaveras River and the Stanislaus River. The recovery of the stored water (production) will occur at rates up to 1,500 gpm. The production volume will be limited to between 70% and 80% of the recharge volume. The stored water will serve as a dry-year supplemental supply to the WTP and will also serve to restore groundwater storage in the aquifer during wet years. The discharge of stored water from Well 74-01 will be conveyed to the South Raw Water Reservoir via an existing pipeline. Water in the reservoir will be treated to drinking water standards prior to delivery to the Urban Contractors distribution systems. Two 4-inch-diameter observation wells (OW) will be installed within 100 feet of Well 74-01, including a 200-foot shallow well and a 500-foot deep well, to monitor changes in groundwater levels (WLs) and changes in deep water quality during ASR operations. A second deep OW will be installed approximately 3500 feet northeast of Well 74-01, along an on-site access road, to monitor WL changes.
4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The proposed project is located in the County of San Joaquin, State of California, on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 101-04-023 and 101-05-003. Sections 65, 75, and 76 of the Campo De Los Franceses land grant system, as shown on the 1968 Stockton East Quadrangle topographic map. Section 4 of T01N, R07E and Section 33 of T02N, R07E, Mount Diablo Base Meridian, if the Public Land Survey System were extended into the area on the 2021 topographic map.
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, CA 95212
6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None
7. A copy of the Initial Study and Checklist regarding the environmental effects of the project is on file at the offices of the Stockton East Water District as set forth above. This study was:

☒ Adopted as presented

☐ Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. DETERMINATION: On the basis of the Initial Study of environmental impact, the information presented at hearings, comments received on the proposal, and our own knowledge and independent research:

✓ We find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION is hereby adopted.

 We find that while the project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION is hereby adopted.

 We find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: 10/7/25


Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager

**INITIAL STUDY
AND ~~PROPOSED~~-NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**FOR THE
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT)
AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Prepared by:

Stockton East Water District
6767 East Main Street
P.O. Box 5157
Stockton, CA 95205

July 22, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form that may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1. Project title: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program
2. Lead agency name and address:
Stockton East Water District
6767 East Main Street, PO Box 5157, Stockton, CA 95205
3. Contact person and phone number: Darrel Evensen, District Engineer, 209.948.0333
4. Project location: San Joaquin County, APN 101-040-023
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Stockton East Water District, 767 East Main Street, PO Box 5157, Stockton, CA 95205
Justin M. Hopkins, General Manager
6. General plan designation: OS/RC & A/UR per Assessor's web
7. Zoning: R-L & AU-20 per Assessor's web
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
See attached additional sheet.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)
City of Stockton - low density residential land to west
County - rural agricultural lands to north, east, and south

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for permit from General Order 2012-0010, Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Projects that Inject Drinking Water into Groundwater, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

No

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Additional Sheet for Item 8 – Description of Project

Appendix G – Environmental Checklist Form

Stockton East Water District – Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program

8. Description of project: Stockton East Water District (District) proposes to utilize existing supply Well 74-01 for an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program on the premises of the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Recharge to the aquifer will utilize drinking water from the WTP at an estimated rate of 450 gallons per minute (gpm). The drinking water is derived from the District's diversion of water from the Calaveras River and the Stanislaus River.

The recovery of the stored water (production) will occur at rates up to 1,500 gpm. The production volume will be limited to between 70% and 80% of the recharge volume. The stored water will serve as a dry-year supplemental supply to the WTP and will also serve to restore groundwater storage in the aquifer during wet years. The discharge of stored water from Well 74-01 will be conveyed to the South Raw Water Reservoir via an existing pipeline. Water in the reservoir will be treated to drinking water standards prior to delivery to the Urban Contractors distribution systems.

Two 4-inch-diameter observation wells (OW) will be installed within 100 feet of Well 74-01, including a 200-foot shallow well and a 500-foot deep well, to monitor changes in groundwater levels (WLs) and changes in deep water quality during ASR operations. A second deep OW will be installed approximately 3500 feet northeast of Well 74-01, along an on-site access road, to monitor WL changes.

Additional location information: Section 4 of T01N, R07E and Section 33 of T02N, R07E, Mount Diablo Base Meridian, if the Public Land Survey System were extended into the area. Sections 65, 75, and 76 of the Campo De Los Franceses land grant system, as shown on the 1968 Stockton East Quadrangle topographic map.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture / Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

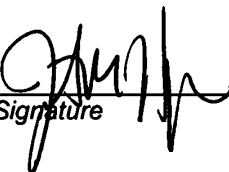
X I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


Signature _____
Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager
Stockton East Water District

10/7/25
Date _____

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:					
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:					
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:					
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVI. RECREATION.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) | Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) | Result in inadequate emergency access? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) | Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| ii) | A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Project versus Environmental Checklist

Stockton East Water District

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program

I. Aesthetics

The project is located in a rural agricultural setting within the premises of a water treatment plant, a nominal 434-acre site. The project will blend into this setting and **will not impact** aesthetics of the site or surrounding area.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Prime farmland will not be converted by this project. Forestry resources will not be used for this project. Therefore, **no impact**.

III. Air Quality

In accordance with the Central Valley Air Pollution Control District Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL), the project falls below the thresholds to require an Ambient Air Quality Analysis; and therefore, can be deemed to have a **less than significant impact**.

IV. Biological Resources

A Biological Assessment was conducted by GEI Consultants during 2023 for the Well 74-01 vicinity to comply with grant funding requirements of the US Bureau of Reclamation. The report concluded that the giant garter snake may occupy the area, although the ‘potential is very low’ and implementation of conservation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificant.

Well 74-01 is located within the premises of a water treatment plant and will not affect riparian habitat or wetlands, remove any trees, or damage sensitive habitats. The project **will not impact** biological resources.

V. Cultural Resources

A Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation was conducted by GEI Consultants during 2023 for the Well 74-01 vicinity to comply with grant funding requirements of the US Bureau of Reclamation. The evaluation did not identify any archeological cultural resources via a records search or pedestrian survey. The report recommended a finding of “no historic properties effected as provided in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).” The project **will not impact** cultural resources.

VI. Energy

The project will not affect the consumption of energy or conflict with local management plans because recharge operations will occur under the existing pressure of the conveyance system and recovery pumping will be consistent with on-going operations. Recovery pumping could use less energy if groundwater levels are higher (less lift) due to recharge. Therefore, **no impact**.

VII. Geology and Soils

The project is located within the premises of a water treatment plant and **will not be impacted** by geology or soils.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions include both direct and indirect sources. Combustion of refined petroleum products would produce direct GHG emissions during the setup of the project and during the installation of the three observation wells. Indirect GHG emissions would be produced during the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, and transportation of materials to the project site. Construction energy consumption would have a one-time impact and GHG emissions during setup and OW construction would be less than a month in duration. Therefore, the project **will not impact** greenhouse gas emissions.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

a-c) The installation of the OWs and the ASR operations will not store or use hazardous substances, except petroleum fuels will be used to operate machinery and vehicles. The potential release of hazardous substances is a **less than significant impact**.

d-g) The project site is located in a rural area within the premises of a drinking water treatment plant. The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport, will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plan, and will not increase the fire hazard in the area. Therefore, **no impact**.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

a & e) Groundwater quality is expected to improve with recharge operations because drinking water (source of recharge) is less concentrated in comparison to native groundwater. However, mixing drinking water and native groundwater could produce chemical reactions during storage that might increase the pH somewhat, temporarily mobilize trace elements (e.g., arsenic), and/or produce disinfection byproducts. Water quality standards are not expected to be substantially degraded by the recharge water. Moreover, the stored water will be

recovered and conveyed to the District's South Raw Water Reservoir for treatment to comply with drinking water standards. ASR operations require a permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and this permit will require a Monitoring and Report Program, including periodic testing of the stored water. Initial ASR operations will evaluate potential changes in water quality during storage, which are expected to have a **less than significant impact** on groundwater quality.

b) ASR operations are intended to increase groundwater supplies via recharge of drinking water; and was identified as a project in the 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin to improve groundwater conditions. Therefore, **no impact**.

c) The project will not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or the course of a stream or river or increase the area of impervious surfaces. There will be **no impact** to increase erosion, siltation, runoff, or flooding.

d) The project is not located in a flood hazard zone, tsunami, or seiche zone. Therefore, **no impact**.

XI. Land use and Planning

The project is consistent with its land designation and will enhance the water supply to the water treatment plant. Therefore, **no impact**.

XII. Mineral Resources

The project will not result in the loss or reduction of any mineral resources. Therefore, **no impact**.

XIII. Noise

The project site is located over 600 feet from any existing residence and over 5 miles from the nearest public airport (SCK). ASR operations will not increase noise. However, noise will increase above ambient levels during a limited period during the construction of the OWs. San Joaquin County provides an exemption from noise ordinance standards for several activities during set hours and days of the week, including construction, public works construction, and utility facilities. Construction activities for the project will be limited to the hours and days specified by San Joaquin County: 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday through Friday. Given the exemption and the rural location of the construction, the noise increase is **less than significant impact** in the short term and will have **no impact** on the long term.

XIV. Population and Housing

The project will have **no impact** on Population and Housing.

XV. Public Services

The project is located on the property of an existing water treatment plant and will have **no impact** on Public Services.

XVI. Recreation

The project is located on the property of an existing water treatment plant and will not increase or decrease any public recreational activities. Therefore, **no impact**.

XVII. Transportation

The project is located on the property of an existing water treatment plant and the construction activities will not conflict with existing modes of transportation. There will be **no impacts** to parking, emergency access, or any existing modes of transportation.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

A Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation was conducted by GEI Consultants during 2023 for the Well 74-01 vicinity to comply with grant funding requirements of the US Bureau of Reclamation. The evaluation did not identify any archeological cultural resources via a records search or pedestrian survey. Therefore, **no impact**.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

Project construction and ASR operations will not require any changes in the capacities of the utilities and service systems. Therefore, **no impact**.

XX. Wildfire

The project is not located on lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. Therefore, **no impact**.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

The project will provide a supplemental supply of water to an existing water treatment plant and will be constructed within the premises of the treatment plant property. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on the quality of the environment, on fish or wildlife species or habitat, or on California history or prehistory.

Appendix A – RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

DocuSign Envelope ID: F12B97FC-C06D-4E18-877E-001D656331C5

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD
3310 El Camino Ave., Ste. 170
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 574-0800

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR



August 1, 2025

Darrel Evensen
District Engineer
Stockton East Water District
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95212
devensen@sewd.net

Subject: Comments for the Negative Declaration, Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program Project, SCH# 2025070966, San Joaquin County

Dear Darrel Evensen,

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Negative Declaration for the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program Project (proposed project).

The proposed project involves drilling two 4-inch observation wells within 100 feet of the existing Well 74-01. The proposed project is located along the Stockton Diverting Channel, a federally regulated stream that is within the Board's permitting authority. The exact locations of the two observation wells were not included in the Negative Declaration. If the observation wells are planned to be within the Stockton Diverting Channel, levee prism, or within a 10-foot-wide strip adjacent to the landward levee toe, an encroachment permit may be required. Board permit information, including information on how to schedule a pre-application meeting with Board staff, is available on the [Permitting at the Central Valley Flood Protection Board website](#).

California Code of Regulations, Title 23 provides standards that govern the design and construction of projects that affect the flood control works and floodways. Board staff recommends that you review Title 23 Standards, including Sections 112 (Streams Regulated and Nonpermissible Work Periods), 120 (Levees), and 129 (Water, Oil, and Gas Wells). Any deviation or variation from these standards will require approval from the Board.

Responsibility of the Board

The Board is the State's regulatory agency responsible for enforcing appropriate standards for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the flood control system that protects life, property, and habitat in California's Central Valley. The Board serves as the State coordinator between local flood management agencies and the federal government, with the goal of providing the highest level of flood protection possible to California's Central Valley.

The Board operates under authorities as described in California Water Code (Water Code), which requires the Board to oversee future modifications or additions to facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC). In addition, pursuant to assurances provided to the United States

Stockton East Water District

August 1, 2025

Page 2

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by the Board on behalf of the State, the USACE Operation and Maintenance Manuals, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Section 208.10, and United States Code, Title 33, Section 408, the Board is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the SPFC facilities. The USACE requires the Board to serve as the lead non-Federal sponsor for projects to improve or alter facilities of the SPFC pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Section 408. The State's objectives include fulfilling the USACE's expectations pursuant to the assurances provided to the USACE.

Encroachment Permit

Per Title 23, Section 6, approval by the Board is required for all proposed work or uses, including the alteration of levees within any area for which there is an Adopted Plan of Flood Control within the Board's jurisdiction. In addition, Board approval is required for all proposed encroachments within a floodway, on adjacent levees, and within any Regulated Stream identified in Title 23, Table 8.1. Specifically, Board jurisdiction includes the levee section, the waterward area between project levees, a minimum 10-foot-wide strip adjacent to the landward levee toe, the area within 30 feet from the top of bank(s) of Regulated Streams, and inside Board's Designated Floodways. Activities outside of these limits which could adversely affect Federal-State flood control facilities, as determined by Board staff, are also under the Board's jurisdiction. Permits may also be required for existing unpermitted encroachments or where it is necessary to establish the conditions normally imposed by permitting, including where responsibility for the encroachment has not been clearly established or ownership or uses have been changed.

Federal permits, including USACE Section 404 and Section 408 Permission, in conjunction with a Board permit, may be required for the proposed project. In addition to federal permits, state and local agency permits, certification, or approvals may also be required. State approvals may include, but are not limited to, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and Streamed Alteration Agreement and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Section 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirement. The Applicant must obtain all authorizations that the proposed project may require.

Flood Impacts Analysis

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 15, the Board may deny an encroachment permit if the proposed project could:

- Jeopardize directly or indirectly the physical integrity of levees or other works
- Obstruct, divert, redirect, or raise the surface level of design floods or flows, or the lesser flows for which protection is provided
- Cause significant adverse changes in water velocity or flow regimen
- Impair the inspection of floodways or project works
- Interfere with the maintenance of floodways or project works
- Interfere with the ability to engage in flood fighting, patrolling, or other flood emergency activities
- Increase the damaging effects of flood flows
- Be injurious to, or interfere with, the successful execution, functioning, or operation of any adopted plan of flood control
- Adversely affect the SPFC, as defined in Water Code

Stockton East Water District

August 1, 2025

Page 3

Closing

The potential risks to public safety, including increased flood risks, need to be considered when developing proposed projects that seek to modify flood control works or the hydrology of the water ways. Board staff is available to discuss any questions you have regarding the above comments. Please contact Jordan Robbins at (916) 524-3454, or via email at Jordan.Robbins@CVFlood.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Silva

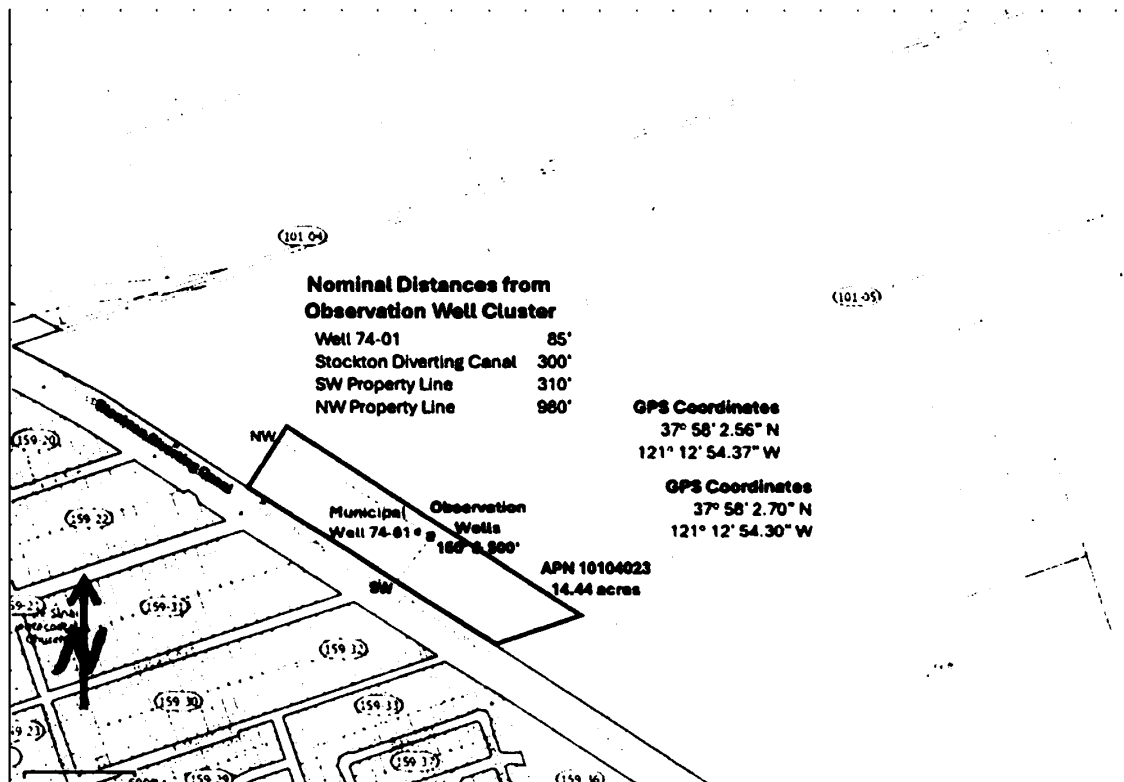
Jamie Silva
Environmental Program Manager

cc: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

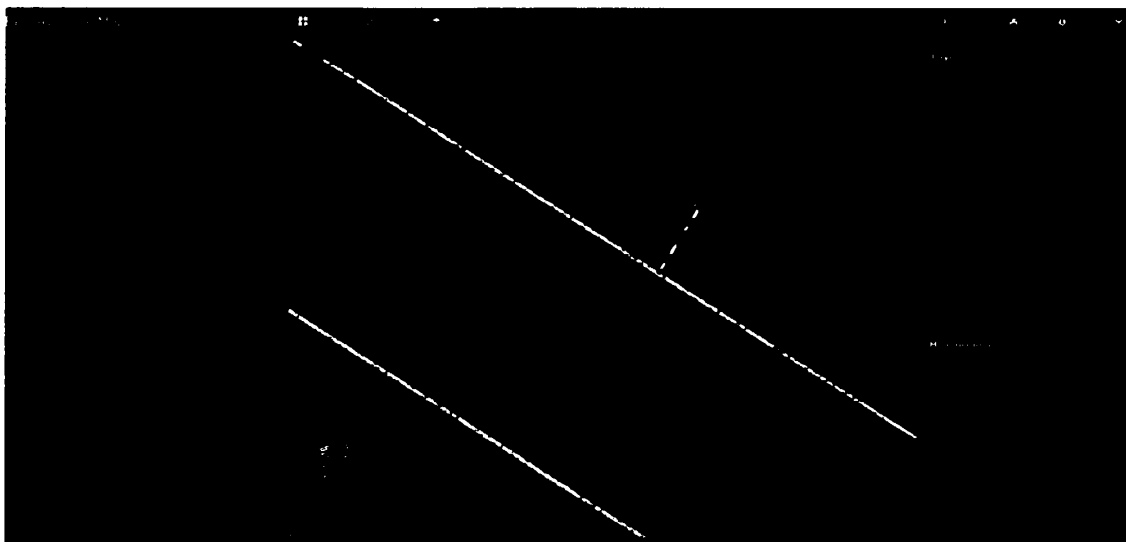
Response:

Thank you for your comments. They will be included within the final environmental document.

The Observation Wells Map below shows the location and GPS coordinates of the Observation Wells.



Based on the map below from the California Department of Water Resources website <https://gis.bam.water.ca.gov/bam/> the existing 74-01 Well and new Observation Wells locations are not within the limits of the levee for the canal.





Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 August 2025

Darrel Evensen
Stockton East Water District
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95215
devensen@sewd.net

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM, SCH#2025070966, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 23 July 2025 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Negative Declaration for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program*, located in San Joaquin County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by

NICHOLAS AVILES, CHAIR | PATRICK POLJAK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11820 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova 95670-6114 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_2018_05.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic

General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications. For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality/certification/

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation. For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

Projects involving excavation or fill activities impacting less than 0.2 acre or 400 linear feet of non-jurisdictional waters of the state and projects involving dredging activities impacting less than 50 cubic yards of non-jurisdictional waters of the state may be eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order 2004-0004). For more information on the General Order 2004-0004, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

25 August 2025

For more information regarding the Low Threat Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

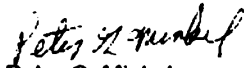
If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit. For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/>

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or Peter.Minkel2@waterboards.ca.gov.



Peter G. Minkel
Engineering Geologist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research,
Sacramento

Response:

Thank you for your comments. They have been included within the final environmental document. The District will comply with all applicable permitting requirements prior to construction.