

State Water Resources Control Board

June 18, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mr. Darryl Boyd (via email dboyd@cosb.us)
San Benito County
2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, CA 95023

JUNE 18 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**RE: Lima Property Specific Plan
SCH#2019050008**

Dear Mr. Boyd:

On June 3, 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board) received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Lima Property Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Thank you for this submittal. Based on the information provided, this new development will be serving at least 1,280 residential units and a K-8 school. Very limited information is provided in the NOP with respect to the source of drinking water other than it will be groundwater. A community of this size, if not connected to an adjacent public water system, will be defined as a community water system in accordance with Section 116275 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC). Proposal of a new water system will be subject to all related statutes and regulations pertaining to community water systems, including a preliminary technical report to evaluate for consolidation options with adjacent public water systems as described in Section 116527 of the CHSC and obtaining a domestic water supply permit. Additional information regarding permitting and the preliminary technical report can be found on our website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Permits.html

Per Senate Bill (SB) 1263 Section 1(d), "it is the policy of the state to discourage the establishment of new, unsustainable public water systems when there is a feasible alternative". While it is not currently known if a new public water system would be unsustainable, we are aware of hexavalent chromium in the local groundwater for which there will likely be a new maximum contaminant level in the future. There are several existing public water systems in the vicinity of the proposed development, including the City of Hollister (PWS No. 3510001), Sunnyslope County Water District (PWS No. 3510003), CSA No. 31 Stonegate WS (PWS No. 3500006), Tres Pinos CWD (PWS No. 3500509) and Southside Elementary School (PWS No. 3500521). Some of these water systems only have one water source and would benefit from additional source redundancy.

The State Water Board strongly recommends that this new development be physically connected with one or more of the nearby public water systems to increase the drinking water sustainability of both the existing public water systems and any new development. Statewide, water systems with larger numbers of connections provide better economies of scale and result in significantly less drinking water violations.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Thank you for considering these comments. If you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (831) 655-6948 or michelle.frederick@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also contact Jan Sweigert, when she returns from an extended absence on August 12, 2019, at (831) 655-6934.

Sincerely,



Michelle F. Frederick, P.E., Water Partnership Coordinator
North California Field Office Branch
Division of Drinking Water
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

cc: State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research
(via email at state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)

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