

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

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File: Environmental Doc Review
San Bernardino County

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Comments on the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the SBD 15 Construct New Weigh Station and Truck Inspection Facility Project, California Department of Transportation District 8, San Bernardino County, State Clearinghouse Number 2019109039

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff reviewed the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the above-referenced project (Project). The IS/MND, prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), was submitted in compliance with provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) soliciting input on the potential impacts on the environment and ways in which those significant effects are proposed to be avoided or mitigated.

Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, provides these comments to specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to our statutory responsibilities pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, section 15096. We thank Caltrans for providing Water Board Staff the opportunity to review and comment on the IS/MND and for taking the initiative to develop the IS/MND with considerations to potential effects on water quality.

Based on our review of the IS/MND, we recommend (1) the Project description be revised to include sufficient detail of key Project components, (2) water quality standards and impacts be identified, and (3) that sediment and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) be implemented for all components of the Project until vegetation has been restored to pre-Project conditions or permanent BMPs are in place and functioning. Our comments on the proposed Project are outlined below.

Project Description

Caltrans proposes to construct a new truck scale and inspection facility at the existing southbound truck safety check area on Interstate 15 south of the Oak Hill Road Overcrossing. An existing truck inspection facility is located five miles south of the proposed Project location. The existing facility was damaged in the 2016 Blue Cut Fire.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It was initially proposed to reconstruct the scale facility at the existing location; however, it was determined that the truck scale facility should not be reconstructed at the existing fire damaged location but at a new facility five miles north at the truck safety area.

Water Board Authority

All groundwater and surface waters are considered waters of the State. Surface waters include streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands, and may be ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. All waters of the State are protected under California law. State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan Region to the Lahontan Water Board. Some waters of the State are also waters of the U.S. The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) provides additional protection for those waters of the State that are also waters of the U.S.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains policies that the Water Board uses with other laws and regulations to protect the quality of waters of the State within the Lahontan Region. The Basin Plan sets forth water quality standards for surface water and groundwater of the Region, which include designated beneficial uses as well as narrative and numerical objectives which must be maintained or attained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/references.shtml.

Comments on the Environmental Review

1. The IS/MND provides a brief overview of the Project but provides little explanation to substantiate the findings that the Project will have no impact on the environment, particularly on hydrology. Page 4 of the IS/MND mentions the installation and use of a new wastewater treatment facility as a septic system with a well. The Project description should be revised to include sufficient detail of the septic system for the Project (estimated flow, size of septic tank, disposal method, etc.) and the proposed well(s) including their purpose (monitoring, production, etc.). This information must be provided in order to evaluate the Project's potential impacts to hydrology and water quality resources.
2. The IS/MND does not address the proposed location of the septic system and proposed well(s). Septic system and well locations should be included on all Project maps and site plans.
3. Post-construction storm water management must be considered a significant Project component, and BMPs that effectively treat post-construction storm water runoff must be described for the Project. Of particular concern is the management of storm water runoff and the effect that concentrated discharge flow has to exacerbate erosion in downstream channels. Design alternatives that are compatible with low impact development (LID) should be considered. LID components include: maintaining natural drainage paths and landscape features to slow and filter runoff and maximize groundwater recharge; managing runoff as

close to the source as possible; and maintaining vegetated areas for storm water management and onsite infiltration.

4. The IS/MND does not describe groundwater quality or the Project's impact on groundwater quality. The revised IS/MND should address any effect the proposed septic system and its discharge may have on groundwater quality and determine depth to groundwater. The proposed Project should identify and list the water quality standards for affected waters within the Project area and describe how the Project will alter or affect both groundwater and surface waters. Water quality standards include both Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Objectives.

Permitting Requirements

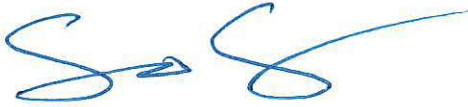
A number of activities associated with the proposed Project have potential to impact waters of the State and, therefore, may require permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) or the Lahontan Regional Water Board. The required permits may include the following.

5. Land disturbance of more than 1 acre may require CWA, section 402(p) storm water permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Storm Water Permit, Water Quality Order (WQO) 2009-0009-DWQ, obtained from the State Water Board, or individual storm water permit obtained from the Lahontan Water Board.
6. Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), or dredge and fill waste discharge requirements for impacts to non-federal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.
7. Water diversion and/or dewatering activities may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under either NPDES General Permit, Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Board Order R6T-2014-0049, or General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat To Water Quality, WQO-2003-0003, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.

Please be advised of the permits that may be required for the proposed Project, as outlined above. Should Project implementation result in activities that trigger these permitting actions, the Project proponent must consult with Water Board staff. Information regarding these permits, including application forms, can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me sergio.alonso@waterboards.ca.gov (760) 243-7324 or Jehiel Cass P.E., Senior Engineering Geologist jehiel.cass@waterboards.ca.gov (760) 241-2434. Please send all future correspondence regarding this Project to the Water Board's email address at

lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov and be sure to include the State Clearinghouse No. (201909039) and Project name (SBD 15 New Weigh Station and Truck Inspection Facility) in the subject line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sergio', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sergio Alonso
Water Resource Control Engineer

cc: State Clearinghouse (state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov) (SCH 201909039)
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (AskRegion6@wildlife.ca.gov)

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