

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



December 11, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**DEC 11 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Jack Castro  
City of Huron  
36311 S. Lassen Ave  
Huron, CA 93234

SCH# 2019119045, Arroyo Pasajero Mutual Water Company Groundwater Recharge Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Mr. Castro:

The California Department of Water Resources State Water Project Analysis Office (SWPAO) staff has reviewed the City of Huron's Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Arroyo Pasajero Mutual Water Company Groundwater Recharge Project. SWPAO is providing these comments pursuant to DWR's regulatory responsibilities under Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 23, § 600 et seq. and Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15096.

**Project Description**

The project proposes to divert water which reaches the Westside Detention Basin (WSDB) ponding area along the Aqueduct adjacent to Gale Avenue. The landowners will manage the water that ponds and infiltrates on their property and propose to install up to four portable temporary pumps (totaling 20 cfs maximum) at the three points of diversion (each approximately 400 square feet) for the distribution of water to percolate over additional existing bermed ponding areas.

**Specific Comments**

We request the following be addressed in the final MND prepared for the proposed project.

**Section 2.1.8.1 Construction, Operation and Maintenance**

Section 2.1.8.1 explains there is no excavation of dirt or construction associated with the project. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) would like to emphasize the importance to the State Water Project (SWP) that the proposed project does not include excavation of dirt or construction. The south border of the proposed percolation basin at West Tornado Avenue appears to partially overly the DWR permanent drainage and flowage easements so any exaction or construction within the proposed project's footprint may have a significant impact to SWP facilitates and operations. Please confirm the proposed project does not include berm construction, changes to the existing berms or other project activities that may have an impact on the Department's ability to exercise its easement rights.

Mr. Jack Castro  
December 11, 2019  
Page 2

#### Section 2.1.10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

As explained in the previous comment, DWR holds permanent drainage and flowage easements within the proposed project's footprint. Generally, activities and improvements within DWR's easements require DWR approval. DWR requests that Section 2.1.20 be amended to include the California Department of Water Resources as a public agency whose approval may be required.

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent project environmental or other documentation when it becomes available for public review by sending the document to:

Ted Alvarez  
Supervising Engineer  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1620  
Sacramento, California 95814

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Alvarez at 916 653-6271 or [Ted.Alvarez@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ted.Alvarez@water.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



Nancy Finch  
Attorney III