

April 25, 2022

Lassen County  
Attn: Nancy McAllister  
707 Nevada Street, Suite 5  
Susanville, CA 96130



LASSEN COUNTY (COUNTY), MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE USE PERMIT #2021-002, PARCEL MAP #2021-001, INITIAL STUDY #2021-001 GAJJ, GONDAL PROJECT (PROJECT); SCH # 2021020471

Dear Ms. Nancy McAllister:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) regulates public water systems in Lassen County and is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Project will create a new public water system and will require the water system to obtain State Water Board, DDW approval for a water supply permit.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under CEQA, has the following comments on the County's draft MND:

- The Project description in the document is unclear regarding the infrastructure of the new public water system. Please describe the proposed drinking water system components, including any existing water system infrastructure that will be used by the new development, new water sources, and new water system infrastructure that will be installed as part of the Project.
- Section IV. Biological Resources question (c), and Section IX Hydrology and Water Quality questions c-e all ask questions concerning wetlands, waterways, and erosion or sedimentation. It is unclear on whether the intermittent waterway is a "Water of the United States" or "Water of the State" and if Project site runoff will be problematic during episodic rain events. Please clarify.
- Section IX. Hydrology and Water Quality question (a) asks if the Project will "Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality." Please include all specific mitigation measures related to hydrology and water quality in the document that were recommended by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Once the MND is adopted, please email the following items in support of the new public water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Lassen District Office to [DWPRedding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPRedding@waterboards.ca.gov):

- Copy of the draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Any comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the MND and MMRP; and

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Copy of the stamped Notice of Determination filed at the Lassen County Clerk's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or [Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding State Water Board CEQA comments.

Sincerely,

*Lori Schmitz*

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Steve Watson  
District Engineer  
Lassen District