
State Water Resources Control Board

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency CEQA Document Consideration, Adoption, and Determination

Project Information

CEQA Document Title: Sierra Linda Mutual Water Company Consolidation, Metering, and Water Treatment Project (Project)

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

Applicant: Sierra Linda Mutual Water Company, Inc. (Applicant)

Project Number: 2000506-001C

State Clearinghouse Number: 2017031075

Project Location: The Project is located in the Bass Lake Annex #3 near unincorporated community of Wishon, within Madera County.

Project Description: The Applicant is proposing to consolidate Bass Lake Annex #3 into the Sierra Linda Mutual Water Company water system, blend the groundwater from existing wells, and install treatment to meet appropriate drinking water standards for uranium. Additionally, the proposed Project would provide meters on all services, develop test well #5, install five new storage tanks and new distribution pipelines, install booster pumps and fire pumps at treatment center site, and construct a new treatment facility.

The State Water Board is the Lead Agency under the CEQA for this Project. The State Water Board, in coordination with the Applicant, prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project referred to as Consolidation, Metering, and Water Treatment Project which was circulated through the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse (2017031075) for review and comments. The State Water Board adopted the MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on June 5, 2017.

An Addendum to the MND (Addendum) was prepared in August 2025, to address the project modifications caused by the relocation of the water treatment plant and provides additional specifications about the improvements described in the adopted MND. Through a Supplemental Archaeological Survey Report and General Biological Resources Assessment Report, it has been determined that the proposed project modifications do not satisfy the conditions that would require a subsequent Environmental Impact Report or negative declaration as described in Section 15162 of

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the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, the Addendum to the Project's MND satisfies Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines and is deemed the appropriate document to assess the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project modifications.

As the Deputy Director for the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, I have been delegated the authority to approve and execute financing agreements and to perform associated acts for projects that are routine and non-controversial. The authority to adopt the Addendum and approve the Project necessarily accompanies the delegation to approve and execute financing agreements.

I have considered the Addendum pursuant to my delegated authority. On basis of the whole of the record, I find that:

- The Addendum reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the State Water Board.
- The Addendum for the Project is prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 11, section 15164.
- There is no substantial evidence in the record before me that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- Mitigation measures are made a condition of approval for the Project. The MND and the MMRP include mitigation measures for aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems that mitigate potential environmental impacts to less than significant levels for these impact categories.
- There have been no substantial changes proposed in the Project that would require major revisions to the previous MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
- There have been no substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which would require major revisions to the previous MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
- There has been no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the MND was adopted that shows any of the following:
 - The Project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous MND;
 - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous MND;
 - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the Project, but the Project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

- Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous MND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
- Two mitigation measures were revised. No new significant environmental impacts or any substantial increases in the severity of previously identified impacts are caused by the revision of mitigation measures.
 - BIO 2 was updated to accurately reflect current pre-construction survey standards and included updates to the following: the nesting season is now considered February 1 – August 31, pre-construction surveys are to be completed within 10 days, and specification of nesting survey buffer requirements.
 - NOI 1 was updated to change the referenced Project location, but mitigation was not changed.

Based on the foregoing, I have determined that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment and adopt the Addendum pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 6, section 15074 and approve the Project. The Applicant will be responsible for carrying out the Project.

This action to approve the Project does not constitute an approval of financial assistance/financing, which will require the execution of a financial assistance/financing agreement.

A final copy of the Addendum and the record of approval for the Project are available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento CA 95814.

Joe Karkoski, Deputy Director
Division of Financial Assistance