

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT CERTIFYING THE SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT WEST HILLS WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT;

ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS OF FACT, MITIGATION MEASURES, MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION; AND

APPROVING THE WEST HILLS WATER TREATMENT PLAN PROJECT

Whereas, in 2004, the City of Hollister (City), the San Benito County (County), and San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that established a framework for water and wastewater planning in the Hollister Urban Area (HUA).

Whereas, this MOU was amended in 2008 to include the Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) and collectively, the four parties (referred to as “MOU parties”) developed a Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan (Master Plan) in 2008 and a subsequent Coordinated Water Supply and Treatment Plan (Coordinated Plan) in 2010.

Whereas, together, the two plans (collectively referred to as the “Program”) identify individual water, wastewater, and recycled water projects aimed to improve the quality of municipal drinking water, industrial supply and recycled water for agricultural and urban users; provide a reliable and sustainable water supply to meet the current and future demands for the HUA; and implement the goals of the Hollister Water Reclamation Facility to be the primary wastewater treatment plant for incorporated and unincorporated lands in the HUA to protect groundwater quality and public health.

Whereas, in 2011, a program EIR (PEIR) was completed for the Master Plan and Coordinated Water Supply and Treatment Plan (State Clearinghouse #2010061069), in which many projects were evaluated in the PEIR.

Whereas, in 2013, SBCWD, City, SSCWD signed and ratified the Water Supply & Treatment Agreement, in which roles and obligations were contractually defined between the MOU parties.

Whereas, the SBCWD, City, SSCWD, propose to implement the West Hills Water Treatment Plant project (proposed project).

Whereas, the primary purpose of the proposed project is to provide high quality water supply to the western area of the HUA, an area which currently receives groundwater.

Whereas, the project site is located in an unincorporated area of San Benito County just outside of the southwestern boundary of the City of Hollister in the hills north of Union Road.

Whereas, the project site consists of two vacant parcels totaling approximately 33 acres that are jointly owned by the City and SSCWD.

Whereas, the main components of the proposed project include construction and operation of the West Hills water treatment plant, a raw water pump station, and raw and treated water transmission pipelines.

Whereas, the proposed plant would be comprised of treatment facilities, solids handling facilities (including drying beds), treated water storage tanks, an administration and operations building and associated facilities

Whereas, raw water would be supplied to the water treatment plant from the Hollister Conduit, which transfers water from the San Luis and San Justo Reservoirs.

Whereas, new pipelines would be constructed along Richardson Road, Riverside Road, and Nash Road.

Whereas, on January 30, 2014 the SBCWD (the lead agency) published the Draft EIR for the West Hills Water Treatment Project for public review and comment. The public review and comment period on the document extended from January 30, 2014 through March 15, 2014.

Whereas, the SBCWD, as lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed the final environmental impact report (FEIR) for the West Hills Water Treatment Plant Project (West Hills Project) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012081028).

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the SBCWD hereby:

- a. Certify the San Benito County Water District West Hills Water Treatment Plant Project Final Environmental Impact Report.

- b. Adopt this Resolution Approving California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Fact, Mitigation Measures, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- c. Approve the West Hills Water Treatment Plant Project Final Environmental Impact Report & Direct District Manager/Engineer to Sign Notice of Determination
- d. Direct District Staff to File Notice of Determination with San Benito County Recorder's Office

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District held on the 30th day of April, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS: Tobias, Tonascia, Bettencourt, Flores and Torquato

NOES: DIRECTORS: None

ABSENT: DIRECTORS: None

/s/John Tobias
John Tobias
President

ATTEST: /s/Sara Singleton
Sara Singleton
Assistant Manager