

**Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (Agency)
Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project (Project)
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Number: C06-8028-110**

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination

As the Deputy Director for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance, I have been delegated the authority to approve and execute the financing agreement for projects that are routine and non-controversial. The execution of the financing agreement is an action that is subject to CEQA. The authority to make this CEQA determination necessarily accompanies the delegation to approve and execute the financing agreement for this Project.

1. The Agency is the CEQA Lead Agency, and has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project which was circulated through the State Clearinghouse (No. 2013051094) for review and comments. The Agency certified the EIR, adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and a Statement of Overriding Consideration for significant unavoidable environmental effects related to construction noise, and approved the Project on October 8, 2015. The Agency filed a Notice of Determination with the Monterey County Clerk on October 8, 2015 and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research on October 9, 2015.

However, the components of the Project that would result in significant unavoidable environmental effects related to construction noise are not part of the Project. The Agency is not pursuing CWSRF financing for implementation of Tembladero Slough Diversion and Monterey Pipeline (or Alternative Monterey Pipeline) components.

2. The State Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA. A responsible agency complies with CEQA by considering the EIR prepared by the lead agency and by reaching its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the project involved. The State Water Board has independently considered the EIR and MMRP, and pursuant to my delegated authority, I make the following determinations regarding the Project:
 - The EIR identified potentially significant environmental effects of the Project related to, biological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and cumulative impacts to marine water quality and marine biological resources. Mitigation measures(s) BF-1a to BF-1c and BF-2a for special status aquatic biological species and their critical habitat; HH-2a to HH-2c for hazardous materials; HS-4: Management of Surface Water Diversion Operations (hydrology water quality); HS-C for cumulative impacts to marine water quality; and MR-C for cumulative impacts to marine biological resources have been incorporated into the Project to mitigate impacts from the above listed resources to a less than significant level. Because of mitigation measure(s) identified herein, the EIR and the MMRP the Project will not result in any significant adverse water quality impacts.
 - The EIR also identified potentially significant environmental effects of the Project related to aesthetics, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, farmland protection and forestry resources, energy use, construction waste, noise and traffic and safety. The EIR and MMRP include mitigation measures for aesthetics, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, farmland protection and forestry resources, energy use, construction waste, noise and traffic and safety that mitigate potential environmental impacts to less than significant levels for these impact categories. Changes or alterations to the Project based on these mitigation measures are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and are not within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board. Such changes either have been adopted by other relevant agencies or can and should be adopted by such other agencies.

A final copy of the EIR, MMRP, comments and responses and record of funding 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.



Leslie Laudon, Deputy Director
Division of Financial Assistance



Date