

Central Services  
**Joan Araujo**, Director

Engineering Services  
**Christopher Cooper**, Director

Roads & Transportation  
**Christopher Kurgan**, Director

Water & Sanitation  
**Joseph Pope**, Director

Watershed Protection  
**Glenn Shephard**, Director

July 26, 2022

Board of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:**     **Certification of Board Review of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 538 Reservoir Replacement Project Located in Unincorporated Ventura County in Somis, California; Find There is No Substantial Evidence that the Project Will Have a Significant Effect on the Environment; Approval of the Project and Adoption of the Final MND; Adoption of the Mitigated Monitoring Program; Authorization for the Waterworks District No. 19 (District) Director to Sign and File the Notice of Determination; Designate the Clerk of the Board as the Custodian of Records for the Proceedings in this Matter; Authorization for the District's Director to Take All Actions Necessary to Implement the Approved Project; Waterworks District No. 19 (Somis); Supervisorial District No. 2.**

**Recommendations:**

1. Certify that your Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the attached Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19's (District) 538 Reservoir Replacement Project (Project) (Exhibit 3) and considered all comments received.
2. Find that, on the basis of the whole record before your Board, including the Initial Study and public comments received, there is no substantial evidence the Project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment, and the Final MND reflects the independent analysis and judgment of your Board.
3. Approve and adopt the Final MND, including the Mitigation Monitoring Program.
4. Incorporate the Final MND mitigation measures into the Project and approve the Project.



5. Authorize the District's Director to sign and file a Notice of Determination for the Project.
6. Designate the Clerk of the Board, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California, as the custodian and location of the record of proceedings in this matter.
7. Authorize the District's Director to take all actions necessary to implement the Project as approved in Recommendation No. 4.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

This item has no fiscal impact at the present time. The Phase 1 construction is funded by the Somis Ranch Farmworker Housing Developer. The District will provide a full fiscal analysis when it returns to your Board to request award of the construction contracts for Phases 2 and 3, which are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

**Discussion:**

The purpose of the proposed project (Project) is to remove the existing 210,000-gallon Pressure Zone 538 Reservoir and replace it with two 300,000 gallon above-ground tanks (Tanks 1 and 2). The Project would be constructed in three phases:

- Phase 1. Construction of the common tank pad and Tank 1 to serve the Somis Ranch Farmworker Housing Project (duration about 12 months).
- Phase 2. Demolition of the existing tank and construction of the booster pump station (duration about nine months).
- Phase 3. Construction of Tank 2 to serve existing District customers (duration about 12 months).

The Project site (Site) is located on the existing 0.38-acre tank site easement held by the District in the southeast corner of APN 163-0-010-27. The Site is located in unincorporated Ventura County near the community of Somis, approximately 1.25 miles southeast of the State Route 118/State Route 34 intersection.

**Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

The District prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) pursuant to sections 15070-15075 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Ventura Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines for the Project. The Final MND documents the District's finding that there are no significantly adverse unavoidable impacts associated with the Project, and the Project does not require the



preparation of an environmental impact report. The Initial Study identified and discussed potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts for identified subject areas. Potentially significant, but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the areas of Air Quality and Archaeological Resources. The Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) is included in the Final MND pursuant to section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The MMP was designed to ensure CEQA compliance during Project implementation. The Site is not included on any of the lists enumerated in Government Code section 65962.5 including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property or hazardous waste disposal sites.

#### Summary of Public Outreach/Public Comments

The Draft IS/MND was first made available to the various County of Ventura agencies for comment. The comments were incorporated into the draft IS/MND. In compliance with section 15074 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, the District accepted written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the draft IS/MND. The 30-day public comment period closed on July 18, 2022. The District received 2 comment letters on the Draft IS/MND, which have been addressed as part of the Final MND.

Your Board is requested to review and approve the Final MND (Exhibit 3), including the MMP, then authorize the District's Director to sign and file a Notice of Determination and to take all actions necessary to implement the Project.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact Joseph Pope at (805) 654-2075.



Joseph C. Pope, P.E.  
Director, Water and Sanitation

#### Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2 – Location Map
- Exhibit 3 – Final Mitigated Negative Declaration

