



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Barbara A. Lee, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

January 5, 2017

Mr. Don Bunts
Santa Margarita Water District
26111 Antonio Parkway
Las Flores, California 92688

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR SAN JUAN WATERSHED PROJECT (SCH# 2016121001)

Dear Mr. Bunts:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the subject NOP. The following project description is stated in the NOP: "The San Juan Watershed project is an integrated water resources management plan intended to maximize beneficial uses of the San Juan Groundwater Basin. The primary goals of the project include the following elements: - continue implementation of the on-going adaptive production management - construct rubber dams within San Juan Creek and the Arroyo Trabuco to increase stormwater recharge and provide future recharge sites for in-stream recharge of recycled water - construct recycled water recharge and recovery facilities and conversion of private groundwater pumpers to alternative sources of water."

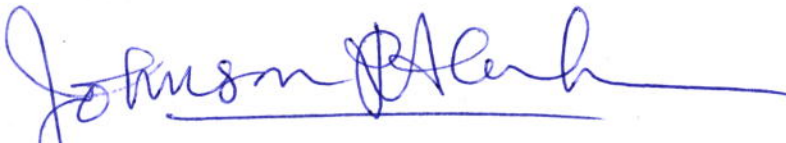
Based on the review of the submitted document DTSC has the following comments:

1. The EIR should identify and determine whether current or historic uses at the project site may have resulted in any release of hazardous wastes/substances. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment may be appropriate to identify any recognized environmental conditions.
2. If there are any recognized environmental conditions in the project area, proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the appropriate regulatory agencies should be conducted prior to the new development or any construction.
3. The NOP states, "Construction of new facilities would require excavation of the existing ground surface, which would uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Proper investigation and mitigation measures, if necessary, should be adopted prior to the implementation of the project. This information should be included in the EIR."

4. If project construction requires onsite/offsite disposal of excavated soil, then appropriate sampling is required prior to export/disposal of the excavated material. If the soil is contaminated, it should be disposed of properly in accordance with all applicable and relevant laws and regulations. In addition, if the project proposes to import soil to backfill the excavated areas, proper evaluation and/or sampling should be conducted to make sure that the imported soil is free of contamination. The EIR should properly address these issues.
5. If the project plans include discharging wastewater to a storm drain, you may be required to obtain an NPDES permit from the overseeing Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
6. If during construction/demolition of the project, soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected, construction/demolition in the area should cease and appropriate health and safety procedures should be implemented. If it is determined that contaminated soil and/or groundwater exist, the EIR should identify how any required investigation and/or remediation will be conducted, and the appropriate government agency to provide regulatory oversight.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (714) 484-5476 or email at Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Johnson P. Abraham
Project Manager
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cc: See next page.

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January 5, 2017
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CEQA# 2016121001