

**ADDENDUM NO. 1
TO THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY (IS) /
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)
FOR THE
BIG BEAR CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT'S
WELL 8A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(SCH#2016011012)**

Prepared for:

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I. PROJECT INFORMATION

- i) Project Title: Big Bear Community Service District's Well 8A Development Project
- ii) Lead Agency Name and Address: Big Bear City Community Services District
P.O. Box 558
Big Bear City, CA 92314
- iii) Contact: Mr. Jerry Griffith
Phone: 909-585-2565
E-Mail: jgriffith@bbccsd.org
- iv) Project Location: The proposed new Well 8A is located at the Administration Building site operated by the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Authority (BBARWA). The property is located on the southwestern side of Baldwin Lake, on Palomino Drive north of the intersection of Palomino Drive and Shay Road in Big Bear City, California. Figure 1 shows the project location on a regional map. Figure 2 shows the proposed Well 8A location on the USGS – Baldwin Lake 7.5' Series Topographic Map. Cadastrally, the site is located in Section 7, Township 2 North, Range 2 East, San Bernardino Meridian. The Longitude/Latitude of the proposed Well 8A site is approximately 34°16'04.06" N and 116°48'56.84" W, respectively. Figures 3a & 3b are aerial photographs that shows the specific location of the Well 8 and proposed Well 8A on the WWTP property (proposed site layout and proposed discharge location). The building to the right of proposed Well 8A (east) is the Administrative Office for BBARWA.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Introduction

This document is prepared as an Addendum to the IS/MND adopted by the Big Bear City Community Services District in January 2017 (SCH No. 2016011012). In 2017, the District prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration the new Well 8A, that will replace Well 8 at the BBARWA site.

BBCCSD will serve as a lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and BBARWA will serve as a CEQA responsible agency for the proposal to drill, construct, develop and test a new well (Well 8A) to replace existing Well 8. The District will seek funding from the State for installation of the new well, while BBARWA must authorize the installation of the new

well on its property. There are no entitlements from local government required to install and operate proposed Well 8A by the District.

The following summary of information was provided regarding the drilling, construction, development and testing the new well (Well 8A) to replace existing Well 8. The total area of disturbance shown on Figures 3a & 3b is approximately one to 1.5 acre. Once the well is completed the area of above ground disturbance will be less than 10,000 square feet (about 1/4 acre). The proposed well will be drilled to about 400 feet below the ground surface, or as alternatively directed by the hydrogeologist. The well bore will be a minimum of 17.5-inches in diameter, and then enlarged to 22-inch diameter from 50 feet below-ground surface to the total depth specified by the hydrogeologist. Drilling will be accomplished through use of a reverse rotary drill unit. Once the well is completed to the desired depth, it will be pumped to test the production rate and quality of the water. The groundwater extracted from the well will be passed through Baker tanks to settle out any sediment and then delivered to the BBARWA wastewater ponds for disposal. Assuming the well produces a sufficient quantity of groundwater of adequate quality, the well will be equipped for production with a vertical turbine pump and converted to a production well.

It is anticipated that about five persons will be on the site at any one time to support drilling the well: three drillers, the hydrogeologist inspector and a foreman. Daily trips to complete the well will average about 10 round trips per day, including: two round trips for drill rigs; between 6 and 12 roundtrips for cement trucks; a few trips to deliver pipe; and about 20 trips per day for employees. The District estimates that it will require about 8 weeks to drill the well, with 24-hour drilling activities limited to about 2 weeks; to avoid excessive noise, temporary noise control noise attenuation walls and equipment will be installed. The production objective for the well is to generate about 550 gpm. Assuming the ground water quality is potable, the new well will be connected to the District's distribution system located about 150 feet to the east of Well 8. The well pump will be located aboveground and placed in an enclosed structure similar to what presently exists at Well 8. The groundwater will be treated with a sodium hypochlorite disinfectant at the wellhead.

The project hydrogeologist has provided the following more detailed sequence of events that will be implemented in support of the proposed project.

- The bucket auger drill rig will come onsite and drill and install conductor casing and cement sanitary seal
- The reverse rotary drill rig will mobilize to the site and set up, including sound walls.
- Drill the pilot borehole and collect associated data, such as lithology, geophysical logs, isolated aquifer zone testing
- Deliver the well construction materials
- Drill enlarged borehole to target depth
- Construct the well
- Conduct initial well development by airlift/swab
- Demobilize the drill rig and mobilize the test pump
- Conduct final development by pumping
- Conduct pumping tests
- Temporarily cap the well and demobilize remaining equipment
- Return the site to original condition
- Connect Well 8A to the District Distribution System

The focus of this Addendum is the addition of mitigation measures to provide additional protection for potential biological resources that were not found within the project footprint, but that occur in the project area and could re-occupy this area prior to actual installation of Well 8A. The District has accepted these additional biology mitigation measures due to concerns that project implementation might adversely impact listed plant species, including Slender-petaled Thelypodium (*Thelypodium stenopetalum*) and Bird-foot checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*). After considering the available options for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding this minor project modification and conferring with the State Board Staff, the BBCCSD concluded that compiling an Addendum to the 2017 IS/MND would be the most appropriate way to comply with CEQA for the proposed modified pipeline alignment. This approach justifies the preparation of this Addendum to comply with CEQA for the proposed additional measures that will apply to the project area. No other changes to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND are envisioned at this time under this Addendum.

The additional measures include the following:

- A CDFW approved biological monitor shall visit the site at weekly intervals during construction to verify that the preserved area boundaries are not breached. The monitor shall have the authority to stop work if construction activities enter the preserve area. Short letter reports shall be submitted to the District following each visit and if the preserve area is disturbed, the District shall be notified immediately and corrective action taken.
- Within 15 days prior to initiating construction a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for federally listed plant species known to occur in the mitigation area adjacent to the project site. A report of findings shall be provided to the District; and if sensitive species are identified within the project footprint the District shall coordinate with the CDFW to recover and transplantation of the individual plants.
- No construction access, parking, storage, or maintenance of equipment or materials shall be permitted within the conservation area. Waste dirt, rubble, or trash will not be deposited within the conservation area. District inspectors shall verify that these prohibitions are fulfilled.
- All construction areas adjacent to the conservation area will be cleaned up so that no fill or other material is available to wash into the conservation area. District inspectors shall verify that these prohibitions are fulfilled.

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and State and local CEQA Guidelines, the BBCCSD will serve as the Lead Agency for the proposed propose project modification. The BBCCSD is the Lead Agency because it is the local public agency that will partially fund and implement the new Well 8A project. As part of its decision-making process, BBCCSD is required to review and consider all potential environmental effects that could result from modifying the original project. The BBCCSD has compiled this Addendum as the basis for making a new CEQA environmental determination for this modification to the originally approved project. At the request of the State Board, this Initial Study will be distributed for public review for 15 days through the State Clearinghouse.

B. Background

Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Addendum has been prepared in order to determine whether the modified Well 8a project will have different or greater impacts from implementing four additional mitigation measures recommended by the State Board. The question of concern is whether this proposed modification would result in any other conditions

that would require a subsequent environmental document to be prepared because of changes in circumstances or new or additional adverse environmental impacts. This Addendum also reviews any new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the IS/MND was adopted in 2017. This examination includes an analysis in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15164 and 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which outline the criteria and procedures for preparing an Addendum and conducting a second-tier environmental evaluation based on a previous environmental document, in this case the 2017 IS/MND.

Also pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, BCCSD's environmental review of the proposed project modifications is limited to examining the environmental effects associated with the physical changes in the environment from implementing the modified project in comparison to the approved project. This narrow focus is due to the fact that the previously adopted IS/MND has already addressed the comprehensive environmental impacts of implementing the Well 8A improvements in the project area. As permitted by CEQA Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the 2017 IS/ND, SCH No. 2016011012, is hereby incorporated by reference as part of the Addendum evaluation. A copy of this document is provided as Attachment 1 to this Addendum.

III. CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ADDENDUM

This Addendum No. 1 has been prepared in accordance with the current CEQA Statutes (2020) and Guidelines for implementing CEQA. CEQA Section 15164 includes the following procedures for the preparation and use of an Addendum:

- (b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.
- (c) An addendum need not be circulated for public review, but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR or adopted negative declaration.
- (d) The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the Final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.
- (e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's required findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.

If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after certification of an EIR or MND, the Lead Agency may: (1) prepare a subsequent EIR if the criteria of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) are met, (2) prepare a subsequent negative declaration, (3) prepare an addendum, or (4) prepare no further documentation. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(b)) When only minor technical changes or additions to the approved Negative Declaration are necessary and none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred, CEQA allows the lead agency to prepare and adopt an Addendum. (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164(b))

Under Section 15162, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration is required only when:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the negative declaration due to the involvement of any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) 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 negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous negative declaration;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) 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 measures or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Based on a review of the general data compiled to consider the additional mitigation measures recommended by the State Board Staff, BBCCSD finds that an Addendum is the appropriate environmental determination to address this project modification consistent with the previously adopted IS/MND.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION

As previously indicated, the District prepared an IS/MND for the Well 8A Development Project that was adopted by the District Board, along with technical studies to substantiate findings for site specific environmental issues, such as air quality, biology, cultural resources (refer Attachment 1). The BBCCSD Staff considered the options for CEQA compliance with this second-tier CEQA decision under the adopted IS/MND. Based on the scope of the proposed project modification, a decision was made to prepare an Addendum for the revised project. After considering the available compliance alternatives, a decision was made by the Staff to recommend that the BBCCSD Board consider Addendum No. 1 to the adopted IS/MND as the appropriate CEQA environmental determination for the modified project.

Based on the status of information available for this second-tier evaluation, an Addendum, supported by the adopted IS/MND (provided in Attachment 1) was concluded to provide the appropriate level of evaluation of the modified project for compliance with CEQA. Thus, the purpose of this Addendum is to assess the related potential environmental impacts that would result from implementing the modified project, in comparison to the impact forecast contained in

the original IS/MND. The following evaluation provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts in relation to the facts and findings contained in the IS/MND. The following conclusions were developed regarding potential impacts from approval and implementation of the modified Well 8A Development Project.

Note that a review of changes in environmental circumstances over the past few years since the IS/MND was adopted (2017) indicates that the no major changes have occurred for any environmental issues in the intervening three years and no modifications have been made within the project area of impact since 2017. No changes in general land use have occurred in the vicinity of the project site. Ambient air quality is slightly better now than in the 2017-timeframe due to fewer vehicle miles traveled and better controlled mobile and stationary source emissions. Also, overall demand for public services and utilities has generally not grown substantially in the Big Bear area since the IS/MND was prepared as the population of the area has also not increased substantially since 2017.

Biological/Cultural Resources

- a) *POTENTIAL TO DEGRADE: Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an additional environmental document. The biology findings of the 2017 IS/MND concluded that implementation of the Well 8A Development Project would not result in any significant biology impacts with the implementation of one mitigation measure. The original biology analysis in the IS/MND is provided on pages 20 through 22. The detailed biology resource study was made available to interested parties by the Big Bear City Community Services District (District) as Appendix 2 to the IS/MND. The biological resources evaluation was comprehensive and identified one mitigation measure (to protect migratory bird nests) needed to reduce potential adverse impacts to a less than significant level. The State Board requested incorporation of four additional mitigation measures to control potential project impacts to nearby protected plant areas. The District has agreed to implement these measures. Thus, for this project modification the biological resources evaluation is considered sufficient evaluation to comply with the CEQA for biological resource issues.

In conclusion, relative to the biological resource impacts forecast in the 2017 IS/MND for the approved project, no significant adverse change or effect is forecast to occur in approving and implementing the modified project.

The 2017 IS/MND examined cultural resources on pages 23 through 25 and Appendix 3 of the IS/MND. The evaluation identified no potential adverse effects on cultural resources but also identified two contingency mitigation measures as capable of reducing potential impacts to a less than significant impact level, if needed. Thus, for this project modification the new cultural resources evaluation is considered sufficient evaluation to comply with the CEQA for cultural resource issues. The modified project will not cause any new or more significant cultural resource impacts.

In conclusion, relative to the cultural impacts forecast in the 2017 IS/MND for the approved project, no significant adverse change or effect is forecast to occur in approving and implementing the modified project.

b) *CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when reviewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future project.)*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an EIR. Those Project-related environmental resources or issues subject to cumulative effects include the following: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, energy, hazards, hydrology/water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, public services/recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. The 2017 IS/MND concluded that all of the above environmental issues would not experience any significant Project specific or cumulatively considerable adverse environmental impacts, in many cases with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Based on the analyses in support of this Addendum, implementation of the modified Project will not result in cumulative impacts any greater than that identified in the IS/MND. Substantiation for this conclusion is provided in the following text.

Aesthetics: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the general aesthetic impacts of the implementing the Well 8A Development Project on page 6. The IS/MND concluded that aesthetics impacts would be less than significant for the proposed project because they would be at ground level and not substantially change the visual setting or block scenic resources. The IS/MND concluded that one aesthetic mitigation measure would be necessary to achieve a less than significant impact. No major changes in the circumstances regarding aesthetic resources have occurred within the Project area of potential impact since the original environmental document was adopted. Implementation of the additional biology mitigation measures is not forecast to cause any new adverse aesthetic impacts that will require new mitigation or be significantly adverse.

Agricultural/Forestry Resources: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the agricultural and forestry impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on pages 7 and 8 and concluded no impacts would occur from implementing the Well 8A project. The IS concluded that impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation without implementation of any mitigation measures. The proposed modified Project will be implemented on the same BBARWA property where no agricultural or timber resources exist. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to change the findings in the IS/MND. No changes in the circumstances regarding agricultural or forestry resources have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was adopted.

Air Quality/GHG: Due to the recent recession and increasing controls over emissions within the air basin, ambient air quality has not deteriorated, and in most cases has improved, since the original IS/MND was adopted. The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the air quality and GHG impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on pages 9 through 19 (Air) and pages 28 through (GHG). Construction impacts from Project implementation would be short-term and would not obstruct the long-term planning goals of the applicable air quality plan. Construction would require the use of drilling equipment that would produce combustive and particulate emissions. Construction activities associated with the Project would generate less than significant air pollutant and GHG emissions. The modified project will not require mass grading to install the well and pipeline connection facilities. The additional mitigation measures will require a few additional vehicle trips

during construction, but these trips will not substantially increase construction air emissions. From an operational standpoint, the new Well 8A facility will generate electricity consumption emissions once placed in operation. Occasional visits to the Well 8A site will continue to be required to maintain and repair the well facilities as necessary in the future. The project modifications will not cause any increase operational emissions. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to substantially change the findings regarding air quality in the adopted IS/MND. Energy: Energy is a new (or reintroduced) topic that was added to the standard Environmental Checklist Form in 2019. For this reason, it was not addressed in the 2017 IS/MND. Regardless, the energy issue would be the same in 2020 as in 2017 because the activities have not changed. These activities include the following:

- The bucket auger drill rig will come onsite and drill and install conductor casing and cement sanitary seal
- The reverse rotary drill rig will mobilize to the site and set up, including sound walls.
- Drill the pilot borehole and collect associated data, such as lithology, geophysical logs, isolated aquifer zone testing
- Deliver the well construction materials
- Drill enlarged borehole to target depth
- Construct the well
- Conduct initial well development by airlift/swab
- Demobilize the drill rig and mobilize the test pump
- Conduct final development by pumping
- Conduct pumping tests
- Temporarily cap the well and demobilize remaining equipment
- Return the site to original condition
- Connect Well 8A to the District Distribution System

Implementation of the above activities does not include any specific reductions or increases in energy consumption now relative to 2017. All activities must include compliance with regulations (such as air quality) and no conflict with energy conservation plans or adequacy of energy supply will result for the proposed project because it is the replacement of an existing well that does not envision pumping more water than has historically been extracted at this same general location. Given that Southern California Edison (SCE) has made major strides in replacing non sustainable energy generation with sustainable generation sources, the overall impact in 2020 and the future from implementing the modified Project will be less than would have occurred in 2017.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the hazards and hazardous materials impacts of the Well 8A Development Project in the IS on pages 31-33. The IS/MND concluded no impacts would occur from implementing the proposed project other than a potential for accidental release of hazardous materials during construction. One mitigation measure was identified to control hazards and hazardous materials potential impacts to a less than significant impact level. The proposed modified Project will be implemented on the same property and will not require the use of additional hazardous materials (such as petroleum products), nor will it be exposed to hazards. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to change the findings in the IS/MND. Thus, no additional significant adverse direct or cumulative hazards or hazardous materials effects will result from implementing the proposed modified Project. One mitigation measure will be implemented for the proposed modified Project. No changes in the circumstances regarding hazards or hazardous materials issues have occurred within the Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was certified.

Hydrology/Water Quality: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential hydrology/water quality impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on pages 34 through 37. The IS/MND evaluates groundwater aquifer and quality impacts of the proposed Project and identifies one mitigation measure to control hydrology and water quality impacts to a less than significant impact level. The modified project will alter only one aspect of the original Project and that is the implementation of measures to protect nearby protected plant areas. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without new or additional hydrology or water quality adverse impacts, with implementation of the mitigation measure included in the 2017 IS/MND. Otherwise, no changes in the circumstances regarding hydrology and water quality issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was certified.

Land Use and Planning: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential land use and planning impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on page 37. The IS/MND concluded that impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation on land use/planning issues. No mitigation measures were required. No new significant adverse land use impacts will result from implementing the modified Project and no cumulative changes in land use or effects on planned land uses will result from implementing the modified Project. The land uses at the project site all support the management of water production, wastewater treatment, and disposal. No changes in the circumstances regarding land use and planning issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was adopted.

Mineral Resources: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential mineral resource impacts of the Well 8A Development Project in the Initial Study on page 38. Because no significant mineral resources were identified within the project footprint, the Initial Study concluded that, with no mitigation, mineral resources impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. No changes in the circumstances regarding mineral resource issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was adopted.

Noise: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential noise impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on pages 39 through 42. The IS/MND concluded that all noise impacts would be less than significant with implementation of seven mitigation measures. Construction noise will be generated by the modified Project at a comparable level to the approved project, including the use of some heavy equipment for well drilling. All of the modified Project construction noise can be controlled to a less than significant level due to implementation of mitigation measures. The circumstances regarding noise levels in the general area have not changed, thus, the proposed modified Project has no potential to alter the cumulatively considerable noise effects from construction and operation noise levels.

Population and Housing: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential population and housing impacts of the Well 8A Development Project in the Initial Study. The IS/MND concluded that all population and housing impacts would be less than significant with no mitigation on page 43. The modified Project does not alter this finding. The modified Project would not alter any population or housing resources directly or indirectly. No substantial changes in the regional population have occurred since the original IS/MND was adopted and no changes have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact. Therefore, the modified Project's impact is not forecast to cause a cumulatively considerable population and housing impact.

Public Services/Recreation: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential public service and recreation impacts of the Well 8A Development Project in the Initial Study on pages 44 and 45. The IS/MND concluded that all public service and recreation impacts would be less than

significant as a result of Project implementation. No new cumulative considerable or significant demand for public services is forecast to result from implementing proposed modified Project.

Transportation/Traffic: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential transportation/traffic impacts of the Well 8A Development Project on pages 46 and 47. The IS/MND concluded that all transportation/traffic impacts would be less than significant with implementation of no mitigation measures. The proposed modified Project would not have a substantial effect on the local area circulation system during either construction or future operations. The modified Project traffic impacts would be comparable to those forecast in the 2017 IS/MND. The circumstances have not changed since the original IS/MND was adopted. No new cumulative significant adverse traffic or circulation impacts would result from implementing the proposed modified Project.

Utilities/Service Systems: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential utilities/service system impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 48 and 49. The IS/MND concluded that all utilities/service system impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. No mitigation was required. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without any adverse impacts to existing utilities or service systems. No other known changes have occurred since the IS/MND was certified that would affect the modified Project. Thus, no new cumulative considerable or significant demand for utilities and service systems is forecast to result from implementing proposed modified Project.

Based on the above analysis, the implementation of the proposed modified Project can proceed under this Addendum level analysis. Implementing the proposed modified Project will not result in any new, unavoidable significant adverse direct or cumulative impacts. These issues have been fully described in the previously adopted 2017 IS/MND, as modified in the preceding analyses, as less than significant impacts.

c) *ADVERSE IMPACTS ON HUMANS: Does the project have environmental effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an EIR. Those project-related environmental resources or issues that pose a potential to have direct or indirect adverse effects on humans include the following: aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, and wildfire. The 2017 IS/MND concluded that most of the above environmental issues would experience less than significant project specific or cumulative adverse environmental impact, often with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Based on the analyses in support of this Addendum, implementation of the modified Project relative to the project defined in the 2017 IS/MND will not result in substantial direct effects on humans greater than that identified in the original IS/MND. Substantiation for these findings is provided in the following text.

Aesthetics: Please refer to the evaluation under cumulative impacts, issue “b” above. The IS/MND concluded that aesthetics impacts would be less than significant from implementation of the Well 8A Development Project. The IS/MND concluded that one aesthetic mitigation measure will be necessary for this proposed project. No major changes in the circumstances regarding aesthetic resources have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was adopted. Implementation of the additional mitigation measures is not forecast to cause any new or more adverse aesthetic impacts that will require mitigation or be significantly adverse.

Air Quality: Please refer to the Air Quality under cumulative impacts, issue “b” above. An evaluation of local air quality effects in the 2017 IS/MND, such as fugitive dust, indicated that no potentially significant local public health impacts would be caused by implementing the original Project. Construction impacts from Project implementation would be short-term and would not obstruct the long-term planning goals of the applicable air quality plan. Construction would require the use of heavy equipment that would produce combustive and fugitive dust emissions. Construction activities associated with the modified Project would generate less than significant air pollutant emissions and the modified project will not substantially alter this finding. From an operational standpoint, the Well 8A facility will generate minimal emissions once placed in operation. The project modifications will not make any change in operational emissions. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to substantially change the air quality impact findings in the adopted IS/MND.

Geology and Soil: The 2017 IS/MND analyzes the potential geology and soil impacts of the Well 8A Development Project in the Initial Study on pages 26 through 28. The IS/MND concluded that all geology and soil impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation with implementation of one mitigation measure. The general project area is subject to ground shaking hazards and the modified Project will be exposed to limited seismic ground shaking and potential for erosion. The modified Project facilities will not expose humans to greater seismic hazards, only the proposed temporary pipeline. Thus, implementation of the modified Project will not cause significant geology or soil impacts and it will also not expose humans to significant geology or soil constraints.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: All hazards or use of hazardous materials associated with the project site were evaluated in the IS/MND and no potential for significant impact under this issue was identified. The modified Project does not increase this potential as it does not include any new hazards associated with implementation of mitigation measures. Thus, implementation of the modified Project will not cause significant new hazards or exposure to hazardous materials and it will also not expose humans to new significant hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality: Please refer to the hydrology and water quality discussion presented under issue “b” above. An evaluation of local hydrology and water quality effects in the 2017 IS/MND indicated that no significant public hazard impact would be caused by implementing the original Project. The proposed modified Project area will not be exposed to flood hazards, nor will it expose other humans or structures to greater flood hazards. All surface runoff occurring within the modified project area will be captured and managed at the BBARWA WWTP. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without new or additional hydrology or water quality adverse impacts, with implementation of the mitigation measure included in the 2017 IS/MND. Otherwise, no changes in the circumstances regarding hydrology and water quality issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was adopted.

Noise: Please refer to the noise discussion presented under issue “b” above. An evaluation of on- and off-site noise effects in the 2017 IS/MND during construction indicated that the project will not be exposed to or cause significant adverse noise levels. The same limited construction noise will be generated by the modified Project, including the use of some heavy equipment to drill the new Well 8A. All of the modified Project construction noise can be controlled to a less than significant level due to distance to sensitive noise receptors and seven mitigation measures. The circumstances regarding noise levels in the general area have not changed, thus, the proposed modified Project has no potential to alter the noise effects from construction activities.

Wildfire: Wildfire is a new (or expanded) topic that was added to the standard Environmental Checklist Form in 2019. For this reason, it was not addressed in the 2017 IS/MND. Regardless, the wildfire issue would be the same in 2020 as in 2017 because the activities and environmental setting have not changed. The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildland. The proposed project site is located in an area susceptible to wildland fires. However, the proposed installation of a new well at the BBARWA WWTP site does not expose people or structures to wildland fire risks that would not occur without implementation of the proposed project. The proposed test well and associated facilities will involve the extraction of ground water, and should therefore not contribute to a wildland fire risk.

Based on the above analysis, the implementation of the proposed modified Project will not increase direct or indirect impacts on humans to a significant level. The modified Project results in comparable impacts to humans, which is consistent with the findings in the 2017 IS/MND.

V. CONCLUSION

The earlier analyses presented in the 2017 IS/MND were used as a basis for analysis in this Addendum, updated with current information from sources cited, referenced and attached. Upon review of the IS/MND, the information contained in this Addendum and all of the supporting evidence, it is the conclusion of Addendum No. 1 that the potential adverse environmental impacts from implementation of the modified Project, as defined in Section II of this document, will not be substantially greater than that identified within the adopted IS/MND. There are no new significant impacts that result from implementing the modified Project, based on implementing the previous mitigation commitments in the IS/MND. This Addendum provides an update of the specific facilities of the Well 8A Development Project. There is a continued need to implement the mitigation measures required in the IS/MND to control potential modified Project impacts to a less than significant impact level.

This Addendum provides the BBCCSD with the information substantiating the conclusion that the implementation of four additional biology resource mitigation measures, as envisioned by the modified Project, will not cause substantial additional physical changes in the environment which would require preparation and processing of a new negative declaration or an updated environmental impact report. The facts and findings cited above and provided in this Addendum allow the BBCCSD to use an Addendum in accordance with Section 15164(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines for this second-tier modified Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 15164, the adopted 2017 IS/MND, as updated with this Addendum, can be relied upon for documentation of the effects of the modified Project on the environment. Because the changes in the project do not exceed the thresholds outlined in Sections 15162 and 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, no further analysis of the environmental impacts of the modified Project is required in a Supplemental/Subsequent EIR or MND. The proposed Well 8A Development Project modifications do not alter the conclusions contained in the referenced 2017 IS/MND as previously adopted. The analysis presented above of the changes and additions to the approved wastewater management project substantiates the use of Addendum No. 1 to the adopted IS/MND.

Addendum No. 1 to the 2017 IS/MND for modifications to the Well 8A Development Project incorporates the changes or additions necessary to make the adopted environmental document adequate under CEQA for the modified Project. Addendum No. 1 includes the previously adopted

IS/MND, this document (with Appendices) and all staff reports and information submitted to the decision-makers regarding environmental issues affected by the proposed future implementation of the modified Project. Addendum No. 1 is intended as an additional information document to provide decision-makers and others, as appropriate, with an objective assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the second-tier, site specific activities or facilities associated with the modified Project.

VI. REVIEW AUTHORITY

The Big Bear City Community Services District serves as the CEQA lead agency for the Well 8A Development Project. It is recommended that Addendum No. 1 be adopted as the appropriate CEQA environmental determination for this modified Project if the District decides to approve it for implementation.

VII. CERTIFICATION



Tom Dodson on behalf of
General Manager
Big Bear City Community Services District

FIGURES

ATTACHMENT 1