

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 9

A RESOLUTION (CERTIFICATION) OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2015061054), ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21081(A) AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15091, AND APPROVING A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21081.6 AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15097, AS RELATED TO THE PALMDALE REGIONAL GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND RECOVERY PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Palmdale Water District (the "District") proposes to develop a groundwater banking, storage and extraction program, using as source water, raw imported water from the State Water Project (SWP) and local tertiary treated recycled water through the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (the "Project");

WHEREAS, the Project, including groundwater wells, recharge basins, pipelines and other water delivery infrastructure (the "Project") would comingle SWP water from the California Aqueduct and recycled water from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 20 Palmdale Tertiary Treated Wastewater Plant;

WHEREAS, the Project would help to provide a diversified portfolio of ground and surface water, increase reliability of water supply, replenish groundwater supplies, save for future dry periods, and provide a cost-effective solution for long-term water supply;

WHEREAS, funding through the SWRCB requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and review of specific Federal regulations (referred to as "Federal Cross-Cutters") including the Federal Clean Air Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of CEQA and Federal Cross Cutters, the District issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on June 19, 2015 of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project and issued the NOP to appropriate state agencies;

WHEREAS, a public scoping meeting at which the public was invited to comment on the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project was held on July 11, 2015;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the District prepared a Draft EIR in November 2015 which included the additional analyses required by the Federal Cross Cutters;

WHEREAS, the District issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the CEQA document on November 23, 2015 including publication in local newspapers stating the public comment period on the Draft EIR would extend from November 25, 2015 to January 11, 2016;

WHEREAS, the District provided a copy of the Draft EIR to the State of California Clearinghouse (SCH# 2015061054) for review by pertinent state agencies and circulated for a 45-day review period from November 25, 2015 to January 11, 2016;

WHEREAS, comments on the Draft EIR were received and the Draft EIR was revised to incorporate appropriate measures, or otherwise considered those measures in the Final EIR, which was distributed to commenters on June 17, 2016, and the Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on or before July 20, 2016;

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2016 the District's Board of Directors conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the project and at the meeting certified the Final EIR after considering public testimony and materials in the staff report;

WHEREAS, all the requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines have been satisfied in the EIR, which is sufficiently detailed so that all of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project have been adequately evaluated;

WHEREAS, the EIR prepared in connection with the Project sufficiently analyzes both the feasible mitigation measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen the Project's environmental impacts and a range of feasible alternatives capable of eliminating or reducing these effects in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE AGENCY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, ORDER AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. All the recitals in this Resolution are true and correct and the District so finds, determines and represents.

SECTION 2. The District's Board of Directors reviewed and finds the Final EIR for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project as adequate and complete in that it addresses all potential environmental effects of the proposed project, fully complies with CEQA, and reflects the Board of Directors' independent judgment and analysis.


SECTION 3. The District's Board of Directors hereby certifies the Final EIR for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (State Clearing House No. 2015061054) which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full. that the District's Board of Directors finds that all potential significant environmental effects have been reduced to an acceptable level in that such potential significant environmental effects identified in the Final EIR have been reduced to a level of insignificance by mitigation measures made part of the Project, or eliminated by revisions made in the project. The NOD will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk no later than July 20, 2016.


SECTION 4. The District's Board of Directors hereby adopts the Findings of Fact for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, included herein as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

SECTION 5. The District's Board of Directors hereby adopts the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project, included herein as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.


SECTION 6. The District's Board of Directors declares that should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, or word of this Resolution be rendered or declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences and words of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 13th day of July 2016.


Robert Alvarado, President
Board of Directors
Palmdale Water District


Joe Estes, Secretary
Board of Directors
Palmdale Water District

Approved as to form:


Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
District Legal Counsel