

To: Board of Supervisors

**From: Greg Chanis, Assistant Director
General Services, Support Services Division**

Date: December 15, 2015

RE: CEQA Determination for Santa Barbara County Jail North Branch (SBCJNB); Finding that CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (Addendum) applies to the revised domestic water source/connection point (Case Nos. 07GPA-00000-00011, 08GOV-00000-00004, 07EIR-00000-00003).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 allows an addendum to be prepared when only minor technical changes or additions are necessary and none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 call for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration. This Addendum addresses minor technical changes to potable water source and point of connection for the SBCJNB Project, studied in the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (07EIR-00000-00003, State Clearinghouse No. 2007111099), that are proposed as part of the County's final plans and specifications for the SBCJNB Project. Staff recommends that the combination of the 2008 SEIR and this Addendum be determined to constitute adequate environmental review for the SBCJNB Project.

Location:

The 50-acre project site (APN 113-210-021) is located at the southwest corner of Black and Betteravia Roads within the unincorporated area adjacent to and immediately southwest of the City of Santa Maria limits line. The project is in the Third Supervisorial District.

Background:

On March 11, 2008, the Board of Supervisors certified a Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (2008 SEIR) for the SBCJNB with 808 to 1,520 beds and a reentry facility on a 50-acre site in northern Santa Barbara County. In 2011, the County approved within the SBCJNB a 376-bed detention facility on that 50-acre site, to be funded primarily by State financing via AB900. Two addendums to the 2008 SEIR were considered by the Board on December 6, 2011 and October 8, 2013.

The 2008 SEIR concluded at the maximum 1,520-bed build out, the SBCJNB facility would result in water demand of 207.6 acre-feet/year (AFY), while the water demand for the site's historical agricultural use is approximately 140 AFY, a 67.6 AFY increase in the historic agricultural demand on the 50-acre site. It was not known whether this new water demand would be met by use of State Water through an outside user's agreement with the City of Santa Maria or through extraction of groundwater within the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin (SMVGWB). The 2008 SEIR noted if water to serve the facility was obtained from the City of Santa Maria, build out of the Project, including constructing a water main line point of connection (POC) approximately 8,000 lineal feet east of the site along Betteravia Road, would not result in a significant and unavoidable impact, and the impact would be less than significant. The 2008 SEIR also contained mitigation measures if the Project was unable to be served by water from the City of Santa Maria.

The Project also contemplated recycled water for non-potable uses. The 2008 SEIR studied delivery of recycled water from Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) with underground piping within the Black Road Right-of-Way (ROW), which was determined to be of no significant impact to the environment

primarily because the ground disturbance within the road right-of-way had already occurred as a result of the construction of Black Road. The 2008 SEIR also contained mitigation measures related to infrastructure and growth inducement.

Proposed Project Change - Source of Water and Point of Connection:

After review of utility studies identifying, among other issues, construction costs, user fees, sustainability, and maintenance expenses, the AB900 376-bed facility is proposed to be served by Golden State Water Company (GSWC) for potable water with an estimated demand of 17.5 AFY and LCSD for recycled water and sewer service. Both Golden State Water and the City of Santa Maria serve their constituents with a blend of groundwater drawn from the SMVGWB and State Water obtained from the Central Coast Water Authority. The Project design gains domestic water service from a point of connection approximately 7,520 linear feet to the south along Black Road to the Tanglewood Housing Development at Black Road and Sandlewood. The path of the domestic waterline would parallel, within its own isolated trench in accordance with California Building Codes, the waste water and recycled water lines being constructed to the LCSD facilities.

No other changes are proposed to the Project and the overall scope of the Project remains the same.

Potential Impacts of the Proposed Changes:

In approving the SBCJNB Project the Board of Supervisors certified the Final and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopted Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations relative to the Project's significant and unavoidable effects on Public Services (Solid Waste Generation and Groundwater Demand), Agricultural Resources and Aesthetics/Visual Resources. The Board also found that the Project would have several significant but mitigable impacts and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program with specific measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

The proposed point of connection for GSWC at Black Road and Sandalwood Drive, has been disturbed as part of the construction of Black Road and the Tanglewood housing development. The length of trenching is less than contemplated within the 2008 SEIR and subsequent Addendums and follows the same previously studied POC for LCSD, and therefore, has no greater environmental impact that already certified approval of the path along Betteravia Road ROW. Impacts to public services and growth inducement remain potentially significant but mitigable and the mitigation measures identified in the 2008 SEIR would remain adequate.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

The minor technical change proposed to the Project of connecting to GSWC via the construction of domestic water service line from Betteravia Road to Black Road, would not result in any new or more severe significant environmental effects and would not result in any changes to feasible mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the previously certified SEIR. Therefore, the 2008 SEIR, as amended by this Addendum, may be used to fulfill the environmental review requirements of the current project and pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15164 a subsequent EIR is not required. Discretionary processing of the proposed project utility change may proceed with the understanding that any substantial changes in the proposal may be subject to further environmental review.