

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Coachella Water Authority Chromium-6 Water Treatment Facilities Improvement Project

Project Description:

Coachella Water Authority (CWA) proposes to undertake the Chromium-6 Water Treatment Facilities Improvement project in order to comply with recently passed State of California regulations regarding the permissible level of hexavalent chromium (chromium-6) in drinking water. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set for chromium-6 is 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), which became effective July 1, 2014. CWA operates six groundwater wells for its raw water supply, all of which have chromium-6 concentrations above the newly established MCL.

Two treatment options for chromium-6 removal are being considered by CWA, strong base anion exchange (SBA) and the use of stannous chloride. SBA was originally selected as the preferred technology for chromium-6 removal. Recently, treatment with stannous chloride (SnCl_2) has emerged as an alternative treatment method to remove chromium from the water. CWA is testing stannous chloride as an alternative to the SBA technology.

With implementation of the project, five of the six wells will continue operating, and the sixth well will be taken offline. The five wells will be upgraded with chromium-6 removal treatment technology. Each existing well site contains a well head, pump and piping enclosed within a well house, chlorine dosing building, surge tank and compressor, electrical equipment enclosed within a building or canopy, communications cabinets, underground and overhead utilities, blowoff structure and associated piping, emergency eyewash and/or shower, and security lighting on the buildings.

Under the SBA treatment option, the SBA resin capacity for chromium-6 will periodically diminish, and the resin will require regeneration. The proposed project also includes analysis of the construction of a new CWA resin regeneration facility located on Avenue 52 on CWA property (RRF), or at the current CSD WWTP (CRRF). The resin regeneration process involves ion exchange using sodium chloride (brine) to remove the chromium-6 from the resin beads. Resin regeneration results in a spent brine, which necessitates proper treatment and disposal.

Alternatively, if a stannous chloride treatment approach is deemed feasible, CWA would upgrade the five wells with that technology. The stannous chloride treatment process involves adding stannous chloride to the water, allowing reaction time, removing the tin and chromium particles that remain with a filter. Treatment equipment includes a chemical feed system, reaction tank, and filters. Periodically, particles will accumulate and increase pressure on the filters and the filters would need to be replaced. The stannous chloride process does not require resin regeneration and thus there would be no resin regeneration facilities for this approach.

Comment Period

An Environmental Initial Study recommending the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared and distributed to responsible and trustee agencies for review and comment pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A 30-day

review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence on December 16, 2016, and will end on January 17, 2017, for interested and concerned individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the documents.

The CWA Board will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed project on January 25, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. in the Coachella City Council Chambers, 1515 Sixth Street, Coachella, CA 92236.

Copies of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and all environmental documents are available for review at the Coachella Library and Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Coachella Water Authority located at 53462 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236.

Comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration should be sent to Scott Rogers, Utilities General Manager at 53462 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236, or can be emailed to srogers@coachella.org.

The proposed project sites are not contained on the lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code.