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FEB 09 2016

Notice of Determination

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

Appendix D

BY: NA DEPUTY

TO:

FROM:

Applicant Name: Irvine Ranch Water District

- Office of Planning and Research
- County Clerk

Responsible Agency: Irvine Ranch Water District

County of: Orange
Address: 12 Civic Center Plaza, Rooms 101/106,
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine CA 92618
Contact: Paul Weghorst, Executive Director, Water Policy
Phone: (949) 453-5300

County of: Kern
Address: 1115 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2007041080

Project Title: Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project Final Environmental Impact Report ADDENDUM NO. 2

Project Location (include county): Stockdale Hwy & Enos Lane (Hwy 43), Kern County (Section 2, Township 30 South, Range 25 East)

Project Description: Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) has prepared Addendum No. 2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project. The Final EIR included development of groundwater banking facilities on Strand Ranch for use by IRWD and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, the lead agency. Modifications which are part of Addendum No. 2 include elimination of the restriction of a combined recovery rate of 36 cubic feet per second from both onsite and offsite wells. The modification would not change the annual extraction limit of 17,500 acre-feet per year for IRWD. The modification would allow simultaneous operation of all wells onsite at Strand Ranch and the three offsite wells.

This is to advise that the Irvine Ranch Water District has approved the above described project on Lead Agency or Responsible Agency

February 8, 2016 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described projects.
(Date)

1. The project will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final EIR, Addendum No. 2, and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine CA 92618

Signature (Public Agency) [Signature] Title: Engineering Technician III

Date: February 9, 2016 Date Received filing at OPR: _____

POSTED

FEB 09 2016

Recorded in Official Records, Orange County
Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder



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Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

BY: NA DEPUTY

ADDENDUM NO. 2

Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project Final EIR

1. Introduction

This document is Addendum No. 2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale) and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) for the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project. The Final EIR evaluated the potential environmental effects of the Project, which proposed construction of groundwater banking facilities at Strand Ranch, including recharge basins, conveyance channels, and recovery wells. The Final EIR was certified on May 27, 2008 by Rosedale's Board of Directors, which acted as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (*CEQA Guidelines* (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15300 et. seq.) §15090). The Final EIR was approved on May 27, 2008 by IRWD's Board of Directors, which acted as the Responsible Agency. A Notice of Completion for the Final EIR was filed with the county clerks of both Kern County and Orange County.

IRWD is proposing to make changes to the project description for the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project. Under CEQA, an addendum may be prepared when minor modifications are proposed for a project that has already been approved and when no additional significant environmental impacts would result (*CEQA Guidelines*, §15164, 15162, 15163). This Addendum No. 2 evaluates whether any new significant impacts would result from implementation of the proposed modification.

2. Purpose of Addendum

Under CEQA, the lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously-certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary to the prior EIR, but none of the conditions calling for preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR have occurred (*CEQA Guidelines* §15164). Once an EIR has been certified, a subsequent EIR is only required when the lead agency or responsible agency determines that one of the following conditions has been met:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project, or substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, which require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects (CEQA Guidelines §15162(a)(1), (2));

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- (2) 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 previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following:
- a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - 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 measure 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 (*CEQA Guidelines* §15162(a)(3)).

If one or more of the conditions described above for a subsequent EIR exist, but only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation, then the lead agency may prepare a supplement to an EIR, rather than a subsequent EIR (*CEQA Guidelines* §15163(a)).

CEQA recommends that a brief explanation of the decision to prepare an addendum rather than a subsequent or supplemental EIR be included in the record (*CEQA Guidelines* §15164(e)). This Addendum has been prepared because the proposed modifications to the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project do not meet the conditions for a subsequent or supplemental EIR. This Addendum explains why the proposed modifications would not result in new significant environmental effects or result in a substantial increase in the severity of previously-identified significant effects. There is no new information that would show that the proposed modifications would have new effects or more severe effects on the environment. The proposed modifications would not have any adverse environmental effects and would not change the conclusions of the previously-certified Final EIR.

An addendum does not need to be circulated for public review, but rather can be attached to the final EIR (*CEQA Guidelines* §15164(c)). Prior to initiating the modified Project, the IRWD Board of Directors will consider this Addendum together with the Final EIR and make a decision regarding the modified Project (*CEQA Guidelines* §15164(d)).

3. Integrated Banking Project Overview

Rosedale as the CEQA Lead Agency, in consultation with IRWD as a Responsible Agency, prepared and certified the Final EIR for the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project in 2008. The purpose of the Project was twofold: to augment the recharge and extraction capacity of Rosedale's Groundwater Storage, Banking, Exchange, Extraction and Conjunctive Use Program (Conjunctive Use Program), and to provide water supply reliability and redundancy to IRWD

customers. Rosedale and IRWD proposed to develop groundwater banking facilities on the Strand Ranch for use by both districts. Facilities would be constructed to recharge and recover up to 17,500 acre feet per year (afy) for IRWD. When not in use by IRWD, the facilities could also be used by Rosedale to serve its existing commitments.

Strand Ranch is located in western Kern County, California. Strand Ranch is owned by IRWD and consists of approximately 611 acres of land six miles west of the City of Bakersfield. The Project integrates Strand Ranch into Rosedale's existing Conjunctive Use Program. In accordance with the Project as described in the Final EIR, groundwater banking facilities, including recharge basins, conveyance channels, pipelines and seven recovery wells have been developed on Strand Ranch. In addition, the Project includes up to three additional offsite wells within the Rosedale service area, as shown in Figure 2-4 of the Final EIR; these wells, although not yet built, will provide operational flexibility to achieve the extraction goals of the Project..

The Project provides the flexibility to pump from any combination of the onsite Strand Ranch wells and three offsite wells. Recovery operations from the onsite and offsite wells are limited to a combined rate of 36 cubic feet per second (cfs) with the following exception: Rosedale has the ability to increase the combined rate of recovery to 40 cfs as required to meet mitigation requirements (Final EIR, Page 2-17). As an example, this could occur in response to a request from a neighboring property to limit recovery operations on Strand Ranch to a certain period of time.

4. Proposed Modifications to Project Description

Recovery Facilities

IRWD is proposing to modify the Project to eliminate the restriction of a combined recovery rate of 36 cfs from both onsite and offsite wells. The modification would not change the annual extraction limit of 17,500 afy for IRWD. The modification would allow simultaneous operation of all wells onsite at Strand Ranch and the three offsite wells. This modification will not result in any new potentially significant impacts, and thus this Addendum is being prepared.

5. Analysis of Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Modifications

The proposed modification would not alter the construction or location of any project facilities. Therefore, the proposed modifications would not change the environmental setting, regulatory framework, impact discussion, mitigation measures, or significant conclusions for the following resource areas as currently described in the Final EIR: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils and Mineral Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Land Use, Planning and Recreation; Noise; Transportation and Traffic; and Utilities and Public Services. The proposed modification would only affect the operating criteria for groundwater wells. Thus, the analysis for this Addendum is focused on potential environmental impacts to Hydrology, Groundwater Resources and Water Quality, specifically impacts to groundwater resources associated with operation of recovery facilities.

Hydrology, Groundwater Resources, and Water Quality

Recovery Facilities

The Final EIR analyzes the potential for Project operations to affect groundwater levels at neighboring wells during periods of recovery (Impact 3.8-1). Under Impact 3.8-1, the Final EIR describes the results of groundwater modeling conducted for the Project to assess the potential for operation of the Strand Ranch wells to affect neighboring groundwater extraction wells. The groundwater modeling report includes both a 7-well pumping scenario for wells on Strand Ranch and a 3-well pumping scenario for offsite wells. The modeling assumes individual well capacities of 5 cfs.

The 7-well pumping scenario assumes that pumping occurs continuously over a 250-day period, which is required to achieve the maximum annual production of 17,500 acre-feet. The 7-well scenario concludes that temporary drawdown of between 3 to 29 feet would occur at land sections with neighboring Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA) wells; the highest drawdown potential would occur at two KWBA wells immediately adjacent to the Strand Ranch property.

The 3-well pumping scenario concludes that temporary drawdown of less than one foot would result at neighboring KWBA wells. As a result the Final EIR concludes that, given the average depth of the KWBA wells (900 feet) and the historic groundwater fluctuations in the region (up to 140 feet), the Project's potential to lower water surface elevations by up to 29 feet would not significantly impact the function of neighboring wells.

The proposed modification would allow simultaneous pumping of all onsite Strand Ranch wells and the three offsite wells, eliminating the combined recovery restriction of 36 cfs. This proposed modification is already modeled as part of the Strand Ranch Well Placement and Drawdown Analysis provided in Appendix F of the Final EIR. The analysis includes simultaneous pumping of all wells, represented by both the 7-well pumping scenario and the 3-well pumping scenario. Based on the analysis, Chapter 3.8 of the Final EIR states that:

“Under a scenario of both sets of wells pumping simultaneously, the effect at the KWBA wells due to pumping from the seven Strand Ranch wells and three Rosedale wells would still be within the one to 29 feet range. This small range of impact on water surface elevations on adjacent wells would not result in a loss of the KWBA to perform recharge and recovery options.” (Final EIR, page 3.8-1)

The analysis conducted in the Final EIR therefore supports the proposed modification by IRWD and does not present any new impacts to resources in the project area. Simultaneous pumping of onsite and offsite wells would not result in additional drawdown and would not have additional impacts to neighboring wells.

In addition, as stated in the Final EIR, the temporary impacts to neighboring wells would be subject to the existing commitments and conditions of Rosedale's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with adjoining entities. The MOU provides guidelines for operation and

monitoring of Rosedale’s groundwater banking programs. The MOUs allow for Rosedale to operate its Conjunctive Use Program to achieve maximum water storage and withdrawal benefits, while also avoiding, eliminating, or mitigating adverse impacts to the groundwater basin and to the operation of other groundwater banking programs in the Kern Fan area. Potential mitigation measures are identified in the MOU; and groundwater recovery operations at Strand Ranch would adhere to the requirements of Rosedale’s current MOU.

Since certification of the Final EIR, Rosedale has developed the *Long Term Project Recovery Operations Plan Regarding Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District Projects* (Long Term Operations Plan), which implements the provisions of the MOU and is provided in **Appendix A**. The Project will be operated in accordance with the Long Term Operations Plan, the purpose of which is to designate specific measures to be employed to “prevent, eliminate or mitigate significant adverse impacts” resulting from project operations. A general description of the primary components of the Long Term Operations Plan is as follows:

A. Establish a Protocol for Monitoring and Reporting Groundwater Conditions:

- Conduct monitoring of groundwater conditions during years that recovery is expected from a Rosedale project, in addition to the monitoring conducted by the Kern Fan Monitoring Committee; report current groundwater levels monthly to the Rosedale Board of Directors; and make reports available to the public on Rosedale’s website.
- Regularly update Rosedale’s Groundwater Model to actual conditions; use the Model to predict future groundwater conditions; report modeling results to the Rosedale Board of Directors; and make modeling results available to the public on Rosedale’s web site.
- Recovery in any calendar year shall not commence until the Model has been run for projected operations.

B. Implement Proactive Measures

- Rosedale’s Groundwater Model will be used to predict the contribution of Rosedale’s projects to groundwater level declines in the area. The Model will be used to simulate and compare the No-Project Condition to the Project Condition. The No-Project Condition is the water level that would have been at any particular well location absent the Rosedale project.
- The Model will be periodically run and updated as recovery plans become known or change in any given year.
- The Model will be used to identify a negative project impact (NPI) based on the comparison of No-Project Conditions and Project Conditions, and to identify the wells at risk of impact during recovery operations.

C. Establish Triggers and Mitigation Actions

- Mitigation measures will be implemented when a NPI is triggered in years when average water levels at specified wells¹ are more than 140 feet from the surface as measured on March 31 each year. It is expected that water levels will not decline to an extent resulting in a NPI when water levels are less than 140 feet from the surface.
- A NPI is triggered when the Model results predict that groundwater levels under Project Conditions are 30 feet deeper than No-Project Conditions at a nearby existing and operative well, and the well has (or is expected to) experience mechanical failure or other operational problems due to declining water levels. Given historical fluctuations in groundwater levels in the area when other nearby groundwater banking projects are recovering, it is expected that additional declines attributable to the proposed project beyond historic low groundwater levels could result in operational problems at some existing wells.
- Agricultural Wells. The following measures would be implemented when a NPI is triggered for an operational agricultural well:
 - When the Model predicts a NPI outside the current operating range of the pump but within the potential operating range of the well, then Rosedale will provide compensation to lower the well pump to meet the landowner's needs.
 - When the Model predicts a NPI outside the current and potential operating range of the well, then Rosedale will supply an equivalent water supply to the affected landowner from an alternate source at no greater cost; provide other acceptable mitigation to the landowner; or reduce or adjust pumping as necessary to prevent, avoid, or eliminate the NPI.
- Domestic Wells. The following measures would be implemented when a NPI is triggered for a domestic well:
 - When the Model predicts a NPI such that production ceases or is likely to cease, then Rosedale will provide compensation to implement one of the following: lower the domestic submersible pump bowl setting sufficient to restore and maintain service; provide a one-time permanent connection to the nearest water service provider; or drill and equip a new domestic well. If necessary, Rosedale will provide interim in-home water supplies until one of these actions is completed.

The Long Term Operations Plan is new information that was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR was certified. However, this new information does not result in new significant environmental effects or more severe significant environmental effects. Rather this new information implements the commitments in the MOU and provides additional specificity in the form of triggers and mitigation actions for Project-related effects to neighboring wells.

¹ Wells 29S/25E-27N1&2, 29S/25E-25M1&2, 29S/26E-31H1&2, and 29S/25E-35G01 are the wells that will be used to monitor groundwater levels. These wells have been determined to be best suited for detecting fluctuations in groundwater levels due to project operations.

Cumulative Impacts

The Final EIR concluded that the Project would have no long-term cumulative impacts to groundwater resources (Chapter 4.0). The proposed modifications would not change the conclusions of the Final EIR. There would be no cumulatively considerable impacts to groundwater associated with the proposed modifications based on the technical analysis provided in the Strand Ranch Well Placement and Drawdown Analysis, Appendix F in the Final EIR.

7. Conclusions

Section 15164(a) of the *Guidelines* states the following:

“The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a Subsequent EIR have occurred.”

The proposed modifications to the original Project would not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Furthermore, new information associated with the proposed modifications does not indicate that the Project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the certified EIR; that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the certified EIR; that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible; or that mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the certified EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment. Accordingly, an addendum was prepared as opposed to a negative declaration or a subsequent environmental impact report. Rosedale and IRWD are issuing this Addendum in accordance with the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Section 15164).