

EXHIBIT 14-A

FINDINGS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW LOS PADRES DAM GRAVEL AUGMENTATION PROGRAM

- 1) FINDING:** The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District) Board certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Water Allocation Program on November 5, 1990.

EVIDENCE: The EIR is on file in the District office.
- 2) FINDING:** On November 5, 1990 the District Board adopted findings which included the mitigation measures described in planning document titled, Five-Year Mitigation Program for Option V -- 16,700 acre-feet (af) Cal-Am Production.

EVIDENCE: The Mitigation Plan is on file in the District office.
- 3) FINDING:** Since 1993 and as part of the Mitigation Program, the District has carried out periodic gravel augmentation projects downstream of Los Padres Dam to improve spawning habitat for South-Central California Coast (S-CCC) steelhead.

EVIDENCE: Final Evaluation of MPWMD Five-Year Mitigation Program, 1991-1996 on file in the District office; Summary Report, California Coastal Salmon Recovery Program, Agreement No. P0085021, Carmel River Spawning Gravel Injection Project, April 8, 2003; Steelhead Spawning Gravel Enhancement – Below Los Padres Dam, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) - # P1240401,01, Beverly Chaney, Associate Fisheries Biologist, MPWMD, Final Project Report, March 31, 2017.
- 4) FINDING:** The District has documented significant downstream movement of spawning gravel material placed downstream of Los Padres Dam since 2014.

EVIDENCE: The above-referenced project report # P1240401,01, March 31, 2017.
- 5) FINDING:** California American Water has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) effective January 10, 2018 (MOA) that, among other things, provides for interim gravel replenishment below Los Padres Dam to maintain spawning gravels downstream of Los Padres Dam pending a determination about the future of the dam.

EVIDENCE: The MOA is on file at the District office.
- 6) FINDING:** There is a need to continue to augment spawning gravel in the Carmel River downstream of Los Padres Dam, such as with the Los Padres Gravel Augmentation Program.

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EVIDENCE: The above stated facts.

- 7) **FINDING:** The District followed the Negative Declaration Process outlined in Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The District Board judges that an EIR for the project is unnecessary.

EVIDENCE: a) The District published a Public Notice of the Initial Study and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration on September 30, 2016 in the Monterey Herald;

b) Following receipt of the Initial Study and a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the State Clearinghouse in the Governors' Office of Planning and Research and the State Clearinghouse posted SCH Number 2018051022 and set a review and comment period from May 14, 2018 through June 12, 2018. The notice can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ceqanet.ca.gov/DocDescription.asp?DocPK=725974>

c) The District received no comment letters on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.

d) The Draft Findings, Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Responses to Comments, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program were reviewed by the District Board of Directors in a Public Hearing on July 16, 2018.

The foregoing evidence is on the District web site at: <http://www.mpwmd.net/> and is on file at the District Office, 5 Harris Court, Bldg. G, Monterey, CA.

- 8) **FINDING:** Based on results of a similar project at the site, an initial environmental study, and consideration of comments received to date, the District finds that the proposed project could result in several environmental impacts.

EVIDENCE: The District has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that includes identification of potential impacts. This information is available on the District web site and at the District Office 5 Harris Court, Bldg. G, Monterey, CA 93940.

- 9) **FINDING:** The District finds that although the proposed project may affect the environment, specific measures will be included to mitigate the effects to a less than significant level.

EVIDENCE: Potential impacts from the project are described in the IS/MND and mitigation measures are specified in that document.

- 10) **FINDING:** The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15070 to 15075, and Sections 15097 and 15105;

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EVIDENCE: The preparation, circulation, and public review of the initial study outlining the environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures included in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

- 11) **FINDING:** The Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgement of the District Board and each participating Director has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and related documents prior to making the decision on the Los Padres Dam Gravel Augmentation Program.

EVIDENCE: As evidenced by the July 16, 2018 Board meeting Packet, each member of the Board received a copy of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, a copy of the District response letters to comments received.

- 12) **FINDING:** The District proposes to carry out removal of an abandoned Alaskan steppass ladder within the footprint of the project that was not described in the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration;

EVIDENCE: Information presented in the July 16, 2018 MPWMD Board meeting packet for adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

- 13) **FINDING:** The District finds under CEQA Sections 15162 and 15164 that there will be no new and significant impacts from removal of the steppass ladder that have not already been considered, that no additional mitigation measures are necessary to carry out the work, and that an Addendum should be prepared;

EVIDENCE: Information presented in the July 16, 2018 MPWMD Board meeting packet for adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

- 14) **FINDING:** The District finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum is substantively adequate. The District finds that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed Los Padres Dam Gravel Augmentation Program will cause a significant effect for the reason that the project shall be constructed together with the specified mitigation measures, and these measures shall avoid any significant environmental effect.

EVIDENCE: The above stated facts.