

# OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1596

PATTERSON, CA 95363

Date: June 14, 2019

To: Board of Directors – Western Hills Water District

RE: Request to Utilize California Aqueduct Delivery Turnout and Pipeline to serve Oak Flat Water District Parcel 025-006-064

## **BACKGROUND:**

Stanislaus County APN 025-006-064 (18 acres) has a full contract allotment of 50 acre-feet from the State Water Project (SWP) under the water service contract between the State of California and Oak Flat Water District. The parcel was last harvested in 2017; The almond orchard has since been pulled out due to lack of production and decreased ability to receive water. In the past, water deliveries to the parcel were made by perfecting inter-district transfers between Oak Flat WD and neighboring Del Puerto WD utilizing various delivery methods. While workable, these methods have many variables and do not ensure that the current Landowner or any future Landowner of the parcel will be able to reliably receive delivery of the SWP supplies available to the parcel from the CA Aqueduct. Landowners are charged and billed for Oak Flat Water District's allotment whether they are able to utilize it or not, as most of the costs paid to DWR for Table A supply are fixed in nature.

OFWD has a responsibility to make water available to the landowner for use and has worked with the Landowner to investigate a reliable option to supply water to this parcel using the SWP facilities. One alternative investigated was accessing the existing OF turnout A, approximately 300 yards upstream of the parcel. Investigations ceased when the Department of Water Resources (DWR) wouldn't allow installation of the pipeline in their right of way and the landowner would have no way of feasibly crossing the creek otherwise. The second alternative was investigating the possibility of using groundwater to supply the field. Initial analysis showed little promise of water and any water that was accessible would be in low quantities and poor quality, as is typical the closer a well gets to the foothills. In addition, as all water agencies are preparing to address the requirements of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), reliance solely on groundwater for any operation that cannot show conjunctive use of surface supplies is not a feasible alternative. Given these circumstances, Oak Flat Water District respectfully requests that the Western Hills WD Board of Directors consider a proposal to perfect the construction of facilities and the agreement(s), at OFWD's sole cost and expense, necessary to allow utilization of WHWD's existing Ca Aqueduct turnout and delivery pipeline to reliably ensure that OFWD can provide service to the parcel.

**FACILITIES:** The proposed plan detailed in attachment A would include a 6" steel pipe with a screen and check valve installed in the existing wet well within the WHWD fenced property. The 6" steel pipe would come out of the wet well above ground and through the fence to the landowner's property.

From there the water would be pumped through a series of manual shutoff valves, check valves, and flow meter devices to the landowner's filtering/chemigation stations. The series of check valves ensures that no water would be able to backflow from the landowner's system to the wet well. If there was a catastrophic failure of all of these devices, the pump and piping set up would prevent a siphon from occurring and potentially discharging to the wet well. The McCrometer magnetic flow meter upstream of the filter station would ensure highly accurate volumetric flow measurements that would be distributed to DWR for accurate billing of the landowner and WHWD.

The only infrastructure located within the WHWD fenced property would include the screen and check valve in the wet well and the 6" steel pipe. It is unlikely that any access would be needed beyond initial installation for operations and maintenance of the landowner's facilities since the pumps and electrical components would be located on the landowner's property.

The system would be designed for approximately 350 gpm or less than 1 cfs. These low flows would prevent the landowner's operations from impacting the water level in the wet well to an extent that would impact operations of the WHWD operations. Operations would occur during typical agricultural operating scenarios, March through October with occasional use outside this time period during dry winters.

Oak Flat WD will remain responsible for the development and costs of any required environmental documentation associated with the proposed connection to the WHWD facilities.

**AGREEMENTS:** It is contemplated that Oak Flat WD will need to perfect the addition of the Western Hills turnout as a delivery point for the chargeable AF delivered each month to the Oak Flat parcel and reported as used from the Oak Flat contract for SWP supply. It is also anticipated that Oak Flat WD and Western Hills WD will need some sort of O&M Agreement for use of the WHWD facilities up to the point of delivery to the parcel. If the connection is approved in concept by the WHWD Board, OFWD management will work with its counsel and the authorities at the State Water Project Analysis Office (SWPAO) to develop the actual list of agreement(s) and approvals needed.

**CONCLUSION:** The Oak Flat Water District appreciates the time and consideration of the WHWD Board in considering this request and supporting Oak Flat's effort to secure long-term delivery reliability for the water supply available to the current or future landowner's of this parcel. Any questions regarding this request can be directed to Oak Flat WD at 209-892-4470.

Respectfully,

Anthea G. Hansen

GENERAL MANAGER

OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT