

EXHIBIT 4

COUNTY RESPONSES TO CEQA COMMENTS

The responses below correspond to the comments received in the comment letters/emails. Each response begins with a brief summary of the comment, responds to the comment, and then identifies if revisions to the Draft Initial Study are required. In this case, no revisions to the draft Initial Study are required. The Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is attached as **Exhibit 1** and the comments are attached as **Exhibit 3** to the May 2, 2023, staff report to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

In responding to comments, CEQA does not require a Lead Agency to conduct every test or perform all research, study or experimentation recommended or demanded by a commenter. Rather, a Lead Agency need only respond to significant environmental issues and does not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, so long as a good faith effort at full disclosure of environmental impacts is made in the Initial Study (CEQA Guideline Sections 15073 and 15204).

Additionally, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15073(e), the County provided notice of the public hearing to those public agencies that submitted comments on the draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (i.e., MBARD and SWRCB).

Response to Comment Letter (Emails) 1 – Jonathan Weininger, Monterey District Engineer, California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The commenter, in general, asked questions about the scope of the project and the current and proposed uses for the infrastructure. Staff responses to the queries are included. The comments are not about the adequacy of the Initial Study or the CEQA process, do not alter the conclusions in the draft Initial Study, and no revisions to the draft Initial Study are necessary in response to the comments.

Response to Comment Letter (Emails) 2 – Michael Weaver

The commenter, in general, asked questions about the scope of and need for the project. Staff responses to the queries are included. The comments are not about the adequacy of the Initial Study or the CEQA process, do not alter the conclusions in the draft Initial Study, and no revisions to the draft Initial Study are necessary in response to the comments.

Response to Comment Letter 3 – Edward Ballaron, Air Quality Planner, Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD)

The commenter submitted comments regarding air quality and hazardous materials. As proposed and analyzed, the project would have less than significant impacts related to air quality and hazardous materials and additional measures would not be required. The comments are not about the adequacy of the Initial Study or the CEQA process, do not alter the conclusions in the draft Initial Study, and no revisions to the draft Initial Study are necessary in response to the comments.

Response to Comment Letter 4 – Brenda Granillo, District Manager, California Water Service Company (Cal Water)

The commenter, in general, requests the County coordinate with Cal Water to amend an operation and maintenance agreement regarding use of the existing well. The letter also confirms Cal Water's support for the project and intent to continue to provide potable water to Toro Regional Park. The comments are not about the adequacy of the draft Initial Study or the CEQA process, do not alter the conclusions in the draft Initial Study, and no revisions to the draft Initial Study are necessary in response to the comments.

///// END OF RESPONSES TO CEQA COMMENTS /////