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Approval of the transfer could likely place this project on the list of projects under the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) or the Water and Wastewater Facilities Grant program. Although, these programs have extensive criteria before a project can be funded. A key consideration in these projects is not simply the construction of a facility, but the technical, managerial and financial capacity of the operator. The criteria help decision makers understand not only the technical problems of community utility systems, but are designed to ensure the operators are capable of effectively managing the system. The Department of Environment works with public water and wastewater facility to develop this capacity on operators.

However, the Environment Departments states concern about the approval of the land transfer before the approval of a facility use plan arguing that without the plan, it is difficult to make any assumptions about the availability of federal or state funds for this project or the adequacy of the land in question for a wastewater facility and constructed wetlands. Both the Environment Department and Office of the State Engineer will be required to approve the required permits to the proposed facility.

The Environment Department suggest that the fourth paragraph be amended to include the “the water and waste management division and the administrative services division of the environment department”. These divisions manage the CWSRF and the water and wastewater facilities grant funding programs.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SJR 19 does not carry an appropriation, but would have a fiscal impact on the state agencies involved as well as the local or county government that will spearhead the project.

MFV/ar