

January 3, 2025

Attn: Diana O'Brien City of Isleton, City Clerk 101 Second Street Isleton, CA 95641

RE: Request for Comment, Condition Use Permit Application CUP 02-24: Expansion of a pallet manufacturing operation and storage facility.

Dear City Clerk,

California American Water appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the pallet manufacturing and storage facility at 401 6th and J Street (CUP 02-24). We share the City of Isleton's goal of fostering a thriving industrial sector while ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Our primary concern regarding this project relates to fire safety. The proposed expansion sits in close proximity to California American Water's Isleton water treatment facility, a critical piece of infrastructure responsible for delivering safe drinking water to Isleton residents.

We have observed the stacking of flammable wooden pallets and cardboard very close to our neighboring site, often on dried grass. This raises significant fire safety concerns. A fire at the pallet facility could quickly spread, potentially impacting our water treatment operations and jeopardizing the community's access to clean drinking water.

To mitigate these concerns, we urge the City to consider the following:

- **Fire Safety Buffer Zone:** Establish a fire safety buffer zone between the pallet storage area and the water treatment facility. This zone should be clear of all flammable materials and maintained with fire-resistant landscaping.
- Storage Practices: Require the applicant to implement safe storage practices, including paving and mitigating flammable object on dry brush exposed to elements, proper stacking techniques and maintaining adequate space between pallets and other combustible materials.
- **Fire Suppression Measures:** Ensure the applicant has a comprehensive fire suppression plan in place.

California American Water supports responsible industrial development in Isleton. However, we believe the proposed project requires careful consideration of potential fire hazards. We urge the City to prioritize public safety and incorporate the recommended measures into the final project design. We are available to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on solutions that ensure both a thriving industrial sector and a safe community.

Sincerely,

Audie Foster

Director of Operations, Northern Division

California American Water

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