



OFFICE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements to East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority in California for 4" Pressure Reducing Valves for the East County Advanced Water Purification Project (WIFIA – N19141CA)

FROM: Andrew D. Sawyers, Director

**ANDREW
SAWYERS**

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ANDREW SAWYERS
Date: 2026.10.07
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Decision: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby granting a project waiver pursuant to the "American Iron and Steel" (AIS) requirements of 33 U.S.C. § 3914 under the authority of 33 U.S.C. § 3914(c)(2) to the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority, California (Applicant) for 4" pressure reducing valves. This waiver permits the use of this product, produced outside the United States, and in the specific size requested, at the East County Advanced Water Purification Project (Project) because there are no known domestic manufacturers that produce alternatives in sufficient and reasonably available quantities meeting the Project's technical specifications for the product.

This is a product-specific waiver and only applies to the use of the specified products for the proposed Project funded by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). Any other jurisdiction with projects funded by either WIFIA, the State Revolving Funds (SRFs), or the Community Grants Program that wishes to use the same products must apply for a separate waiver.

Rationale: According to WIFIA at 33 U.S.C. § 3914, WIFIA loan recipients must use specific domestic iron and steel products that are produced in the United States. The EPA has the authority to determine whether it is necessary to waive this requirement based on certain circumstances set forth in 33 U.S.C. § 3914(c)(2). The applicable provision states that the requirements shall not apply: "in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator [of the Environmental Protection Agency] finds that . . . iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality."

Background of Waiver Request: The Applicant provided information to the EPA asserting that there are no domestic manufacturers producing 4" pressure reducing valves in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The 4" pressure reducing valves will be used in the generator area of the facility and installed at the inlet of an electric generator to reduce the pressure of the incoming upgraded biogas for the purpose of electricity generation.

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research and a public comment period on the supply and availability of 4" pressure reducing valves. The basis of evaluation included thorough review of the waiver request submission, examination of domestic manufacturer catalogs or other

technical data and marketing materials, personal communication with domestic manufacturers, inquiries of state staff, and outreach to contractors and engineers with expertise and familiarity with the Project. For market research, the EPA contacted ten (10) manufacturers or suppliers. None responded indicating they had potential domestic alternatives satisfying the technical specifications for the Project. The EPA also posted the waiver request for a 15-day public comment period. The EPA received no (zero) public comments to the waiver request. Therefore, the EPA agrees with the assessment that no domestic manufacturers produce 4" pressure reducing valves meeting the Project's technical specifications for the product.

Finding: Since the Applicant established a proper basis to specify the 4" pressure reducing valves required for the Project, and because the EPA substantiated the Applicant's claim that these products are not produced or readily available from a manufacturer in the United States, the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority, California is hereby granted a waiver from the AIS requirements for these products for the East County Advanced Water Purification Project. This waiver permits the purchase of the specified products as documented in the Applicant's waiver request submittal to WIFIA, dated July 23rd, 2026.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Samuel Ramsland, Environmental Engineer, WIFIA Program, at ramsland.samuel@epa.gov.