



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B2/32/1027/22
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001090/2022
ENQUIRIES: Bernadette Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: 17 February 2023

The Board of Directors
Tsalta Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
PO Box 85
DE DOORNS
6875

Attention: Mr R Rabie

Tel: (023) 356 2472
E-mail: tsalta@hexvallei.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSALTA DAM AND THE REMOVAL OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON PORTIONS 10 AND 11 OF FARM MATROOS BERG NO. 57 AND PORTION 28 OF FARM LEMOEN BULT NO. 65, WORCESTER.

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation (“EA”), together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties (“I&APs”) are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached EA.

Yours faithfully

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Cc: (1) Ms Susan de Kock (The Eco Balance Planning Co.)
(2) Mr J Steyn (Breede-Valley Municipality)
(3) Mr Rudolph Röscher (Department of Agriculture)
(4) Ms Elkerine Rossouw (BGCMA)

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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSALTA DAM AND THE REMOVAL OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON PORTIONS 10 AND 11 OF FARM MATROOS BERG NO. 57 AND PORTION 28 OF FARM LEMOEN BULT NO. 65, WORCESTER.

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014, the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the preferred dam layout and design alternative and the preferred cultivation area alternative described in the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Report, dated 17 October 2022.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Tsalta Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr R Rabie
PO Box 85
DE DOORNS
6875
Tel: (023) 356 2472
E-mail: tsalta@hexvallei.co.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as “**the holder**”.

B. ACTIVITY AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 12 <i>The development of—</i> <i>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</i> (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; <i>where such development occurs—</i> (a) within a watercourse; <i>(b) in front of a development setback; or</i> (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; — <i>excluding—</i> <i>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</i> <i>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</i> <i>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</i> <i>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</i> <i>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway lines; or</i> <i>(ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</i></p>	<p>The Tsalta dam and connection pipeline will be located within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 13 <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams</i></p>	<p>The Tsalta Dam is an off-stream dam with a storage capacity of 102 000m³.</p>

<p>and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic metres or more, unless such storage falls within the ambit of activity 16 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014.</p>	
<p>Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 27 <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</i> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>1,2ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 2 – Activity Number: 16 <i>The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the highwater mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.</i></p>	<p>The dam will have a wall height of 9.5m.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 – Activity Number: 12 The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>(i) Western Cape:</p> <p>I. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>II. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>More than 300m² of Breede Alluvium Fynbos vegetation, which is classified as an endangered ecosystem will be cleared.</p>

<p>III. <i>Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line or even in urban areas;</i></p> <p>IV. <i>On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</i></p> <p>V. <i>On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.</i></p>	
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The abovementioned activities are hereinafter referred to as **“the listed activities”**.

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative as it relates to the listed activities:

The proposed development will entail the development of a dam, a pipeline and the clearance of indigenous vegetation on Portions 10 and 11 of Farm Matroos Berg No. 57 and Portion 28 of Farm Lemoen Bult No. 65, Worcester. The dam will have a storage capacity of 102 000m³, a wall height of 9.5m and a full supply level area of 2ha. A portion of the proposed dam will be located within 32m of a watercourse. An area of approximately 1.2ha will be cleared of indigenous vegetation for the cultivation of table grapes. The pipeline will have a diameter of 200mm and a length of approximately 480m. The pipeline will cross the Sand River, with the pipeline being fixed/bolted onto the existing concrete drift. Gabions will be installed at the flanks to prevent erosion. The rest of the pipeline will be burrowed within a trench underneath an existing road.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Portions 10 and 11 of Farm Matroos Berg No. 57 and Portion 28 of Farm Lemoen Bult No. 65, Worcester and has the following co-ordinates:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Co-ordinates of Tsalta Dam centre point:	33° 25' 21.85" South	19° 41' 31.22" East
Co-ordinates of Cultivation Area centre point:	33° 25' 17.62" South	19° 41' 34.11" East

Co-ordinates of Connection pipeline start point:	33° 25' 25.83" South	19° 41' 29.13" East
Co-ordinates of Connection pipeline middle point:	33° 25' 32.60" South	19° 41' 31.32" East
Co-ordinates of Connection pipeline end point:	33° 25' 37.84" South	19° 41' 33.96" East

The SG digit codes are: C085 0000 00000057 00010
C085 0000 00000057 00011
C085 0000 00000065 00028

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

The ECO Balance Planning Co.
Ms Susan de Kock
PO Box 1593
UPINGTON
8800
Cell: (087) 234 3434
Email: susandekock@oranjenet.net

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the Preferred Alternative described in the EIA Report dated 17 October 2022.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on the site within a period of **five years** from the date issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be concluded within **ten years** from the date of commencement of the listed activities.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before

such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.

- 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
- 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8 and 11

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–

- 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
- 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 detailed in Section G below;
- 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
- 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder,
 - 7.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered

I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations.

8. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The draft or Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained herein. The ECO must conduct monthly site visits and must submit ECO reports on a monthly basis to the competent authority.
12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request, including a publicly accessible website.
13. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person (other than the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner or Environmental Control Officer) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The holder must undertake an environmental audit and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Competent Authority within three (3) months of commencement of the proposed development.

A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted within three (3) months of the completion of the proposed activity.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of each of the above-mentioned reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

Specific Conditions

15. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

16. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with a listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental

Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.

4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations 2014 or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014.

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision. -
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding

statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.

4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs
and Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DATE OF DECISION: 17 FEBRUARY 2023

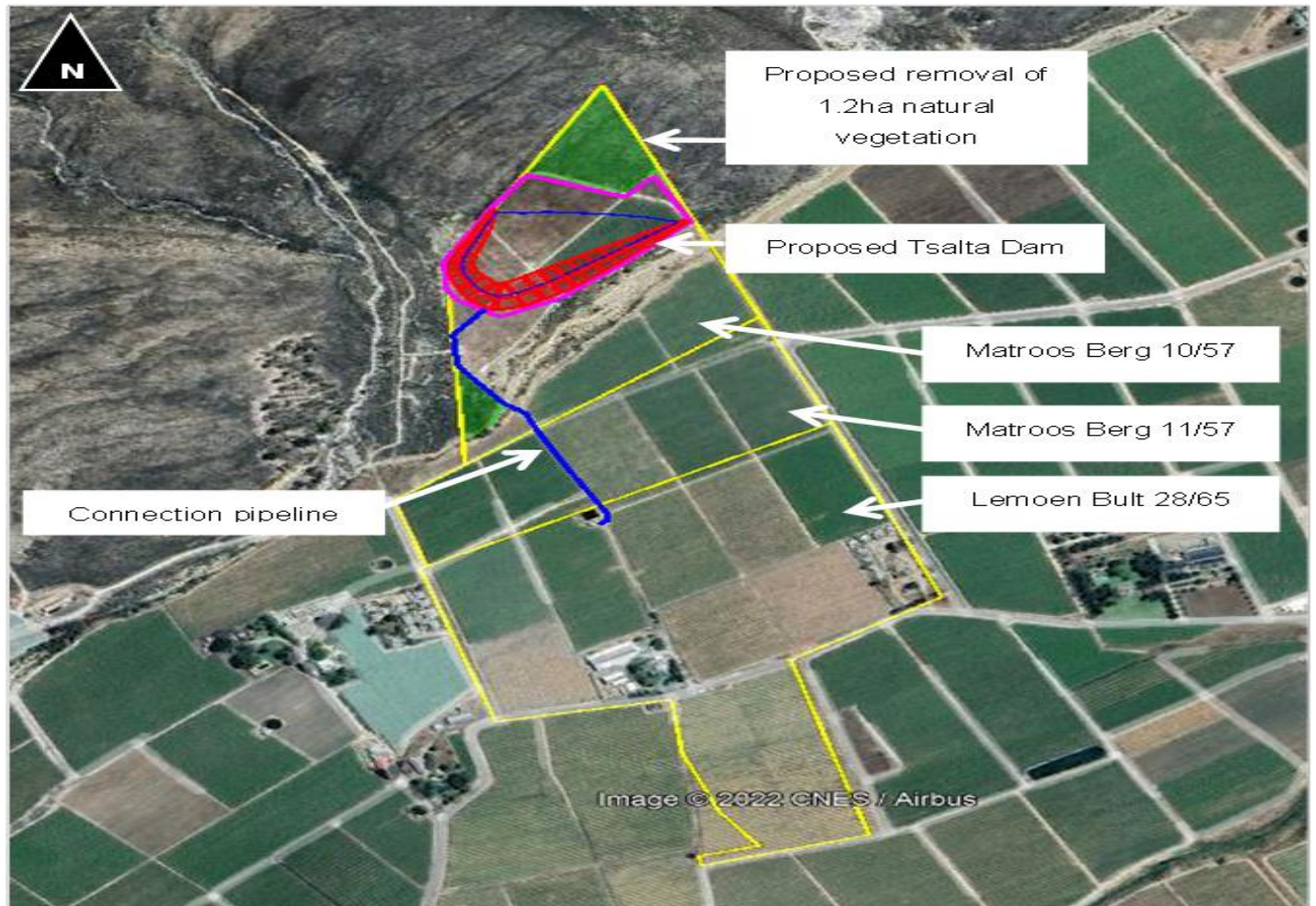
Cc: (1) Ms Susan de Kock (The Eco Balance Planning Co.)
(2) Mr J Steyn (Breede-Valley Municipality)
(3) Mr Rudolph Röscher (Department of Agriculture)
(4) Ms Elkerine Rossouw (BGCMA)

E-mail: susandekock@oranjenet.net
E-mail: jsteyn@bvm.gov.za
E-mail: RudolphR@elsenburg.com
E-mail: erossouw@bgcma.co.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 9 May 2022, the final Scoping Report received by the Department on 13 June 2022, the EMPr submitted together with the final EIA Report dated 17 October 2022;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the EIA Report dated 17 October 2022; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- fixing a notice board at the entrance of the site and at a shop close the site on 8 March 2022;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 8 March 2022;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Worcester Standard' on 10 March 2022;
- making the pre-application Draft Scoping Report available for a 30day commenting period from 11 April 2022;
- making the in-process Draft Scoping Report available for a 30day commenting period from 10 June 2022; and
- making the in-process Draft EIA Report available for a 30day commenting period from 14 October 2022.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

Layout and design alternatives

Twelve dam layout and design alternatives were considered which entailed various dam sizes and wall heights. Dam layout and design alternative 12 was preferred (herewith authorised).

This alternative entails the construction of a dam with a storage capacity of 102 000m³, a wall height of 9.5m and a full supply level area of 2ha. This alternative is located entirely on Portion 10 of Farm Matroos Berg No. 57.

This alternative was preferred since it is not located on land that has different ownership. It was also preferred from a botanical perspective since the development footprint of the dam is entirely within a table grape orchard with no remaining natural vegetation.

Cultivation area Alternative 1 (preferred and herewith authorised)

This alternative entails the clearance of 1.2ha of indigenous vegetation for the cultivation of table grapes on Portion 10 Farm Matroos Berg No. 57. This alternative was preferred since it is not located on land that has different ownership.

Cultivation area Alternative 2

This alternative entails the clearance of 2.3ha of indigenous vegetation for the cultivation of table grapes on Portion 8 of Farm Matroos Berg No. 57. This alternative was not preferred since the property has different ownership and would require consent from the landowner and is located within close proximity to a watercourse.

The No-go alternative

The No-Go option would entail continuing with the *status quo*. This alternative was not preferred since the Tsalta dam will secure a reliable water source for the existing table grape cultivation. It will also result in efficient irrigation and successful cultivation of long-term agricultural crops (table grapes) without any periods of irrigation interruption due to low rainfall and subsequent droughts. The *status quo* will also not provide an opportunity to increase the economic viability of the farm.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity need and desirability

The site is zoned as "Agriculture" and the proposed activity is permitted in terms of the land use rights of the property. The dam will store water in accordance with the Existing Lawful Water Use rights, which will increase the financial viability of the farm and ensure employment security. The development will allow for the efficient storage of water on the farm, thereby safeguarding the water supply for the irrigation of crops on the property. The development will also provide access to irrigation water during summer months when water sources are most stressed.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

According to the Botanical Impact Assessment (dated 30 May 2019, compiled by Nick Helme Botanical Surveys), the original natural vegetation in the study area is primarily South Hex Sandstone Fynbos (Least Threatened), however, there are also a few elements of Breede Alluvium Fynbos (Endangered). No species of conservation concern were recorded on the proposed site. The vegetation is regarded to be of medium sensitivity and importance from a botanical perspective. The overall significance of the potential botanical impacts associated with the proposed development is expected to be of low to medium negative significance after mitigation.

According to Freshwater Impact Assessment (dated August 2020, compiled by BlueScience), the watercourses present on the site consists of the Sand River and the Alfons Stream that have been moderately to largely modified and are of moderate ecological importance and sensitivity due to channel modification and vegetation removal at the site. The proposed dam is an off-channel dam that is unlikely to impact on flow in the adjacent aquatic features. Furthermore, it is unlikely that there will be a disturbance of aquatic habitat, during and after the construction activities, that is associated with the proposed dam. Limited disturbance of aquatic habitat associated with the proposed pipeline is expected as the pipeline will be fixed/bolted onto the existing concrete drift. In light of the above, the specialist regards the impacts associated with the development within 32m of a watercourse as being of very low negative significance provided that all the mitigation measures as included in the specialist report be implemented.

Negative Impacts:

- Loss of indigenous vegetation

Positive impacts:

- The development will allow for the efficient storage of water, thereby safeguarding the water supply for the irrigation of crops on the property.
- The development will provide access to irrigation water during the dry summer months and will contribute to the agricultural potential of the property.
- The development will secure existing employment and will also provide additional employment opportunities to the local community.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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