



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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**PROJECTS & FACILITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Teleconference Meeting**

Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Not Present
Mary Bannister, Director, Chair	Sam Cooley, Vice Chair
Amy Newell, Director	
Stephen Rider, Director	
Rosemarie Imazio	
Jonathan Pilch	
Frank Capurro	
Staff & Other Attendees	
Brian Lockwood, General Manager (GM)	Shinehah Bigham, Water System Operator (WSO)
Casey Meusel, Associate Hydrologist (AH)	Joel Casagrande, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
John Fio, EKI Environment & Water	Martin Feeney, PG, CHg, Consultant
Joe Oliver, Consultant	

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Chair Bannister called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- 2. Public and Member comments.** None.
- 3. Consider Approval of August 25, 2021 Projects and Facility Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.** Director Newell moved to approve the August 25, 2021 minutes; Committee Member Imazio seconded. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Bannister, Newell, Rider, Imazio, Pilch
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Cooley

- 4. Receive Projects and Programs Update.**
 - a. College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.** GM Lockwood reported the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is focusing all resources on the drought emergency and final approval of the project water-right permit is still pending and will occur as soon as possible. He shared that the 100% design plans for the weir structure, pump station,

water treatment plant, and fish passage are to be complete later this year and the 60% design plans for the College Lake Pipeline in the coming weeks. Work concurrently continues on property procurement, environmental, and site-access agreement tasks. GM Lockwood reported that the fourth Adaptive Management Plan Committee meeting will be November 10 and the project team is working to incorporate feedback received at the third meeting and written comments into the working draft of the plan.

b. Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery Projects. GM

Lockwood reported that the State Water Board accepted the Struve Slough water-right application and requested supplemental information. Under the guidance of the State Water Board, PV Water prepared and recently filed a release of priority from a 1958 state water-right filing to prevent any future conflict with the Struve Slough water-right permit.

- i. **Presentation on Recharge & Recovery Investigation.** GM Lockwood provided a summary of past studies and projects that have improved the understanding and performance of recharge and recovery operations. John Fio of EKI Environment & Water then summarized recent updates to the Harkins Slough Facility groundwater model and the results of model simulations. He concluded by outlining proposed strategies to further improve project yield and the understanding of the gravel layer in the shallow aquifer. Proposed next steps include testing the additional pumping capacity of recovery wells; constructing monitoring wells screened solely in the gravel layer; and potential conversion of the proposed monitoring wells to recovery wells after monitoring is complete. Following roundtable discussion, Director Newell made a motion to recommend moving forward with the proposed next steps to expand output of existing wells, construct monitoring wells, and potentially convert monitoring wells to recovery wells; Committee Member Imazio seconded. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Bannister, Newell, Rider, Imazio, Pilch

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cooley

- c. **Recycled Water Facility Improvements Project.** GM Lockwood reported that the post construction inspection is complete, the final report was accepted, and staff are working through remaining punch-list items. He shared that staff from PV Water, the City of Watsonville, and Carollo Engineers will meet tomorrow as part of the Recycled Water Facility Reliability Study aiming to improve the efficiency and reliability of recycled water treatment. GM Lockwood informed the Committee that following consultation with engineers, the project to equip the second UV train is likely to proceed and will be brought to the Board for consideration.

- d. **Pajaro Valley Sustainable Groundwater Planning Project (SGMA 5-Yr Update)** GM Lockwood reported that draft Basin Management Plan: Groundwater Sustainability Update 2022 (GSU22) was published on September 21. He summarized the schedule for receiving comments and noted that the draft GSU22 and will be presented as an informational item at the October 20 Board meeting and will be considered for approval at the November 17 meeting. A community meeting summarizing the draft GSU22 was held last night for interested parties.

- 5. Receive Facility Operations Report.** WSO Bigham reported that approximately 658 acre-feet of water was delivered to customers in August and would have been greater without the failure of Blend Well 1 (BW1) and periodic reduced recycled water flows due to UV transmittance issues. In September, the UV transmittance issues improved significantly because of recommendations from the ongoing Recycled Water Facility Reliability Study. WSO Bigham estimates approximately 550 acre-feet of delivered water will be distributed in September. BW1 is back in service following the emergency repairs however the variable frequency drive should be considered for replacement once the lease for BW1 is renewed.
- 6. Discuss High Demand Operational Strategies.** WSO Bigham reported that PV Water will be hosting an in-person grower meeting November 4 and to discuss the proposed strategy that would allocate available delivered water during periods of high demand proportional to the area served of all customers receiving delivered water. She noted that staff have performed a spreadsheet analysis of the proposed method to support the discussion.
- 7. Discuss Future Agenda Items.** None.
- 8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Meeting Adjourned at 4:16 p.m.**