



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Not Present
Stephen Rider, Director, Committee Chair	Vacant Seat
Sam Cooley, Committee Vice Chair	
Amy Newell, Director	
Abel Sanchez, Director	
Rosemarie Imazio	
Jonathan Pilch	
Staff & Other Attendees	
Brian Lockwood, General Manager (GM)	Casey Meusel, Associate Hydrologist (AH)
Shinehah Bigham, Water System Operator (WSO)	Tony Condotti, Agency Counsel
Cameron Tana, Montgomery & Associates	Patrick Wickham, Montgomery & Associates
John Hunter, Ph.D., Environmental Science Associates (ESA)	Gary Kittleson, Kittleson Environmental Consulting
Mike Guth, Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter	Jerry Busch, Public
Margie Kay, Public	

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Chair Rider called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- 2. Public and Member comments.** None.
- 3. Consider Approval of January 25, 2023 Projects and Facility Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.** Vice Chair Cooley moved to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes; Director Newell seconded with an amendment (correct prior minutes voice vote description to roll call vote). The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Rider, Cooley, Newell, Sanchez, Imazio
Abstain: None
Noes: None
Absent: Pilch (arrived after vote)
- 4. Receive Summary of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Annual Report, Water Year 2022.** AH Meusel presented a summary of the SGMA Water Year 2022 Annual Report. The presentation included an overview of SGMA as it relates to PV Water; a summary of

progress in implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Alternative; water use; basin conditions; and the basin sustainability status.

- 5. Discuss Land Management Activities at College Lake.** GM Lockwood introduced this item. He provided a brief summary of the College Lake Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) and discussed recent correspondence on the subject, including a Sierra Club letter and a response to that letter prepared by Dr. John Hunter of Environmental Science and Associates (ESA). When opened to discussion, Mr. Guth expressed his opinion that the AMP must begin before the College Lake Project starts, and that the AMP and environmental impact report (EIR) require baseline studies. Additionally, he expressed concern for the Agency's response to neighboring landowner complaints and stated the land management issue should have been discussed before action was taken to disk the fields of the Capurro Ranch. Mr. Busch expressed his opinion that the disking activity lacked justification, and he encouraged the Committee to consider implementing recommendations provided in Dr. Hunter's memo. Mr. Busch expressed concern about baseline studies capturing habitat use data and requested that the Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Directors to form a subcommittee to oversee AMP implementation. Dr. Hunter responded to comments and suggested that landowner concern be an additional factor considered along with other AMP issues. GM Lockwood reminded the Committee that baseline studies of College Lake waterfowl initiated in 2014, and that the AMP incorporates the ability to disk various properties. Mr. Kittleson reported on the atypical hydrologic conditions present this year that are affecting waterfowl at College Lake.
- 6. Receive Projects and Programs Update.**

 - a. College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.** GM Lockwood reported that on February 1, 2023, the Board of Directors awarded agreements for construction of the project, and that the low bidder on both construction bid packages was Mountain Cascade Inc. PV Water has since issued Notices of Award to the firm but had yet to issue Notices to Proceed. He also reported that supporting service agreements associated with construction support activities were awarded to Carollo Engineers and Jacobs for engineering services during construction, to SWCA for environmental monitoring and permit compliance services, and to Tanner Pacific Inc. for construction management services.
 - b. Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery Projects.** GM Lockwood reported that Maggiora Bros. Drilling Inc. had mobilized and begun work on the recovery wells project.
- 7. Receive Facility Operations Report.** WSO Bigham reported 31 acre-feet of supplemental water was delivered in January and 72 acre-feet in February to date. She reported that Harkins Slough Facility diversions had yet to begin and that Operations staff were working on valve marking and protection projects. She also shared that 20% of the High Production Well Telemetry Project is complete and that Operations will be hosting the first in-person growers/irrigator meeting since 2019 on March 15, 2023.
- 8. Discuss Future Agenda Items.** Committee Member Pilch suggested that the Committee consider revisiting AMP related issues at a frequency of the Committee's choosing. GM Lockwood noted that under the standing College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project update item, discussion of the AMP could occur at any meeting.

**Projects and Facility Operations Committee
Meeting Minutes**

February 22, 2023

- 9. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
- 10. Meeting Adjourned at 4:09 p.m.**