

College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project Final EIR Certification & Project Approval

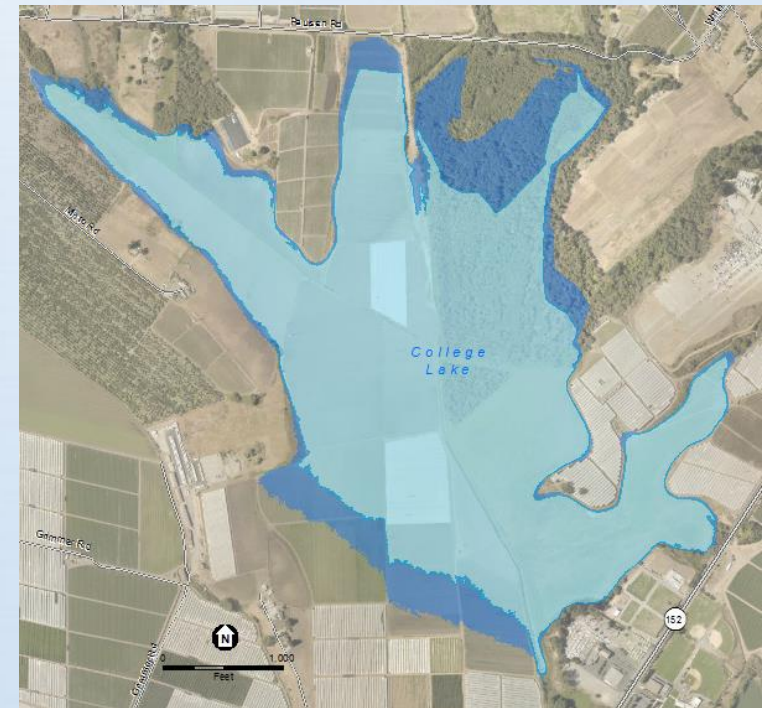
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2019

1A.00.pptx/1

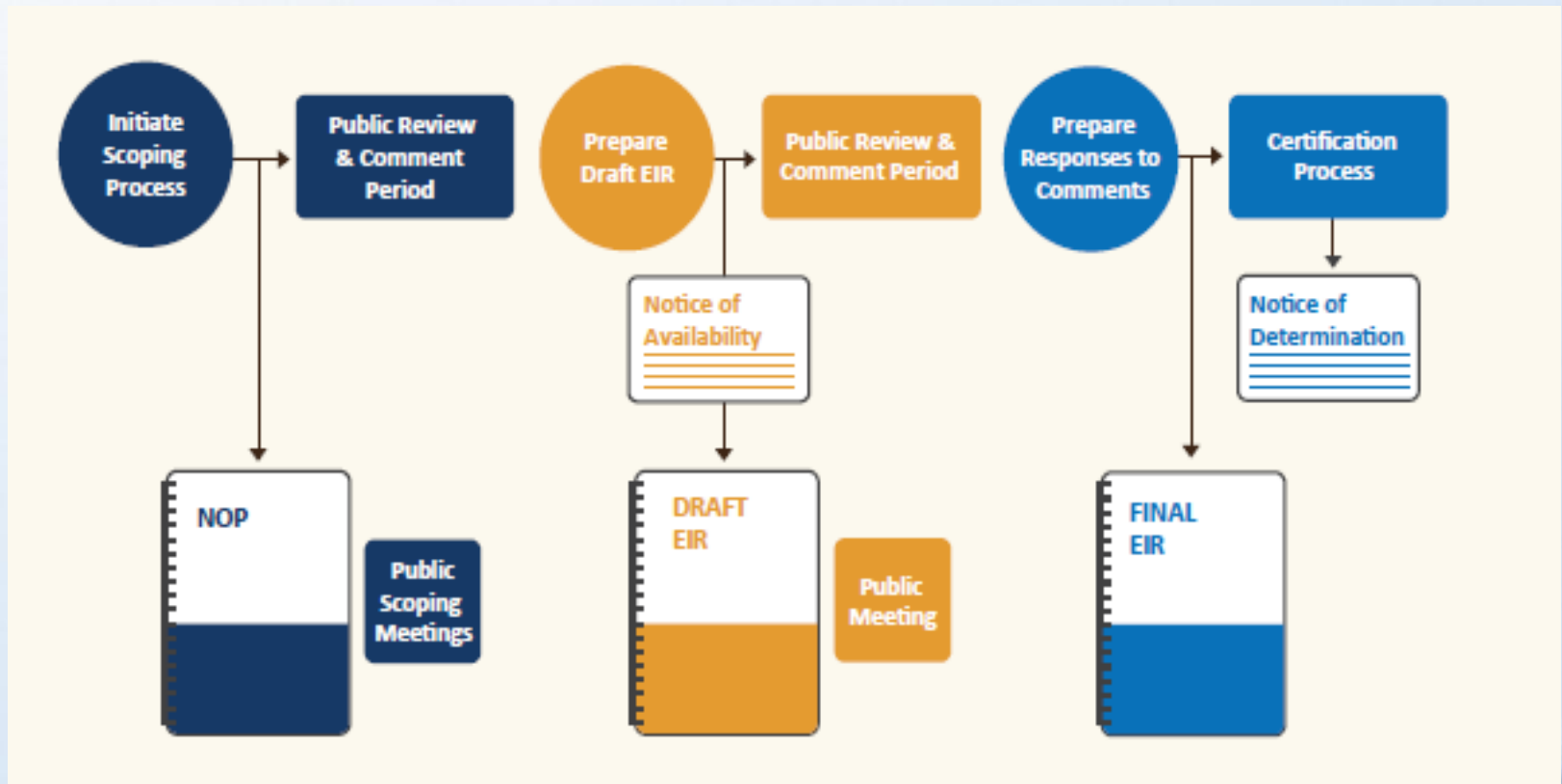


College Lake Project Final EIR

- Agenda
 - CEQA Process Overview
 - Responses to Comments
 - CEQA documents supporting Certification, Project Approval
 - Findings
 - Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Notice of Determination



CEQA Process Overview



Dec 2017

DEIR Public Review
Apr 17 – June 21 2019

Oct 2019

Responses to Comments Document

Final

COLLEGE LAKE INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**Responses to Comments on the Draft Environmental
Impact Report**

Prepared for
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

October 2019



Pajaro Valley
Water Management Agency



Published:
September 30, 2019

Final EIR: Draft EIR plus
Responses to
Comments Document

Comments on Draft EIR

11 Agencies & Organizations, 18 Individuals
~200 Comments

- Caltrans
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Santa Cruz County
 - Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Zone 7
 - Vector Control
- College Lake Reclamation District
- Monterey Audubon Society
- Santa Cruz Bird Club
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Sierra Club
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch
- N. Adams
- M. Bannister
- J. Bracovich
- C. Banovac
- J. Busch
- J. Diffenbaugh
- V. Fenner-Evans
- J. Greatorex
- C. Jensen
- S. Kauffman
- A. Key
- L. Lewit
- T Marci
- M. Rambo
- F. Remde
- M. Sptizer
- E. Wagner
- D. Watkins

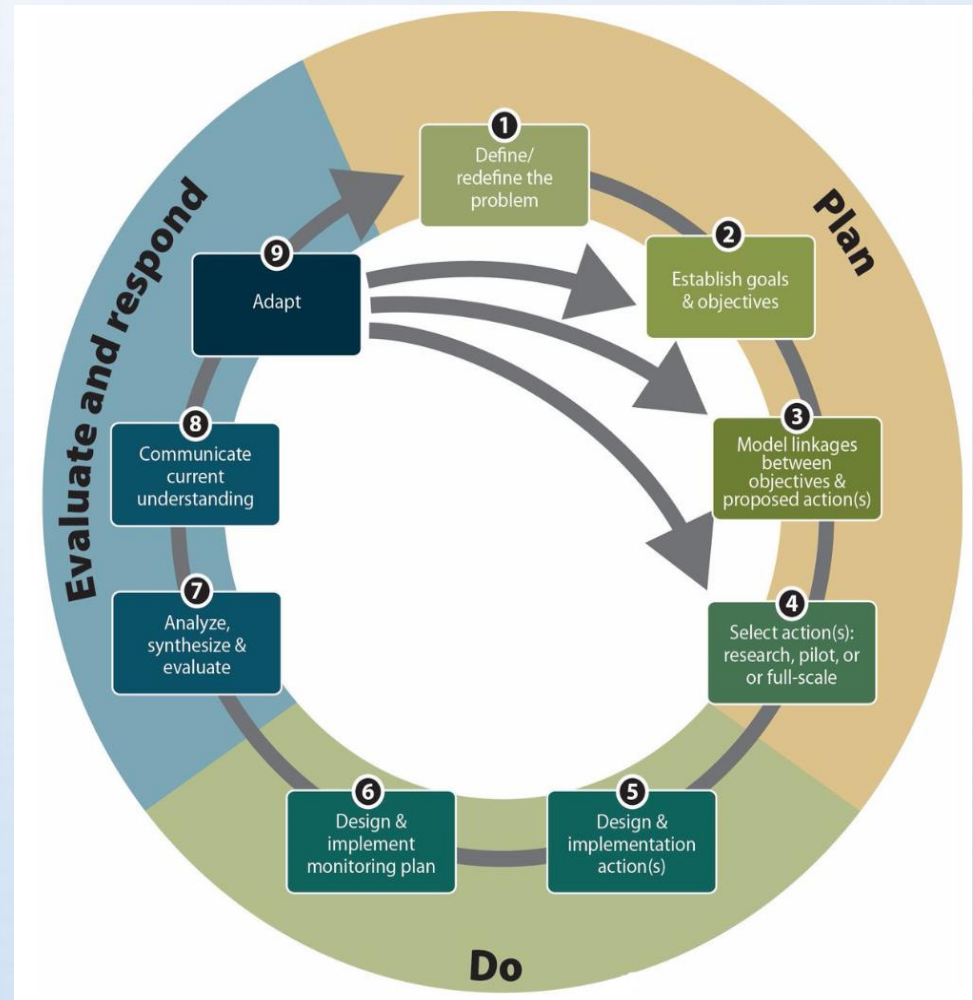
Comments on Draft EIR

- Biological Resources
 - Adaptive Management Plan
 - Waters and wetlands
 - Birds and other wildlife
- Alternatives
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Agriculture
- Other

Adaptive Management Planning

Figure RTC 3.1-1

“A framework and flexible decision-making process for ongoing knowledge acquisition, monitoring and evaluation leading to continuous improvements in implementation of a project to achieve specific objectives.”



Board committed to AMP in 2014 to mitigate impacts to waterfowl, habitat, other species

CEQA DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION, PROJECT APPROVAL

CEQA Findings

Exhibit A

PV Water Board of Directors Findings Regarding the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview and Organization

This document presents the Findings of Fact for the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) of the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project (Project). The content and format of the Findings of Fact are designed to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The FEIR identifies significant environmental effects that would result from the implementation of the Project, as well as potential alternatives to the Project. For each significant effect of the Project identified in the FEIR, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) is adopting one or more of the findings as provided in CEQA and specified in Section 15091 of the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA *Guidelines*). For most significant effects, PV Water finds that the mitigation measures identified in the FEIR and adopted by PV Water avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects to a less-than-significant level. As provided in Section 15093 of the CEQA *Guidelines*, PV Water is balancing the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the Project against the unavoidable environmental effects. With regard to those unavoidable effects, PV Water is adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

PV Water also adopts a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the Project. PV Water finds that the MMRP, which is incorporated by reference and made a part of these findings, meets the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of measures intended to mitigate potentially significant effects of the Project. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21082.1(c)(3), PV Water finds that the FEIR reflects PV Water's independent judgment as the Lead Agency for the Project. The Findings of Fact are organized into the following sections:

- Section 1: Introduction.
- Section 2: Project Description and Objectives.
- Section 3: Findings Regarding Independent Review and Judgement
- Section 4: Less-Than-Significant Environmental Effects; Mitigation Incorporated.

Board makes Findings for

- Significant Impacts:
 - Changes (mitigation measures) to avoid/lessen impacts
 - Incorporated into Project
 - Are the responsibility of another Agency
 - Are infeasible
- Alternatives
- *All information in Findings is from the EIR*

Statement of Overriding Considerations

Exhibit B

Statement of Overriding Considerations

CEQA Requirements

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)¹ requires lead agencies to balance the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a project against its unavoidable environmental impacts when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental impacts may be considered “acceptable.” The lead agency must state in writing the specific reasons to support its action based on the final EIR and/or other information in the record. The statement of overriding considerations must be supported by substantial evidence in the record. The statement of overriding considerations should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the notice of determination.

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

The following Project-related environmental impacts could not be eliminated or reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of mitigation measures:

1. **Conversion of Important Farmland.** The Project would result in the conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. Even with implementation of Mitigation Measures LU-1a (Promote Farming), LU-1b (Compensate for Conversion of Important Farmland), and LU-1c (Replacement of Topsoil), these impacts would be significant and unavoidable on a project-specific and cumulative basis. (Impacts LU-1 and C-LU-1)

Impact LU-1: The Project would convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use and could involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use.

Impact C-LU-1: The Project, in combination with past, present, and probable future projects in the Project area, would have a cumulatively considerable impact on the conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use.

PV Water adopts the following mitigation measures that would support reducing impacts related to converting Important Farmland to non-agricultural use.

Mitigation Measure LU-1a: Promote Farming. To reduce the amount of Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland converted to other uses and in coordination with affected landowners, PV Water shall adopt practices to promote farming within the areas

¹ Public Resources Code Section 21083 et seq; CEQA *Guidelines*; Section 15093.

Required for significant, unavoidable impacts

- Conversion of Important Farmland*
 - Up to 198 acres
- Exceedance of construction noise standards
 - WTP at preferred site, trenchless pipeline construction in Watsonville
- Considerations:
 - Environmental, economic, legal, other factors
 - Project Benefits

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

TABLE C-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure	Project Component	Mitigation Schedule	Monitoring, Reporting Responsibility	Verification of Compliance by PV Water
Land Use and Agricultural Resources				
LU-1a: Promote Farming				
<p>To reduce the amount of Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland converted to other uses and in coordination with affected landowners, PV Water shall adopt practices to promote farming within the areas depicted with red hatching on Figure 3.2-4 of the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project EIR. Such practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, improve and potentially expand tile drain systems. • If controlling land by easement, establish terms that require land owners to cultivate crops or otherwise productively use the land for agricultural purposes at least once every five years, hydrologic conditions permitting. • If acquiring land outright, enter into lease arrangements for the land to be cultivated or otherwise productively used for agricultural purposes at least once every five years, hydrologic conditions permitting. 	CL	4. Post construction	PV Water	
LU-1b: Compensate for Conversion of Important Farmland				
<p><i>Track Conversion of Important Farmland.</i> PV Water shall review California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program farmland designations for College Lake annually beginning with the first year of construction and continuing for five years of Project operation. PV Water shall identify Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland referred to herein as Important Farmland that is within the College Lake basin below elevation 63 feet NAVD88 that converts due to water management operations.</p> <p><i>Establish Memorandum of Understanding for Agricultural Easement Fund.</i> PV Water shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Cruz Land Trust or similar entity. The Memorandum of Understanding shall include details regarding an Agricultural Easement Fund to be paid by PV Water and the timing of acquisition of agricultural easements for the purpose of offsetting impacts on Important Farmland caused by the Project. Acceptance of this fee by the Santa Cruz Land Trust or similar entity shall serve as an acknowledgment and commitment to: (1) secure agricultural easements to offset the conversion of Important Farmland caused by the Project; and (2) provide documentation to PV Water describing the project(s) funded by the mitigation fee. If there is any remaining unspent portion of the Agricultural Easement Fund following implementation, PV Water shall be entitled to a refund in that amount. To qualify under this mitigation measure, the specific agricultural easement acquisition projects must preserve acreage of farmland of an equal or greater Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program designation value (e.g., Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland) within the PV Water service area to offset the permanent conversion of Important Farmland by the Project.</p> <p><i>Contribute to Agricultural Easement Fund.</i> PV Water shall initially designate funds to secure easements for up to 6 acres of Prime Farmland to offset impacts associated with the water treatment plant. In addition, for Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland within the lake basin that the Department of Conservation converts to non-agricultural designations after the Project has operated for a period of one year, PV Water shall designate for the Agricultural Easement Fund an amount to cover the costs associated with acquisition of agricultural easements of equivalent Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program designation value.</p> <p><i>Directly Fund Agricultural Easements.</i> As an alternative approach to establishing a memorandum of understanding for, and contributing to an agricultural easement fund, PV Water could elect to directly fund the purchase of agricultural easements for Important Farmland in the Pajaro Valley.</p>	CL WTP	2. Pre-Construction 3. Construction 4. Post Construction	PV Water Santa Cruz Land Trust (Potential)	

Notice of Determination

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

TO: Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail: Street Address: _____
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Public Agency: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Address: 86 Brennan Street, Watsonville CA 95076
Contact: Brian Lockwood
Phone: 831-772-9292
Lead Agency (if different from above): _____
Address: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

County Clerk
County of: Santa Cruz
Address: 701 Ocean Street, Room 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017112063

Project Title: Colleese Lake Integrated Resources Management Project

Project Location (include county): Santa Cruz County and City of Watsonville, California

Project Description: The primary purposes of the Project are to help balance the groundwater basin, prevent further seawater intrusion, and meet water supply needs in PV Water's service area by developing Colleese Lake as a water storage and supply source. Project components include a weir structure and pump station, water treatment plant, and 5.5-mile-long pipeline. On average, the Project would generally supply approximately 1,800 to 2,300 acre-feet per year of water to growers in the Pajaro Valley.

This is to advise that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency has approved the above described project on Lead Agency or Responsible Agency

October 16, 2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described projects.
(Date)

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: _____

Signature (Public Agency) _____ Title: General Manager

Date: October 16, 2019 Date Received filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Notification that:

- Project approved, will have significant environmental effects
- EIR prepared
- Mitigation Measures, Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, MMRP adopted
- File with county clerk, OPR

Final

COLLEGE LAKE INTEGRATED RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**Responses to Comments on the Draft Environmental
Impact Report**

Prepared for
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

October 2019



Questions?

Thank You