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PV Water Approves College Lake Project

The College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project is the largest new water supply project in Phase 1 of PV Water’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan Alternative

Watsonville, CA – On Wednesday evening, October 16, 2019, the PV Water Board of Directors voted unanimously to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approve the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.

“This project was ranked by the Basin Management Plan (BMP) Committee as one of the most cost-effective new water supplies to help stop groundwater overdraft and reach groundwater sustainability. Without this project, I don’t see a clear path to sustainability for the Pajaro Valley,” said Board Chair, Amy Newell. She continued “This approval keeps us moving toward our long-held goals of stopping groundwater overdraft and halting saltwater intrusion into our freshwater aquifers.”

Versions of the College Lake Project have been incorporated into planning documents for almost thirty years. The PV Water Board directed staff to begin preparing the Environmental Impact Report in January 2017. The Project is anticipated to yield an average of 1,800-2,300 acre-feet per year of water.

“Approval of the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project marks a pivotal step toward groundwater sustainability,” said Brian Lockwood, General Manager. He continued “next steps for the Project include continued stakeholder outreach, evaluating grants and other funding opportunities, and pursuing environmental permits. In addition, the Board restated its commitment to forming a technical advisory committee to facilitate the development of an Adaptive Management Plan”

Background information, including all documents and presentations delivered to the Board, are available at pvwater.org.

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) is a state-chartered water management district formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. The agency also works to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and future anticipated needs within its boundaries, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley. For more information, visit www.pvwater.org or www.facebook.com/PajaroValleyWater.

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