

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 24, 2020

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## PV Water Board Votes to Continue Progress

Watsonville, CA- PV Water's Board of Directors remain focused on achieving groundwater sustainability for the Pajaro Valley as efficiently and economically as possible. On Wednesday evening, June 17, 2020, the PV Water Board of Directors voted unanimously to authorize and direct the General Manager to complete and file the water-right application for the proposed Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project (WSS-MARR), to issue a request for proposals for engineering services in support of the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project, and to submit a proposal for a \$10 million Proposition 1 grant. These priority projects are included in the first phase of implementation of PV Water's groundwater sustainability plan. The GSP was developed by a 21 member stakeholder committee.

"By approving these actions, the PV Water Board showed its commitment to implementing the water supply projects recommended by our stakeholders, in as cost effective a manner as possible," said General Manager, Brian Lockwood. "Momentum is building, and staff are enthusiastic to carry out the Board's direction, while also engaging with our community members."

The proposed WSS-MARR Project would improve the existing diversion facility at Harkins Slough, and add a new diversion at Struve Slough. Diverted water is treated, stored, and recovered as needed from a shallow aquifer on San Andreas Terrace. Water yielded by the project is used as an irrigation supply to offset pumping from our critically overdrafted groundwater basin. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be published this summer; public comments are encouraged.

The largest new supply in PV Water's groundwater sustainability plan is the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project. This project will provide PV Water the ability to use rainfall runoff that collects in College Lake to offset groundwater pumping. The PV Water Board certified the EIR and approved the project last October.

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](http://www.pvwater.org) or [www.facebook.com/PajaroValleyWater](https://www.facebook.com/PajaroValleyWater).

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