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February 2, 2021

Contact: Brian Lockwood

(831) 722-9292

lockwood@pvwater.org



PV Water Board Approves Sloughs Recharge & Recovery Projects

The Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery Projects will help to reduce groundwater pumping and seawater intrusion.

Watsonville, CA – On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the PV Water Board of Directors voted unanimously to certify the Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects (Projects) Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approve the Projects. With this action, the Board has now approved all the Phase 1 projects described in the Basin Management Plan Update (BMP). The Phase 1 projects were determined to be the most cost-effective, new water supply projects to help stop groundwater overdraft, seawater intrusion, and reach groundwater sustainability.

“PV Water has prepared, certified, and approved two EIRs for two critical water supply projects (College Lake and the Sloughs) within 16 months. This is a significant achievement during the best of times, let alone over the course of a once-in-a-century pandemic. Through it all, PV Water staff and consultants have remained focused on our mission and our safety,” said General Manager, Brian Lockwood. “The project approval also positions us well when applying for grant funding” continued Lockwood.

The Slough Projects will include a new pump station at Struve Slough, a pipeline connecting the new diversion with the existing Harkins Slough water treatment facility, a pipeline to new recharge basins, and recovery wells. The facilities will be located on the San Andreas terrace, adjacent to PV Water’s existing recharge basin and recovery wells.

The next steps for the Projects include continued stakeholder outreach, evaluating grants and other funding opportunities, and pursuing environmental permits. All Project 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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