

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College Lake Water Right Approved

Sacramento, CA- December 7, 2021, In a unanimous decision, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approved PV Water's water right application for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project. The approval, coming nearly 4 years after application submittal, means that PV Water will have the right to divert and utilize up to 3,000 acre-feet¹ of water per year to help eliminate groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion. The approval marks a major milestone in the implementation of the College Lake Project, and ultimately in achieving sustainable groundwater resources. On the approval, SWRCB Board Member Sean Maguire remarked, "This is a success story on all levels."

The College Lake Project is a key part of the community-developed plan to bring the Pajaro Valley into sustainable groundwater management by the year 2040. In her comments to the SWRCB, PV Water Board Chair Amy Newell stated, "I can't overstate how important this project is to our plan for achieving sustainability of our groundwater basin. The last 12 years of delivering blended recycled wastewater to growers on the coast for irrigation in lieu of groundwater pumping has already made a measurable improvement in slowing the rate of seawater intrusion and stabilizing groundwater levels. We are now at the point of not being able to meet the demand of growers for delivered water during the irrigation season. I can assure you that every acre foot of water delivered from College Lake to our Coastal Distribution System will further reduce groundwater pumping by a comparable amount. It is an essential component of our plan to achieve a sustainable groundwater basin."

The College Lake Project will provide an average 1,800 to 2,300 acre-feet per year of surface water, offsetting that amount of groundwater pumping. Groundwater accounts for more than 90% of water demand in the Pajaro Valley. PV Water will use water from College Lake to supplement existing water supplies to help reduce the average annual 12,100 acre-foot groundwater deficit.

¹ An acre-foot is equal to 325,850 gallons, or one foot of water covering an acre of land.



College Lake, with Kelly Lake in background.

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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