

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 11, 2019  
**MEETING OF:** October 16, 2019  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** General Manager  
**RE:** **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM 10A:** Receive Presentation on Proposed College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR); Consider Adoption of Resolution 2019-18 Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report, Adopting Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project and Resolution 2019-19 Selecting, Approving, and Adopting the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project (Project) was released for public review on April 17, 2019. Based on comments to the Draft EIR, the Final EIR was prepared. The Board of Directors (Board) held a special meeting on October 3, 2019 to receive a presentation on the Final EIR, and receive comments from stakeholders and interested parties. On October 16, 2019, the Board will deliberate and may take action with respect to certifying the Final EIR and approving the Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) published the Draft EIR for the Project on April 17, 2019. The formal comment period closed on June 21, 2019. In response to comments on the Draft EIR, PV Water published the Final EIR on September 30, 2019. The Final EIR is on file at PV Water, 36 Brennan Street, Watsonville, California, and available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Paper copies of the Final EIR are available for review at the Watsonville Public Library, the Freedom Branch of the Watsonville Public Library, and the Pajaro Branch of the Monterey County Library. Electronic copies of materials referenced in the EIR are available for review at PV Water's office. The EIR is also available online at <https://www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project>.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Project Description**

Throughout much of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin, groundwater levels have declined as a result of long-term groundwater overdraft. Overdraft conditions result in seawater intrusion, groundwater quality degradation, and groundwater storage depletion. 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 College Lake as a water storage and supply source. The Project is located in the City of Watsonville and portions of

unincorporated Santa Cruz County. Project components include a weir structure and intake pump station, a water treatment plant, and an approximately 5.5-mile-long pipeline to convey water from the water treatment plant to the City of Watsonville Recycled Water Facility and to PV Water’s Coastal Distribution System. 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. Project construction is estimated to occur over approximately 18 months beginning in 2022.

**Environmental Resources and Impacts**

The EIR evaluates the Project’s effects on the physical environment with respect to the following resource areas:

Land Use and Agricultural Resources	Noise and Vibration	Public Services
Surface Water, Groundwater, and Water Quality	Transportation and Traffic	Recreation
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Aesthetics
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	Tribal Cultural Resources	Cumulative Effects
Geology and Soils	Energy	Soil Erosion, Compaction and Grading
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Utilities	Coastal Zone

The EIR finds that the Project would result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts related to surface water, groundwater, and water quality; biological resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; transportation and traffic; cultural resources; and aesthetics, and recommends the implementation of feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. The EIR also determines that Project implementation would have significant and unavoidable impacts related to the conversion of Important Farmland to nonagricultural use and exceedance of construction noise standards during Project construction even with implementation of mitigation measures. None of the Project components are on sites listed under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no significant fiscal impact associated the staff recommendation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt Resolution 2019-18 Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report, Adopting Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.
2. Adopt Resolution 2019-19 Selecting, Approving, and Adopting the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.

**NEXT STEPS**

Assuming Board approval of staff’s recommendation, staff will file a Notice of Determination for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Memorandum from Jill Hamilton, Environmental Science Associates to Brian Lockwood re: Final EIR Process, CEQA Requirements for the PV Water Board of Directors, dated October 7, 2019
- The Final EIR is available online [www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project](http://www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project), at PV Water's office, the Watsonville Library (Main and Freedom Branches), and the Pajaro Branch Library
- Resolution 2019-18 Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report, Adopting Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project

Exhibit A: Findings of Fact

Exhibit B: Statement of Overriding Considerations

Exhibit C: Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program

- Errata Sheet for Final EIR
- Resolution 2019-19 Selecting, Approving, and Adopting the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project