



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is PV Water pursuing this project?**

The California Department of Water Resources has identified Pajaro Valley as a high priority, critically over drafted groundwater basin. The long-term effects of overdraft have caused groundwater elevations to drop below sea level leading to seawater intrusion, groundwater storage depletion and degraded water quality. As a result, there is seawater contamination of groundwater up to three miles inland. This situation is an immediate and direct threat to our Valley. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that critically over drafted groundwater basins such as ours be brought into balance by 2040; otherwise the State will intervene and may impose pumping restrictions in order to bring the basin into balance.

### **How can College Lake help?**

The College Lake area is one of the optimal project sites within the Pajaro Valley to capture and store water during the winter for use in the spring and summer as an alternative supply to some groundwater pumping. This is called in-lieu recharge – the process of using a supplemental surface water supply in order to leave some groundwater that otherwise would be pumped in the ground. Reducing groundwater pumping is a critical step toward eliminating overdraft, and hydrologic modeling has shown that reducing pumping in the coastal area is an effective way to stop seawater intrusion. The proposed College Lake Project is one of the key solutions to help balance our Pajaro Valley groundwater basin and halt seawater intrusion.

### **What does this mean for me individually?**

We are contacting you at this time because your property, or the land you lease, is within the area that potentially would be affected by the proposed College Lake Project. We want to make you aware of what is being proposed and give you an opportunity to comment.

### **Do I need to do anything now?**

We encourage you to attend the July 10, 2017 meeting to learn more about why this proposed project was included in the community-developed Basin Management Plan and how planning for this proposed project is proceeding. The Board and Staff of PV Water want to hear your comments and questions. However, no action is required at this time; the proposed project still is in its early stages.

### **Where is this project in terms of construction?**

Project design, environmental review, and permitting will continue over the next two years, and public input will be encouraged throughout this process. When these phases are completed, the project may move into the final design and construction phases.

### **What are the next steps?**

In the coming weeks, the PV Water Board of Directors will discuss developing the College Lake Project as one of the water resources that may be used to stop seawater intrusion and protect the groundwater supplies. The Board also will review how this action may affect surrounding properties and growers.

PV Water plans to submit a Water Rights Application to the State Water Resources Control Board in October 2017. This application will identify potentially affected parcels and contain associated parcel ownership information. In addition, our real property representatives will be contacting you this fall about scheduling a meeting to discuss your property and the proposed project.