



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

36 BRENNAN STREET • WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

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<http://www.pvwater.org>

PUBLIC NOTICE

**RELEASE AND AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT:
College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project**

DATE OF NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

By this notice, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water or Agency), as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, is announcing the availability of the **Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project (SCH#2017112063)**. The Draft EIR was released for public review on April 17, 2019. The Draft and Final EIR are available on www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project.

This Notice is intended to inform interested parties of the release of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project. This notice also provides information on meetings to be held on the Project. An upcoming public hearing is scheduled for October 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board of Directors.

The meetings and public hearing both will be held at City of Watsonville Council Chambers, 275 Main St, 4th Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076. Questions or requests for additional information should be directed to Brian Lockwood, General Manager, at (831) 722-9292, or E-mail: EIR@pvwater.org.

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 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.

The Agency prepared the Draft EIR and released this document for public review and comment on April 17, 2019. The formal comment period closed on June 21, 2019. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088, the Agency has evaluated comments on environmental issues received from persons on the Draft EIR and has prepared written responses to those comments. These responses are presented in the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project Responses to Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Responses to Comments document), which also contains revisions to the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR and the Responses to Comments document comprise the Final EIR for the Project.

The Agency invites interested members of the public to review the Final EIR and attend meetings related to the Agency’s consideration of this project.

Addresses Where Final EIR is Available for Review:

PV Water Office*	Watsonville Main	Watsonville Freedom
36 Brennan St.	Branch Library	Branch Library
Watsonville, CA 95076	275 Main St	2021 Freedom Blvd
	Watsonville, CA	Freedom, CA 95019
	95076	

*Reference documents are available for review at this location upon request

The Final EIR is available in hard copy or CD format for purchase at the PV Water Office and available without charge on the PV Water website: www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project.

Upcoming Meetings

October 3, 2019 and October 16, 2019

**The Final EIR will be presented at a Board of Directors meeting
on October 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

**A public hearing will be held at the Board of Directors meeting
on October 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Both meetings will be held at:
City of Watsonville Council Chambers
275 Main St, 4th Floor
Watsonville, CA 95076.**

The purpose of these meetings is to gather public input prior to taking action on the proposed Project. The Agency will consider the Final Environmental Impact Report, input from public testimony and other relevant information and may take one or more of the actions described below following the public hearing on October 16, 2019:

- (1) Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report,**
- (2) Adoption of Findings of Fact, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations**
- (3) Approval of the College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project or an alternative.**

For additional information please contact:

Brian Lockwood at (831) 722-9292 or EIR@pvwater.org.