Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE VALLEY'S WATER RESOURCES

COLLEGE LAKE INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

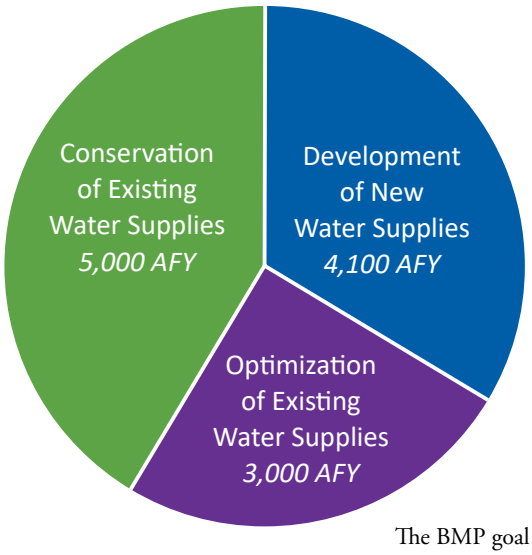
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) is proposing to develop College Lake as a water storage and supply source. The proposed College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project (Project) is located in the City of Watsonville and unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The Project components would consist of a new weir structure and intake pump station at the south side of College Lake, a water treatment plant, a pipeline from College Lake to the water treatment plant, and a 5.5-mile pipeline to convey treated water to agricultural uses in the Pajaro Valley.

To identify and evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Project, PV Water has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft EIR includes an impact analysis for many environmental resource areas, mitigation measures to reduce or avoid the potential environmental effects identified in the Draft EIR, and potentially feasible alternatives to the Project.

About PV Water and the Basin Management Plan

Founded in 1984 by the California State Legislature, PV Water's mission is to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies for the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin. PV Water is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, all of whom are residents and voters in the Pajaro Valley.

PV Water helps preserve and protect the Pajaro Valley's water resources through the Basin Management Plan (BMP). The BMP outlines solutions to groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion while ensuring sufficient water supplies for present and projected needs. The goal of the BMP is to achieve a sustainable groundwater basin using only local water resources, in combination with an efficient conservation program that preserves the Pajaro Valley's robust economy. The Project is one of the three priority supplemental water supply projects outlined in the BMP's 2014 Update.



The BMP goal is for 12,100 acre-feet per year offset in groundwater pumping.

Draft EIR Published – Comments Invited

You're invited to attend a public meeting on May 1st and to review and submit your comments on the Draft EIR by Friday **June 7, 2019**.

Why does the Pajaro Valley need the Project?

The Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin is in a state of critical overdraft. Throughout much of Pajaro Valley, groundwater levels remain below sea level throughout the year, allowing seawater to move inland. Seawater intrusion has elevated the chloride concentration in groundwater up to two and a half miles inland from the coast, in some areas contaminating the groundwater to the point that it is unsuitable for human uses.

The Project would help balance the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin, prevent further seawater intrusion, and help meet the water supply needs of agricultural use in the Pajaro Valley.

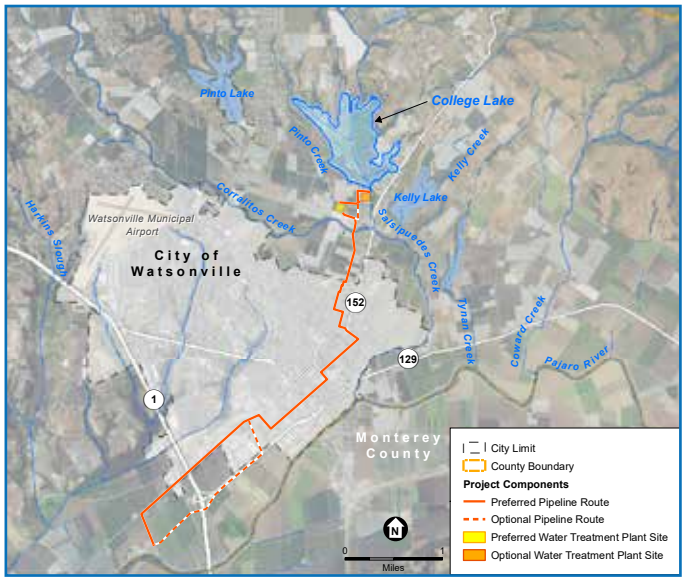


Figure 1: Project Area Map

Environmental Impact Report

The purpose of an EIR is to provide government agencies and the public with detailed information about the effects a Project is likely to have on the environment. Beyond identifying environmental effects, an EIR also identifies ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts found to be potentially significant.

THE DRAFT EIR PROVIDES:

- A detailed description of the Project
- Environmental impact analysis of the potential effects from the Project on a variety of resource areas
- Mitigation measures to reduce the effects of impacts that could be significant
- Alternatives to the Project that could reduce environmental effects

Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Refer to Section 3 of the Draft EIR for more detail

The analysis shows that the Project was determined to have significant and unavoidable impacts related to the following:

- **Conversion of Important Farmland.** The Project would result in the conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use.
- **Exceedance of Construction Noise Standards.** Noise levels resulting from construction activities at the preferred WTP site and portions of the College Lake pipeline alignment would exceed the County of Santa Cruz standards or occur outside the City of Watsonville allowed construction hours.

Potential significant impacts for all other resource areas could be reduced to less-than-significant levels through mitigation.

Environmental Resources Analyzed

The Draft EIR includes an analysis of potential impacts on the environmental resources identified below. During the public review period, the public is encouraged to review and provide comments on the Draft EIR.

Land Use and Agricultural Resources*
Surface Water, Groundwater, and Water Quality
Biological Resources
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
Geology and Soils
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Noise*
Transportation and Traffic
Cultural Resources
Tribal Cultural Resources
Energy
Utilities
Public Services
Recreation
Aesthetics
Cumulative Impacts

**Significant and unavoidable impacts*

Project Alternatives

Refer to Section 5.3 of the Draft EIR for more detail

In addition to the environmental analysis of a Project, an EIR is required to describe and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to a Project that meet most of the Project's objectives while avoiding or substantially lessening any significant environmental impacts from the Project.

No Project Alternative: Describes conditions that would generally be expected to occur without implementation of the Project.

Farmland Preservation – Lake Deepening Alternative:

- Includes all the same components as the Project
- Involves deepening parts of the College Lake basin and depositing the excavated materials in the southwestern portion of the basin
- Would reduce the areal extent of College Lake compared to the Project

Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline Alignment Options

Refer to Section 5.4 of the Draft EIR for more detail

This EIR also analyzes two potential water treatment plant (WTP) sites and pipeline alignments at the State Route 1 crossing.

WTP SITE OPTIONS

- **Preferred WTP Site:** North of Holohan Road between Laken Drive and Grimmer Road, southwest of College Lake (within Assessor Parcel Number 051-101-47).
- **Optional WTP Site:** West of the weir structure (within Assessor Parcel Number 051-441-24).

PIPELINE ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

For both options, the College Lake pipeline would extend from the proposed WTP to the Coastal Distribution System and the Recycled Water Facility at the Watsonville Wastewater Treatment Facility and follows existing developed road rights-of-way and agricultural land.

- **Preferred Alignment at SR 1:** West Beach Street
- **Optional Alignment at SR 1:** Agricultural land south of West Beach Street

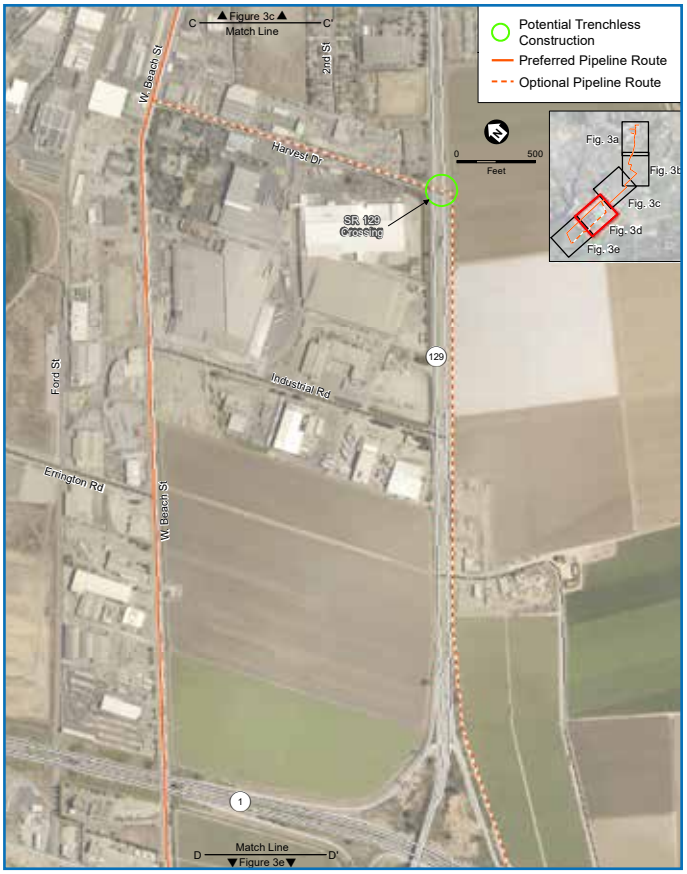


Figure 2: Pipeline Alignment Options

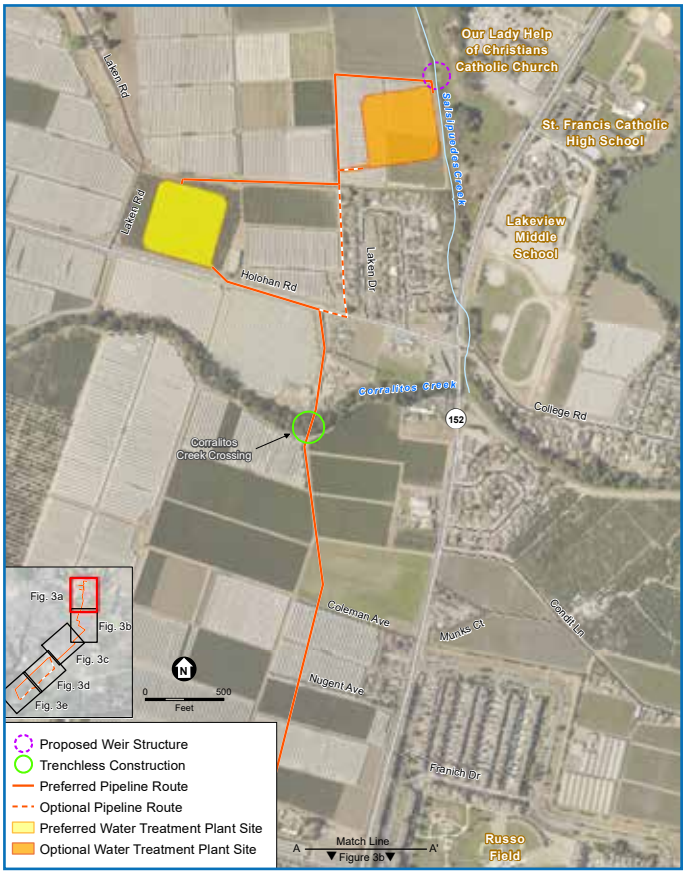
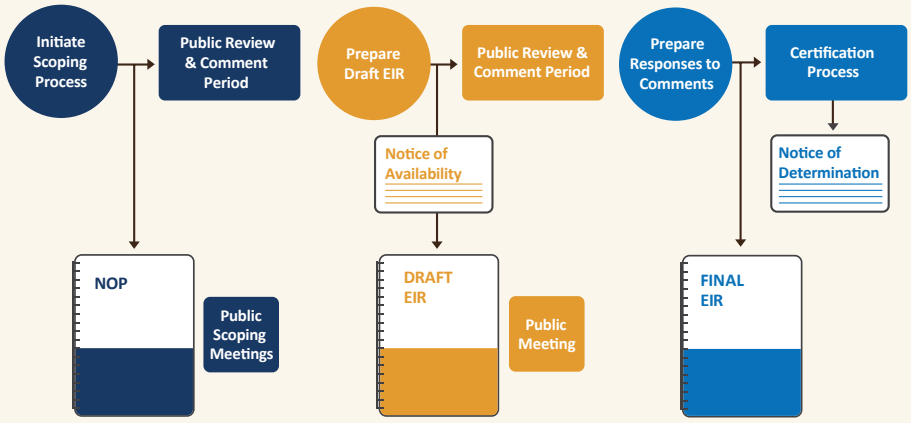


Figure 3: Water Treatment Plant Options

CEQA and Community Involvement

Community involvement is essential to the CEQA process. PV Water conducted two public meetings and solicited input during the scoping period as to what should be studied during the environmental review process. The Draft EIR has been released for public review with a 51-day public comment period. PV Water will conduct public meetings during the Draft EIR public review period. The Final EIR will address comments submitted during the Draft EIR public review period.

The CEQA process for an EIR is made up of three stages: 1) Scoping, 2) Draft EIR, and 3) Final EIR.



The Agency solicited public input on the types of environmental issues, mitigation measures, and alternatives to address in the EIR during the environmental scoping period.

The Draft EIR has been released for public review during a 45-day comment period.

The Final EIR will address comments raised during the Draft EIR public review period. The CEQA process will conclude with a determination by the Agency at a public hearing regarding whether to certify the Final EIR and approve the Project.

How to Participate

- **Attend one of the public meetings and submit written comments (presentation will be the same at both public meetings)**
  Wednesday, May 1, 2019
  3:00 to 4:30 p.m., presentation at 3:15 p.m.
  7:00 to 8:30 p.m., presentation at 7:15 p.m.
  City of Watsonville Civic Plaza, Community Room
  275 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076
- **Mail written comments to:**
  Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
  ATTN: Brian Lockwood, General Manager
  36 Brennan Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
- **Email comments to: eir@pvwater.org**

All comments must be postmarked or received via email by Friday **June 7, 2019** for consideration in the Final EIR.

GET INVOLVED!

For more information or to sign up to receive future Project updates, visit pvwater.org or contact Marcus Mendiola at **831-722-9292x33** or **mendiola@pvwater.org**.

Tips on How to Provide Comments on the Draft EIR

BEFORE YOU COMMENT:

Prepare yourself: Learn more about the CEQA process and the Project. Review Project documents and other information at pvwater.org

Ask questions: At the public meeting, ask about the environmental issues which concern you the most to better understand the challenges and complexities of the Project.

Get involved early and stay involved: Stay involved by signing up to receive emails with periodic updates on the Project and notification of the release of the Final EIR.

DRAFT YOUR COMMENT:

Get organized: Clearly organize your topics and format your comments so your key points are highlighted and easy to follow and understand.

Be specific: Support your points with examples, information, and reasons.

Keep it simple: Organize your ideas around the topical areas (also known as resource areas) as listed on page 3 of this handbook, such as biological resources, water quality, etc.