

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
WATSONVILLE SLOUGH SYSTEM MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed for the proposed Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects (Projects), which consists of the Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrades Project (Harkins Slough Project) and Struve Slough Project, and is on file with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) at 36 Brennan Street, Watsonville, California and available for public review by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Electronic copies of materials incorporated by reference in the Draft EIR are also available for review by appointment only at PV Water's office. The Draft EIR can also be accessed online at <https://www.pvwater.org/wss-marr>.

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 purpose of the Projects is to help balance the groundwater basin, prevent further seawater intrusion, and help meet the water supply needs in the Pajaro Valley. The Projects are located in Unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The Harkins Slough Project would include upgrades at the Harkins Slough pump station, installation of filter screens, installation of a backwash and raw water pipeline from the filter plant at the Harkins Slough pump station to an existing gravity sewer in West Beach Street, and construction of two new recharge basins and associated recovery wells, monitoring wells, and pipelines. The Struve Slough Project would develop Struve Slough as a water supply source by installing a new screened intake, new pump station, a pipeline to connect the new pump station at Struve Slough to the Harkins Slough pump station, a pipeline to connect the Harkins Slough pump station to the recharge basins, and a new recharge basin and associated recovery wells, monitoring wells, and pipelines.

Environmental Resources and Impacts: The Draft 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; noise and vibration; transportation and traffic; cultural resources; tribal cultural resources; and aesthetics, and recommends the implementation of feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce impacts to a less-than-significant levels. The Draft EIR also determines that Project implementation would have significant and unavoidable impacts related to the conversion of Important Farmland to nonagricultural use even with implementation of mitigation measures. None of the Project components are on sites listed under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Public Comment Period: NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that this Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR commences a public comment period beginning on September 1, 2020. Written comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted at PV Water's office until the close of the public comment period at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020. Commenters are advised to mail written comments postmarked on or before October 19, 2020 to:

**Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
ATTN: Brian Lockwood, General Manager
36 Brennan Street
Watsonville, California 95076**

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to eir@pvwater.org before the end of the comment period deadline.

To ensure that the public and agencies have an opportunity to ask questions related to the Draft EIR, a public meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. The public meeting will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. on the GoTo™ online platform at <https://www.gotomeet.me/PVWater/wss-marr>, or you can dial in toll free at **1 (877) 309-2073**, access code **494-002-693**. Requests for special accommodations or translation services should be directed to Laura Taay no later than September 16, 2020 by calling 1 (831) 722-9292 x 11 or e-mailing taay@pvwater.org.