

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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October 1, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 07 2020

Mr. Brian Lockwood, General Manager
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
36 Brennan Street
Watsonville, California 95076

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project
SCH# 2019059130
Santa Cruz County

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Draft EIR for the Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project submitted by Santa Cruz County (County), which describes the proposed construction of two new recharge basins in the project area to assist in restoring groundwater levels in the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin.

Insufficient information is provided to determine if the proposed reservoirs are subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. Therefore, the County needs to submit preliminary plans so that DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

As defined in Division 3, Part 1, Chapter 1, sections 6002 and 6003 of the California Water Code, dams 25 feet or higher with a storage capacity of more than 15 acre-feet, and dams higher than 6 feet with a storage capacity of greater than 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. The dam height is the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier.

If the proposed reservoir is subject to State jurisdiction, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Erik Malvick, our Design Engineering Branch Chief, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 565-7840.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer Austin Roundtree at (916) 565-7822 or me at (916) 565-7820.

Sincerely,

Melissa Collord

Melissa S. Collord, Regional Engineer
Central Region
Field Engineering Branch
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse