Sloughs Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects (WSS-MARR) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is available for public review and comment. The DEIR was published on September 1 and will be available for comment until close of business on October 19. The report can be found at our website, www.pvwater.org/wss-marr . You can submit your comments via eir@pvwater.org or written letter to our office address.

The WSS-MARR project consists of the Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrades Project and the Struve Slough Project. 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. The purpose of the Projects is to help balance the groundwater basin, prevent further seawater intrusions, and help meet the water supply needs in the Pajaro Valley.

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects**

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 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. 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 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. The EIR public comment period begins September 1, 2020 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on October 19, 2020.

**The full Draft EIR is available online at: pvwater.org/wss-marr**. Paper copies are available for review by appointment at PV Water's office, located at 36 Brennan Street Watsonville, CA 95076. Requests for hard copies of the Draft EIR should be sent to PV Water at eir@pvwater.org. Comments on the Draft EIR can be submitted: (1) via U.S. Postal Service Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, Attention: Brian Lockwood, General Manager, 36 Brennan Street Watsonville, CA 95076; or (2) via email to eir@pvwater.org.
**A Public Meeting** will be held virtually on September 23, 2020 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at https://www.gotomeet.me/PVWater/wss-marr or by calling toll free 1 (877) 309-2073, access code 494-002-693.