

## **SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Central Coast Water Board is currently reviewing a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification application for the project described below. We encourage public comments on the proposed project and will take comments into consideration when taking action on the application. You may submit written comments on this project to:

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Attention: 401 Coordinator

OR

centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Attention: 401 Coordinator

**Project Applicant:** Pajaro Storm Drain Maintenance District – Matt Machado

**Applicant's Agent:** Pajaro Storm Drain Maintenance District – Antonella Gentile

**Project Name:** Watsonville Slough Ecosystem Restoration Project

**Receiving Water:** Watsonville Slough

**City/County:** Pajaro Dunes / Santa Cruz County

**Public Notice:** December 22, 2025 – January 12, 2026

### **Project Description:**

The purpose of the proposed Project is to reduce flooding, restore more natural lagoon hydrology and associated marsh vegetation, and remove a barrier to fish passage on the Beach Road crossing.

The proposed project activities include:

- Improving that crossing at West Beach Road on Watsonville Slough to support higher-capacity, fish-friendly culverts that will better accommodate the closed-lagoon water levels;
- Raising West Beach Road from the existing elevation to accommodate the new culverts;
- Implementing restoration work such as invasive plant removal and native planting;
- Installing a new flap gate on the adjacent Beach Road Agricultural Ditch to prevent the higher lagoon levels from moving upstream; and
- Raising the surface elevation of a parking lot at Palm Beach State Park to prevent nuisance flooding.

No mitigation is planned.