

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 Valley Water Management Agency – Brian Lockwood

Applicant's Agent: Environmental Science Associates (ESA) – Rachel Haines

Project Name: Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project

Receiving Water: Harkins Slough, Struve Slough, and Watsonville Slough

City/County: Watsonville / Santa Cruz County

Public Notice: 9/30/2025 – 10/22/2025

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed project is to help achieve sustainable groundwater resources in the over-drafted Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin by transitioning agricultural water users in the coastal area from wells to delivered surface water and other supplemental supplies. The proposed project activities include:

- Upgrading the existing Harkins Slough intake and pump facilities;
- Introducing a new intake and pump station on Struve Slough;
- Constructing a new recharge basin and ten groundwater recovery and ten monitoring wells adjacent to the existing and new recharge basins;
- Constructing distribution pipelines to connect the new and existing infrastructure;
- Supporting the new intake structure with six 18-inch diameter precast concrete piles installed below grade; and
- Stabilizing the intake screens with seventeen 12-inch diameter wooden piers installed around the perimeter of the two intake screens.

Mitigation activities include:

- Rehabilitation of 2.035 acres / 1,360 linear feet of lake/reservoir habitat.