



The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

BORROWER: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

LOCATION: Santa Cruz County, California

TOTAL WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: \$74 million

Loan 1 amount: \$43 million

Loan 2 amount: \$31 million

TOTAL WIFIA PROJECT COSTS: \$161 million

POPULATION SERVED BY PROJECT: 90,000 people

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 510 jobs



Photo credit: Pajaro Valley Water

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency's Water Sustainability Projects are an effort to reduce demand on the existing groundwater supply by nearly 25 percent by 2040. To accomplish this, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is completing two projects that will provide alternative surface water supplies. The College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project will modify a naturally occurring lake to create a new seasonal surface water source that will be treated and distributed to customers to offset groundwater demand during the summer months. The Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Project will upgrade the existing filter plant and construct a pump station, recharge basin, and associated pipeline. This project will divert water from nearby shallow lake systems, called sloughs, through recharge basins into shallow aquifers. The recharged water will be provided to agricultural customers for irrigation purposes. By completing these projects, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency will limit the impacts of seawater intrusion and decrease groundwater use by utilizing over 4,000 acre-feet per year of new surface water supply.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Helps reduce demand on the existing groundwater and meet 2040 goals.
- Provides over 4,000 acre-feet per year of new surface water supply to customers.
- Saves the Pajaro Valley Water Management District approximately \$24 million by financing with a WIFIA loan.



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