

MONTEREY COUNTY



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January 27, 2023

Karla Nemeth, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Support for the County of Monterey's Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project Well Rehabilitation and Replacement Project: 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program

Dear Ms. Nemeth,

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)'s Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project Well Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.

The MCWRA, in collaboration with Monterey One Water, has implemented the Monterey County Reclamation Projects since the early 1990s in an ongoing effort to provide an agricultural water supply to Northern Monterey County for the purpose of offsetting groundwater pumping and slowing the advancement of seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The Monterey County Reclamation Projects consist of the Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant (SVRP) recycled water plant and the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) distribution system.

Farmers within the 12,000-acre CSIP area safely irrigate their crops using water delivered through the CSIP system rather than pumping groundwater from individually-owned wells. The delivered water is derived from three sources: surface water from the Salinas River that is diverted seasonally at the Salinas River Diversion Facility, recycled water from the SVRP, and groundwater from CSIP supplemental wells that are operated when the other water sources are unavailable or inadequate to meet demands.

The proposed *Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project Well Rehabilitation and Replacement* project ("Project") has two components. The well rehabilitation component will provide for investigation and structural rehabilitation of one CSIP supplemental well that has exhibited structural difficulties in recent years but has acceptable water quality. The replacement well component will provide for installation of two CSIP supplemental wells, replacing two that are either in poor structural condition or have been impacted by seawater intrusion.

Maintaining a suite of supplemental wells is integral to the continued success of the Monterey County Reclamation Projects. Supplemental wells can be used strategically during extended drought periods when surface water supplies are reduced or unavailable and, unlike wells operated by individuals, can be utilized as part of the holistic approach to water resource management in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

It is expected that extended periods of drought will become increasingly common in the Central Coast of California as climate change progresses¹ and infrastructure like the CSIP supplemental wells will be integral to maintaining a resilient water supply. The County of Monterey Board of Supervisors is pleased to offer our support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Alejo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "A".

Luis Alejo, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors