

Assembly  
California Legislature



**ROBERT RIVAS**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

January 26, 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 Director Nemeth:

I write to share my support of 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 progresses and infrastructure like the CSIP supplemental wells will be integral to maintaining a resilient water supply.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in this matter. If your office has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (831) 756-8676.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

ROBERT RIVAS  
Assemblymember, District 29  
State of California