

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2000 - 046

APPROVAL OF A  
SEAWATER INTRUSION CONTROL LOAN PROGRAM  
LOAN TO PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (AGENCY)  
FOR WATSONVILLE/HARKINS SLOUGH PROJECT

WHEREAS:

1. The Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act (1996 Bond Law) established the Seawater Intrusion Control Subaccount and provided \$10 million for low interest loans for seawater intrusion control projects;
2. The State Water Resources Control Board established the Seawater Intrusion Control Loan Program by adoption of the Seawater Intrusion Control Loan Program Guidelines (Guidelines) on October 23, 1997, which implemented provisions of the 1996 Bond Law;
3. The Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act (2000 Bond Law) established a Seawater Intrusion Control Subaccount, provided an additional \$25 million for low-interest loans for seawater intrusion control projects, and transferred unallocated funds from the 1996 Bond Law to the new Subaccount;
4. A loan application was submitted by the Agency requesting funding for the Watsonville/ Harkins Slough Project;
5. The Office of Water Recycling staff has reviewed the application, plans and specifications, and other supporting information for the project and has determined that the submitted documents comply with the Guidelines; and
6. The Agency has certified an EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 97021006), which has been reviewed and considered, and it is determined that:
  - a) As stated in the EIR, the project may result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to the loss of approximately one-half acre of prime farmland.

The SWRCB hereby adopts the following statement of overriding considerations to address the unmitigatable significant impacts that may occur from approval of the project:

Implementation of the water supply and distribution project would result in benefits including: relief from overdraft problems, improvement of groundwater quality due to a decrease in seawater intrusion, and improvement of regional water supply problems by providing additional fresh water for current and future needs. In balancing the project benefits against the potential significant loss of prime farmland, the SWRCB finds that the public benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, and therefore, determines that the impacts are acceptable.

- b) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the proposed project which avoid or reduce to less than significant levels other potentially significant environmental effects

identified in the EIR with respect to: (i) hydrology and water quality impacts, which will be mitigated by complying with NPDES permit requirements and employing storm water quality management practices; (ii) wetlands impacts, which will be mitigated by timing construction activities to periods of low flows, while maintaining a bypass flow option outside the zone of construction, placing sediment curtains around construction sites, implementing a re-vegetating plan, and erecting exclusion fencing at the perimeter of the construction zone; and (iii) geology and soils impacts, which will be mitigated by conducting geologic investigations, implementing best construction practices, removing loose soils, re-seeding to ensure soil stability, exposing as little new ground as possible, and preparing an inspection and maintenance program.

- c) With respect to other potentially significant environmental impacts identified in the environmental document, appropriate changes or alterations are not within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the SWRCB. Such other changes or alterations have been adopted or should be adopted by other agencies.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The SWRCB approves a Seawater Intrusion Control Loan Program loan from the 2000 Bond Law for the eligible costs but not to exceed \$5 million to Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency for the Watsonville/Harkins Slough Project.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on June 15, 2000.

/s/

Maureen Marché

Administrative Assistant to the Board