



420 Capitola Avenue  
Capitola, California 95010  
Telephone: (831) 475-7300  
FAX: (831) 479-8879  
Website: [www.cityofcapitola.org](http://www.cityofcapitola.org)

February 25, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: Ms. Amanda Erath, Title XVI Program Coordinator  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 86-69200  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Erath,

I'm writing to express my continuing support for Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel Project, and the District's current application for a grant through the US Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart: Title XVI WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. This Project is consistent with the priorities of the Bureau, in assuring a sustainable, reliable source of water for the region, providing beneficial reuse of wastewater and other environmental benefits, and having widespread support at the community, state, and federal levels.

Pure Water Soquel has received Title XVI grants from the Bureau in previous years – for which the affected communities and stakeholders are sincerely grateful. As you may recall from those previous grant applications, the District receives no imported water, relying 100% on groundwater from the Mid-County Groundwater Basin, which is critically over-drafted and suffering seawater intrusion at the coastline. The basin is also relied upon by municipal water purveyors, small mutual well owners, and over a thousand private well pumpers. Impacts of climate change are a continual threat to the reliability of this water source, for all of these users.

The Project was developed to meet the California state mandate of groundwater sustainability by 2040, provide resiliency during droughts, and protect fish and endangered species by reducing regional reliance on surface water sources. The Project will put recycled municipal wastewater through an advanced purification process to produce 1,500 acre-feet per year (afy) of purified water. The project's full-scale implementation is up to 3,000 afy, and current design and construction of the project is being sized to accommodate this expansion. The purified water will be used to recharge the groundwater basin, raise water levels, and prevent further seawater contamination. All of this will be accomplished through the beneficial reuse of recycled wastewater that would otherwise be disposed of in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Construction of Pure Water Soquel is already underway. All three seawater intrusion prevention (injection) wells have been built, construction of the nine supporting monitoring wells began in Fall 2021; construction

Mr. Tim Gubbins  
August 20, 2021  
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on the eight miles of conveyance pipeline began in spring 2021; the advanced water purification facility began construction in late 2021. Project development and construction are estimated to support over \$900 million dollars in economic benefits to the local community.

Pure Water Soquel is a crucial, cutting-edge project. It will aid in replenishing the groundwater basin, provide a barrier against seawater contamination, and provide a safe, high-quality, reliable, drought-proof, and sustainable water supply to support current and future generations in the Mid-Santa Cruz County region.

Thank you for considering the Soquel Creek Water District's request for Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Program Title XVI WIIN grant funds.

Sincerely,

Sam Storey, Mayor  
City of Capitola