

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** February 24, 2022

**From:** City Manager Department

**Subject:** Consider Letter of Support for Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel Project

Recommended Action: Direct the Mayor to sign a letter of support for Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel Project and the District's grant application with the US Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart: Title XVI WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Program.

Background: Portions of the City of Capitola are served by Soquel Creek Water District, along with unincorporated communities of Aptos, La Selva Beach, Opal Cliffs, Rio Del Mar, Seascape, and Soquel. The District has been working on the Pure Water Soquel Project, a groundwater replenishment and seawater intrusion prevention project, since 2013. The project is designed to use proven water purification technology to clean recycled water, producing safe, high-quality, purified water. The Project's intention is to replenish the groundwater basin to prevent further saltwater contamination and provide a reliable, sustainable, and drought-proof water supply.

The 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.

In past years, City of Capitola Mayors have signed letters of support regarding different Soquel Creek Water District projects and grant applications, to support their efforts to preserve our groundwater and provide excellent service to the residents.

Discussion: Now, the Water District has applied to the Bureau of Reclamation for a grant under Title XVI, through which the District has successfully received grant funding in the past. Title XVI is designed to provide funding for water reclamation and reuse, and includes funding for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling and reuse projects in partnership with local government entities.

Soquel Creek Water District has applied for grant funding for the Pure Water Soquel Project, which 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.

Attached is a draft letter of support for the Project and for Soquel Creek Water District's current grant application, which, once signed, will be sent to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Fiscal Impact: None

Attachments:

1. draft letter

Report Prepared By: Chloé Woodmansee, City Clerk

Reviewed/Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager