



# COMMUNITY WATER CENTER

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## EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO POR EL AGUA

March 1, 2023

Monterey County Planning Commission  
Monterey County Housing and Community Development  
1441 Schilling Place - South, 2nd Floor  
Salinas, CA, 93901

**Re: PAJARO SUNNY MESA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (VARIOUS OWNERS), PLN210094 – SUPPORT**

Dear Planning Commission:

**Community Water Center writes to register our strong support for the approval of the Springfield Consolidation Drinking Water Project.** This drinking water project would help provide access to safe and clean water for many low-income households located in an unincorporated, agricultural area north of Moss Landing in Monterey County. The proposed project would expand the current Springfield Water System, which is owned and operated by Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District (PSM CSD) and serves homes on Struve Rd, to also include homes in Moss Landing Mobile Home Park and homes served by small water systems or domestic wells on Springfield Road. CWC has worked directly with residents in this area since 2018 and has seen tremendous need for this project as well as overwhelming support from community members throughout the past five years. CWC along with the Sacramento State Office of Water Programs and the UC Davis School of Law are working as Technical Assistance Providers through the State Water Board to move the project forward and ensure funding for project implementation through the California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

**There is a strong and urgent need for this project to move forward quickly.** Many families in this area currently rely on drinking water contaminated with nitrate and 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) at levels much higher than public health standards. Testing results from some private wells in the surrounding area show contamination up to five times the allowable limit for nitrate and 1,2,3-TCP. Exposure to nitrate in drinking water can have short- and long-term health effects for all people, especially infants and vulnerable populations. Long-term exposure to 1,2,3-TCP at levels typically found in contaminated drinking water is associated with an increased risk of cancer. Risks associated with 1,2,3-TCP come from inhalation in addition to consumption. Due to contamination, residents are unable to safely drink the water in their homes or bathe safely and instead rely on bottled water programs as a short-term solution.

**This project began over 20 years ago and has experienced numerous delays. Access to safe drinking water for these residents is long overdue.** The Springfield Water System was



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acquired by PSM CSD over 20 years ago and the CSD, along with community residents and several organizations, have fought to move this project forward ever since the first detection of contamination. High costs, lack of funding and turnover of key stakeholder roles have caused many delays and barriers. Together with community members and other stakeholders, the project is finally advancing towards completion having overcome several barriers. Project success is now within sight and it is past time for these residents to have clean water in their homes.

**Given the amount of community and stakeholder support and investment, the urgent need and the unacceptable wait the community has faced in the fight for clean drinking water, CWC strongly urges the Monterey County Planning Commission to approve this project without further delay so the families in this community can finally have access to the basic necessity and human right of safe drinking water.**

Sincerely,

Mayra Hernandez  
*Community Solutions Advocate*  
*Community Water Center*