

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## REBUILD PLAN FOR CRITICAL PIPELINE DESTROYED BY CZU FIRE APPROVED BY SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Nov. 16, 2023 — BOULDER CREEK, CA — The San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) today announced it has approved plans to reconstruct the Peavine Pipeline, marking a major milestone in the District's road to recovery following the 2020 CZU Fire disaster.

The plans, approved at the District's Nov. 2 Board of Directors meeting, enable SLVWD staff to move forward with rebuilding the approximately 1.3 miles of above-ground high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline lost when the CZU Fire burned through 1,300 acres of District-owned watershed lands on Ben Lomond Mountain.

Rebuilding the pipeline will reconnect a critical component of SLVWD's surface water supply system, ensuring SLVWD customers have a safe, reliable and sustainable water source.

The approved plans will use HDPE piping laid above ground, conveying raw water from the District surface water sources to a water treatment plant. HDPE pipes are ideal for the extremely steep, rugged and mountainous terrain in the San Lorenzo Valley because they are light-weight, flexible and durable. The original Peavine Pipeline was built in a similar manner more than 30 years ago.

The initial estimated cost for the replacement project is \$2.1 million. SLVWD staff expect roughly 90% of that cost to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SLVWD staff also examined other pipeline construction options, such as undergrounding the pipeline. The above-ground HDPE pipeline is not only the most affordable option but has the least significant impact on the surrounding watershed and redwood forest. It also is the fastest and most efficient way to rebuild the water supply system.

At its Nov. 2 meeting, the Board of Directors approved an environmental review process, which will take place before the end of the year, as well as hiring the California Conservation Crew to reestablish the pipe "bench" and removal of hazardous trees on Ben Lomond Mountain with the goal of reinstalling the pipeline in spring 2024. District staff will continue to research additional fire hardening methods and integrate these methods into construction to help ensure the longevity of the pipeline.

The reconstruction of this critical pipeline adds to more than \$13 million in District Capital Improvement Projects already in progress. Those projects include replacing undersized pipelines, fire hardening, building larger water tanks and adding fire hydrants to improve water supply resiliency and increase firefighting capabilities.

### **ABOUT THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

The San Lorenzo Valley Water District is located in the mountains of northern Santa Cruz County. The District serves more than 7,500 metered connections. Established in 1941, the District supplies water to the communities of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, Zayante, Quail Hollow, Scotts Valley, Whispering Pines, Manana Woods, and Felton. For more information, visit [www.slvwd.com](http://www.slvwd.com) or follow the District on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [Nextdoor](#).

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