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# Project to improve water delivery

## Expected to be finished by the end of the year.



*An upbeat kickoff celebration was staged Thursday where Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency unveiled three projects that will help local water officials better deliver water to the drought-parched Pajaro Valley, and improve the quality of the water.*

*By TODD GUILD OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN*

WATSONVILLE Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency on Thursday unveiled three projects that will help local water officials better deliver water to the drought-parched Pajaro Valley, and improve the quality of the water.

The projects are expected to reduce the amount of water taken from the aquifer after years of overdraft and subsequent saltwater intrusion.

PVWMA hydrologist Brian Lockwood said the agency can only provide 70 percent of the current annual 10,000 acre-feet demand. An acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons.

The first project is a 1.5 million gallon storage tank, and new pumps at the

Recycled Water Facility on Clearwater Lane. This will help PVWMA treat and store water at night when agricultural demand is low to be used for irrigation when farmers need it.

The project will produce an estimated 750 acrefeet per year. It will be paid for through a \$900,000 grant from Gov. Jerry Brown's emergency drought response efforts. The remainder will be funded by a low-interest State Revolving Fund drought emergency loan. A new pipeline, also at the Recycled Water Facility, will allow the agency to blend clean water with the ocean water being drawn from wells impacted by saltwater intrusion into the aquifer.

That project will deliver water from the north end of the system near Sunset beach south to Elkhorn Slough.

Finally, an 8,000-foot pipeline along Bluff Road near Jensen Road will help deliver fresh water to farmers in a 180-acre area of farmland severely impacted by saltwater intrusion.

"This is really the last big gap in the delivered water system as it exists," said PVWMA hydrologist Brian Lockwood.

Stewart Kitayama of KB Farms, which has crops in that area, said his business has been impacted by the salty water.

Kitayama said that 60 percent of the water he uses for irrigation comes from the water recycling plant. KB Farms has been using recycled water since the plant was built in 2002. "This takes pressure off our pumps and gives us better water," he said. The projects are part of the PVWMA Basin Management Plan. In all, they will cost \$4.77 million, much of which is covered by state and federal grants. They are expected to be completed by the end of the