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Pajaro Valley

Water Management Agency

BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN YIELDS RESULTS

*Progress is being made toward balancing the basin
and stopping seawater intrusion*

WATSONVILLE, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) today announced progress has been made on the implementation of the Basin Management Plan Update (BMP or Plan) adopted in 2014 in three key areas: conserving existing water supplies, increasing the use of existing water supplies including recycled water, and developing new water supplies. These efforts are having a positive effect on balancing the basin and stopping seawater intrusion, the two main goals of the Plan.

Supplemental water deliveries have expanded south of the Pajaro River in North Monterey County this summer with the completion of new pipelines funded through \$1.5 million in grants. Increasing access to clean, safe, and reliable recycled water has helped strawberry growers improve their crops in the area and will have long-term benefits for agriculture in the Pajaro Valley.

PVWMA also has received \$300,000 in grant funding to support water conservation programs, a major tenant of the BMP. Conservation provides about 40 percent of the reduced groundwater pumping needed to solve the basin problems over the next two decades.

Additionally, PVWMA is increasing recycled water storage at the Watsonville Area Recycled Water Facility. This joint project with the City of Watsonville is underway now. Increasing recycled water storage is one of three BMP projects related to optimizing the use of existing supplies, and directly complements the PVWMA's efforts to increase recycled water deliveries. Another project, upgrades to the Harkins Slough Recharge Facility, is planned during the implementation of the BMP and, together, these projects are to provide a 30 percent reduction in groundwater pumping in the basin by providing a reliable, supplemental supply of irrigation water for use in-lieu of groundwater pumping.

Supplemental supply projects, such as one proposed to put water from College Lake to beneficial use, are also planned for the future to provide new sources of water to replace groundwater pumping. The BMP Update is being implemented over a 20-year

period, and requires water rights and environmental issues to be resolved for the supplemental supply projects.

ABOUT THE BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Groundwater, the primary source for water in the Pajaro Valley, has been over-drafted from the aquifers beneath the valley during the past several decades, leading to falling groundwater levels and seawater intrusion within the Basin's aquifers, threatening the long-term viability of the Pajaro Valley's groundwater supply. The BMP was developed with the help of Pajaro Valley stakeholders to help ensure the future of local water resources and the agriculture economy. It includes three main components comprised of seven programs and projects, to address groundwater over-pumping issues in the Pajaro Valley.

ABOUT THE PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) is a state-chartered water management district formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. The agency also works to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and future anticipated needs within its boundaries, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley. For more information, visit www.pvwater.org or www.facebook.com/Pajaro-Valley-Water-Management-Agency-239334919458182.

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