



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PVWMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING UPDATE TO
REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

May 16, 2007 Hearing to be Held in Watsonville

On May 16, the PVWMA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider adopting an updated, Final Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The first version of the IRWMP was adopted in November 2006 to comply with grant filing deadlines.

The IRWMP is a collaborative effort with the San Benito County Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, who will also hold equivalent hearings to adopt the IRWMP update later in May. Since the fall of 2006, five, public stakeholder workshops have been held across the region to seek public and stakeholder input to help develop the IRWMP.

The overall goal of participating in an IRWMP is to encourage local agencies, non-profits and other stakeholders to collaborate on regional water projects and help maximize benefits to the broadest group of stakeholders in the region. Over 50 IRWMPs are being undertaken statewide. IRWMPs are a new planning tool designed and promoted by State water agencies to integrate broad-based, long-range water plans.

Adopting the IRWMP also allows the PVWMA and other groups to apply for additional state grant funds. Eight local projects have already been awarded a total of \$25 million in November of 2006. This included \$11.2 million for flood control project improvements within the Pajaro River Levee System as well as studying ways to improve the operation of Soap Lake in the upper watershed. Another \$11.4 million was also awarded for the Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project and 10.4 miles of additional Coastal Distribution System pipeline. The Recycling Project and the Coastal Pipeline both began construction late this winter.

The Updated IRWMP scored and ranked about 100 potential projects under four general categories: water supply, water quality, flood protection and environmental enhancement. Much more planning work is still needed. Out of the 100 projects, about half will require further study

over the next several months. Water supply projects include a range of options for importing water from inland areas. Flood control projects include the Levee Reconstruction Project as proposed by the Local Sponsors, Pajaro River Task Force and Army Corps of Engineers. The two remaining program areas include water quality and environmental enhancement projects.

While the IRWMP lists a wide range of projects eligible for future funding, each implementing agency or group will have to individually decide whether to pursue and construct their own project and will therefore be responsible for completing all the typical engineering and environmental studies required for water projects.

The hearing will be held in the Watsonville City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM on Wednesday May 16, 2007. A copy of the Plan and printed materials are available at the Agency office and staff is available to answer questions. All documents can be found online at:

www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/project_planning/projects_irwmp.shtml