

The Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is a collaborative effort by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), San Benito County Water District (SBCWD), and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to identify regional and multi-beneficial projects for the Pajaro River Watershed. On an individual basis, PVWMA, SBCWD, and SCVWD have each investigated and evaluated various water resource and environmental management options for the overall wealth and well being of the watershed within their jurisdictions. The IRWMP integrates these various efforts and investigates the greater Pajaro River Watershed area in order to identify and prioritize integrated regional projects for the watershed to maximize benefits to the broadest group of stakeholders in the region.

1 Regional Water Management Group

This section meets the following IRWMP Standard from the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines.

A. Regional Agency or Regional Water Management Group – Describe the regional water management group or regional agency responsible for development and implementation of the Plan. Include the member agencies and organizations and their management responsibilities related to water. Demonstrate that all agencies and organizations necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the Plan were involved in the planning process.

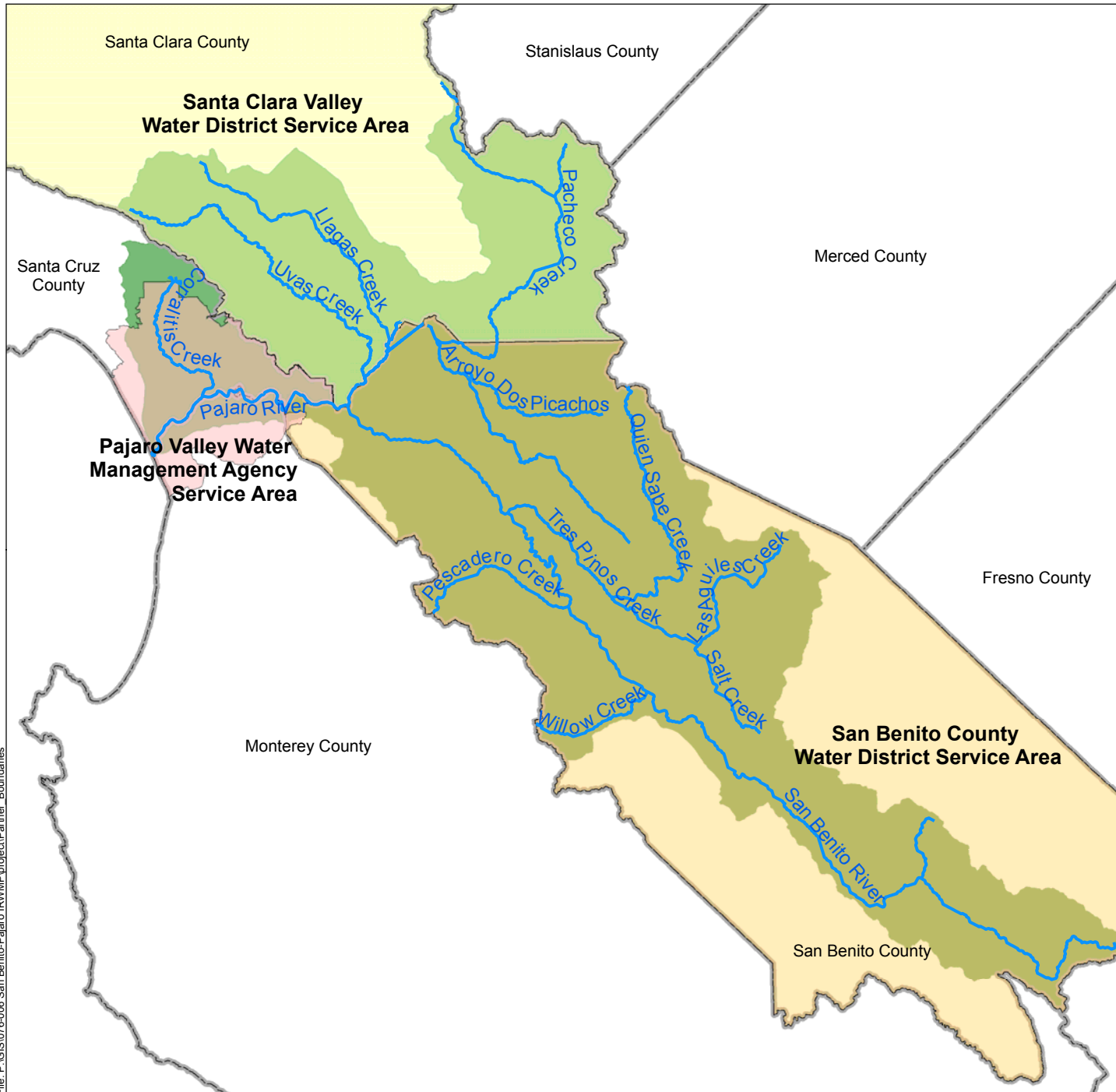
In October 2004, PVWMA, SBCWD and SCVWD entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of coordinating water resources planning and implementation activities watershed-wide (see Appendix A). These three agencies are collectively referred to as the Partners. In their role as the sponsors leading the development of the IRWMP, the Partners are more formally known as the Pajaro River Watershed Collaborative. The IRWMP is envisioned to be a living document that shall evolve and be updated in the future as projects are implemented and priorities change. As part of the IRWMP process, the Partners have met and will continue to meet regularly in order to formulate and carry out the mission, goals, objectives and strategies of the IRWMP and to solicit and encourage participation from other agencies and stakeholders in the watershed.

The on-going nature of the IRWMP process and stakeholder collaboration will facilitate conflict identification and resolution of issues within the watershed. The collaborative approach will provide a forum for identifying and evaluating water supply, water quality, groundwater and surface water management, ecosystem restoration, and other watershed issues.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the region encompassed by the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP, and PVWMA, SBCWD and SCVWD's jurisdictions in relation to the watershed.

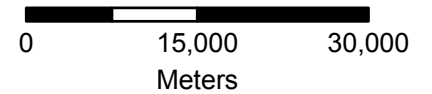
Figure 1-1

Watershed Setting



Legend

- River
- PVWMA Service Area
- SBCWD Service Area
- SCVWD Service Area
- Pajaro_Watershed
- county_bnds



1.1 Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

PVWMA is a state-chartered special purpose district formed under State Law pursuant to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act. PVWMA was 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 and to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and anticipated needs within its boundaries. PVWMA has the authority to adopt ordinances for the purpose of conserving local groundwater supplies that all public and private water purveyors within the Agency's boundaries must adhere to. The PVWMA service area is comprised of portions of three counties, which are Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties.

PVWMA is a Central Valley Project (CVP) water contractor that plans to connect to the Santa Clara Conduit of the San Felipe Division facilities in the future to provide CVP water to its service area. Along with SCVWD and SBCWD, PVWMA has an assigned delivery capacity from the San Felipe Division facilities.

As a member of the Pajaro River Watershed Collaborative, the PVWMA Board will be requested to adopt the IRWMP.

1.2 San Benito County Water District

SBCWD is a special purpose district formed under State Law pursuant to the San Benito County Water District Act. As a water conservation and flood control district, the SBCWD mission is to preserve the economic and environmental wealth and well-being of San Benito County through the control, management and conservation of waters and the provision of water services in a practical, cost-effective and responsible manner. The SBCWD is a CVP contractor and receives water from the San Felipe Division facilities through the Pacheco and Hollister Conduits.

As a member of the Pajaro River Watershed Collaborative, the SBCWD Board will be requested to adopt the IRWMP.

1.3 Santa Clara Valley Water District

SCVWD is a special purpose district formed under State Law pursuant to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Act. SCVWD provides wholesale water supply, stream and watershed stewardship, and flood protection for Santa Clara County. In addition, SCVWD manages the County's groundwater subbasins. The mission of the SCVWD is a healthy, safe, and enhanced quality of living in Santa Clara County through watershed stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost-effective, and environmentally-sensitive manner. SCVWD is a CVP and State Water Project (SWP) contractor and receives water from the San Felipe Division facilities through the Pacheco and Santa Clara Conduits.

As a member of the Pajaro River Watershed Collaborative, the SCVWD Board will be requested to adopt the IRWMP.

1.4 Regional Stakeholders

Since formally launching the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP effort in early 2005, the Partners have conducted periodic stakeholder workshop. Work generated during the IRWMP process was formally presented and reviewed by stakeholder groups and the general public through these stakeholder workshops. Less formal communications and regular correspondence, such as telephone calls, emails, and letters, were another method of stakeholder input and cooperation.

The involvement of regional stakeholders has been integral to the development of the IRWMP. Because the Partners’ main interests are in water supply and water quality, coordination with other agencies and organizations helped to ensure that the IRWMP accurately captured other water resource interests in the region. From the information gathered through the outreach efforts thus far, a list of stakeholders was generated, as seen in Table 1-1. The stakeholder list includes organizations dealing with all aspects of water resource management, including water supply, water quality, flood protection and environmental protection and enhancement. The stakeholder list is expected to evolve over time; therefore, additional stakeholders are expected to be identified and contacted for their participation in future IRWM planning.

As identified in the table, there are several agencies with overlying and neighboring jurisdictions and water management responsibilities. As further described in Section 2 of the IRWMP, the Collaborative is committed to continued coordination with these agencies to deliver enhanced regional planning for the greater Monterey Bay area.

Table 1-1: Stakeholders in the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
Action Pajaro Valley	Action Pajaro Valley is a nonprofit organization located in the City of Watsonville that serves as a forum for community members in the Pajaro Valley to come together and discuss long-term plans for the region. In addition to serving as a neutral facilitator during these discussions
Aromas Water District	Aromas Water District is located on the westerly edge of the PVWMA service area. This special district provides water treatment and supply service for approximately 750 customers.
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)	AMBAG was organized for the permanent establishment of a forum for planning, discussion and study of regional problems of mutual interest and concern to the counties and cities in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties; and for the development of studies, plans, policies and action recommendations.
California Coastal Conservancy	The California Coastal Conservancy works with other groups to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition	This coalition is a partnership of Central Coast growers organized through their respective county Farm Bureaus. Established by the California Farm Bureau, six Central Coast counties receive grant monies to fund research and monitoring of agricultural water quality effects. The Coalition is working to identify local water quality threats and learn about economically viable water quality protection practices. The various county Farm Bureau program coordinators assist watershed groups to implement these practices.
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – Region 3	The Central Coast RWQCB is a regulatory extension of the State Water Resources Control Board. The Central Coast RWQCB coordinates and controls the quality of water in its region through the protection of beneficial uses, the development of water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses, and implementation planning to accommodate the water quality objectives. This entity was established by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (1969), which became Division Seven ("Water Quality") of the State Water Code. The State Water Code establishes the responsibilities and authorities of the nine RWQCBs (previously called Water Pollution Control Boards) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The federal Clean Water Act (Public Law 92-500, as amended) provides for the delegation of certain responsibilities in water quality control and water quality planning to the states. Where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the SWRCB have agreed to such delegation, the Regional Boards implement portions of the Clean Water Act, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and toxic substance control programs
Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council	The Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council serves South Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. The council's activities focus on agritourism, steelhead habitat enhancement, water quality education, coordinated resource management and planning (CRMP) coordination and permit streamlining.
City of Gilroy	Located in South Santa Clara County, the City of Gilroy provides water service to residences and businesses. Gilroy is a South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA) Partner which provides wastewater service for the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill.
City of Hollister	The City of Hollister is a major urban service area in San Benito County. The City of Hollister provides various municipal and industrial (M&I) services include wastewater collection and treatment and water supply service.
City of Morgan Hill	Located in South Santa Clara County, the City of Morgan Hill provides water service to residences and businesses. Morgan Hill is a SCRWA Partner that provides wastewater service for the Cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
City of San Juan Bautista	Located in San Benito County, the City of San Juan Bautista provides wastewater and water services. San Juan Bautista is a member of the Water Resource Association of San Benito County.
City of Watsonville	The City of Watsonville is a major urban service area within PVWMA. The City provides various M&I services including wastewater collection and treatment and water supply service.
County of Monterey	The County of Monterey is a government agency with land use jurisdiction within its boundaries. The County also manages water and sanitation systems in unincorporated County Service Areas. The southern portion of the PVWMA service area is in Monterey County.
County of San Benito	The County of San Benito is a government agency with land use jurisdiction within its boundaries. A significant portion of the upper Pajaro River watershed (including the San Benito River) is within San Benito County.
County of Santa Clara	The County of Santa Clara is a government agency with land use jurisdiction within its boundaries. A portion of the upper Pajaro River watershed is within Santa Clara County.
County of Santa Cruz	The County of Santa Cruz is a government agency with land use jurisdiction within its boundaries. The County of Santa Cruz also has jurisdiction over stormwater, drainage, watershed management, water resources management and water quality protection for the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. The northern portion of the PVWMA service area is in Santa Cruz County.
Farm Bureaus (Monterey County, San Benito County, Santa Clara County, and Santa Cruz County)	Farm Bureaus are organized on a county, state, and national level with the county Farm Bureaus serving as the core of the organization. Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties each have their own Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau is a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonpartisan organization of farm and ranch families seeking solutions to the problems that affect their lives, both socially and economically. The Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition is the local Farm Bureau partnership that works with growers within the Pajaro River watershed.
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	The land trust is a community-based nonprofit organization that works cooperatively with land owners, government entities, and other organizations to protect and manage lands of significant value. Their primary focuses are protecting prime agricultural lands, protecting lands with significant habitat value, and providing effective stewardship of lands already protected.

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)	The MBNMS mission is to understand and protect the coastal ecosystem of Central California. The MBNMS is an extension of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP). The NMSP mission is to serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas, to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy. Its goals are appropriate to the unique diversity contained within individual sites. They may include restoring and rebuilding marine habitats or ecosystems to their natural condition or monitoring and maintaining already healthy areas.
Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)	MCWRA is a special district formed to manage, protect, and enhance the quantity and quality of water and provide specified flood control services for Monterey County, and to be a leader in efficient, innovative, and equitable water resources management for the County. As a County water agency and stakeholder, MCWRA has an interest in flood prevention and water supply management of the lower Pajaro River that falls within its jurisdiction.
Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (PRWFPA)	PRWFPA was established in 2000 by the State of California Assembly Bill 807 to identify, evaluate, fund, and implement flood prevention and control strategies in the Pajaro River watershed, on an intergovernmental basis. Since the Pajaro River watershed covers an area within four counties (Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey) and four water districts (Santa Clara Valley Water District; San Benito County Water District; Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7; and Monterey County Water Resources Agency), the PRWFPA is comprised of one representative from each of the eight interested agencies. The PRWFPA is a governing body through which each member organization can participate and contribute to finding a method to provide flood protection in the watershed and promote general watershed interests. A further goal is to identify and prioritize strategies and projects that will provide multiple benefits, such as water supply, groundwater recharge, or environmental restoration and protection benefits.
Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District	Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District is a water supplier for smaller communities in the Pajaro Valley and has consolidated water delivery service for a number of mutual water companies in northern Monterey County.
Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce	The Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce promotes Watsonville and surrounding community areas and is dedicated to advancing the business success of its members.

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
<p>Planning and Conservation League Foundation</p>	<p>The Planning and Conservation League Foundation mission is to ensure that California continues to be an attractive, livable, and equitable state by engaging in cutting-edge environmental public policy research, and educating and empowering local communities to understand and participate in local and state environmental decision making processes. The Planning and Conservation League Foundation also produces publications that educate the public about environmental challenges in the areas of planning, natural resource conservation, environmental protection, clean air, clean water, sustainable energy policies, and environmental justice.</p>
<p>Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)</p>	<p>California RCDs are special districts organized under the state Public Resources Code, Division 9. The RCDs in the Pajaro Watershed are the Santa Cruz RCD, Monterey County RCD, San Benito RCD and Loma Prieta RCD. Each district has a locally elected or appointed volunteer board of directors made up of landowners in that district. Interests of the RCDs which relate to water management include water quality, wildlife habitat restoration, soil erosion control, and conservation education.</p>
<p>San Benito County Agricultural Land Trust</p>	<p>This land trust is devoted to providing financial options to landowners in order to protect the agricultural heritage of San Benito County. The land trust can protect land permanently and directly by accepting donations of conservation easements designed to meet the individual needs of landowners. As a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, the Trust is funded through membership, donations and grants.</p>
<p>San Benito County Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>The San Benito County Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of creating, promoting, and celebrating economic vitality within San Benito County by providing resources to businesses and individuals.</p>
<p>San Martin Neighborhood Alliance</p>	<p>This community alliance encompasses local topics and issues.</p>
<p>Santa Clara County Open Space Authority</p>	<p>The immediate high priorities of the Open Space Authority are preservation of open spaces and creation of greenbelts between communities, lands on the valley floor, hillsides, viewsheds and watersheds, baylands and riparian corridors. The Open Space Authority promotes land preservation to maintain the quality of life in the County and to encourage outdoor recreation and continuing agricultural activities. It promotes development and implementation of land management policies that provide proper care of open space lands and allow public access appropriate to the nature of the land for recreation.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 (SCCFC&WCD)</p>	<p>This district is governed by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, City of Watsonville, and PVWMA. It provides flood control services to Santa Cruz County except the cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Capitola. As a County agency and stakeholder, SCCFC&WCD has an interest in flood prevention of the lower Pajaro River that falls within its jurisdiction.</p>

Stakeholder	Description of Authority/Interests
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter	This local chapter of the Sierra Club is committed to participating in the South Santa Clara County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan. The planning area includes the Uvas-Llagas watershed, which is a tributary to the Pajaro River.
Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter	This local chapter of the Sierra Club is interested in preserving the Pajaro River and its watershed through environmental activism.
Silicon Valley Land Conservancy	The Silicon Valley Land Conservancy is a nonprofit entity formed to preserve and protect the remaining open space in Silicon Valley.
Soquel Creek Water District	This government agency provides water resource management for communities in mid-Santa Cruz County.
South County Regional Wastewater Authority	South County Regional Wastewater Authority is the regional wastewater authority for South Santa Clara County, primarily serving the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill. SCRWA has partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to expand water recycling in southern Santa Clara County.
South Valley Streams for Tomorrow	This organization is concerned with streams in South Santa Clara County and tributaries of the Pajaro River in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.
Sunnyslope County Water District	Sunnyslope County Water District is a water and wastewater management district for a portion of the City of Hollister and the Ridgemark Development in San Benito County.
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	TNC is a leading international, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the diversity of life on Earth. Their mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. TNC is currently working on projects within the Pajaro River watershed that promotes private lands conservation and other conservation practices. They work with landowners, communities, cooperatives and businesses to establish local groups that can protect land.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	The USACE provides engineering and environmental services throughout the nation. The Corps has plans to implement a flood protection project on the lower Pajaro River.
Water Resources Association of San Benito County	The Water Resource Association is comprised of the SBCWD, San Benito County Government, Sunnyslope County Water District, City of Hollister, and City of San Juan Bautista.
Watsonville Wetlands Watch	The Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a nonprofit community based organization dedicated to the protection, restoration and appreciation of the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley.
Wildlands, Inc.	Wildlands, Inc. is a habitat development and land management company with projects throughout California and the western United States. Wildlands is one of the nation's first private organizations to establish mitigation banks and conservation banks that protect wildlife habitat in perpetuity.