CHAPTER 1
PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) needs to prevent further overdraft of the groundwater basin it manages and to halt seawater intrusion into the aquifer. The purpose of the proposed action is to meet these needs by providing quality surface water to PVWMA for the long-term sustainability of agricultural irrigation and production in Pajaro Valley.

The actions described in this document are part of PVWMA's overall Water Supply Project.[1] The purposes of the Water Supply Project are:

- To prevent long-term seawater intrusion, groundwater overdraft, land subsidence, and water quality degradation;
- To manage existing and supplemental water supplies to control overdraft and to provide for present and future water needs;
- To create a reliable, long-term water supply, which has been identified as an important cornerstone of the long-term economic vitality of agricultural business in the Pajaro Valley;
- To develop water conservation programs;[2] and
- To recommend a program that is cost effective and environmentally sound.

1.2 BACKGROUND ON NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.2.1 PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

In 1984, PVWMA was formed and given the responsibility of managing groundwater resources within the Pajaro Valley. The PVWMA is authorized by the California Statutes of 1984, Chapter 257 (Act), as amended. **Figure 1.1** indicates the boundaries of the PVWMA service area. Located on the central coast of California, the service area lies mostly in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, with a small portion in San Benito County. The geographic boundaries of the agency approximately correspond to the topographic and hydrologic boundaries of the Pajaro

[1] The Water Supply Project was analyzed in the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Revised Basin Management Plan Environmental Impact Report (Revised BMP EIR). The Revised BMP EIR is described in Section 1.4 of this EIS.

[2] PVWMA currently is implementing a conservation program to reduce water demand by 5,000 acre feet per year (afy), as described in Appendix B.

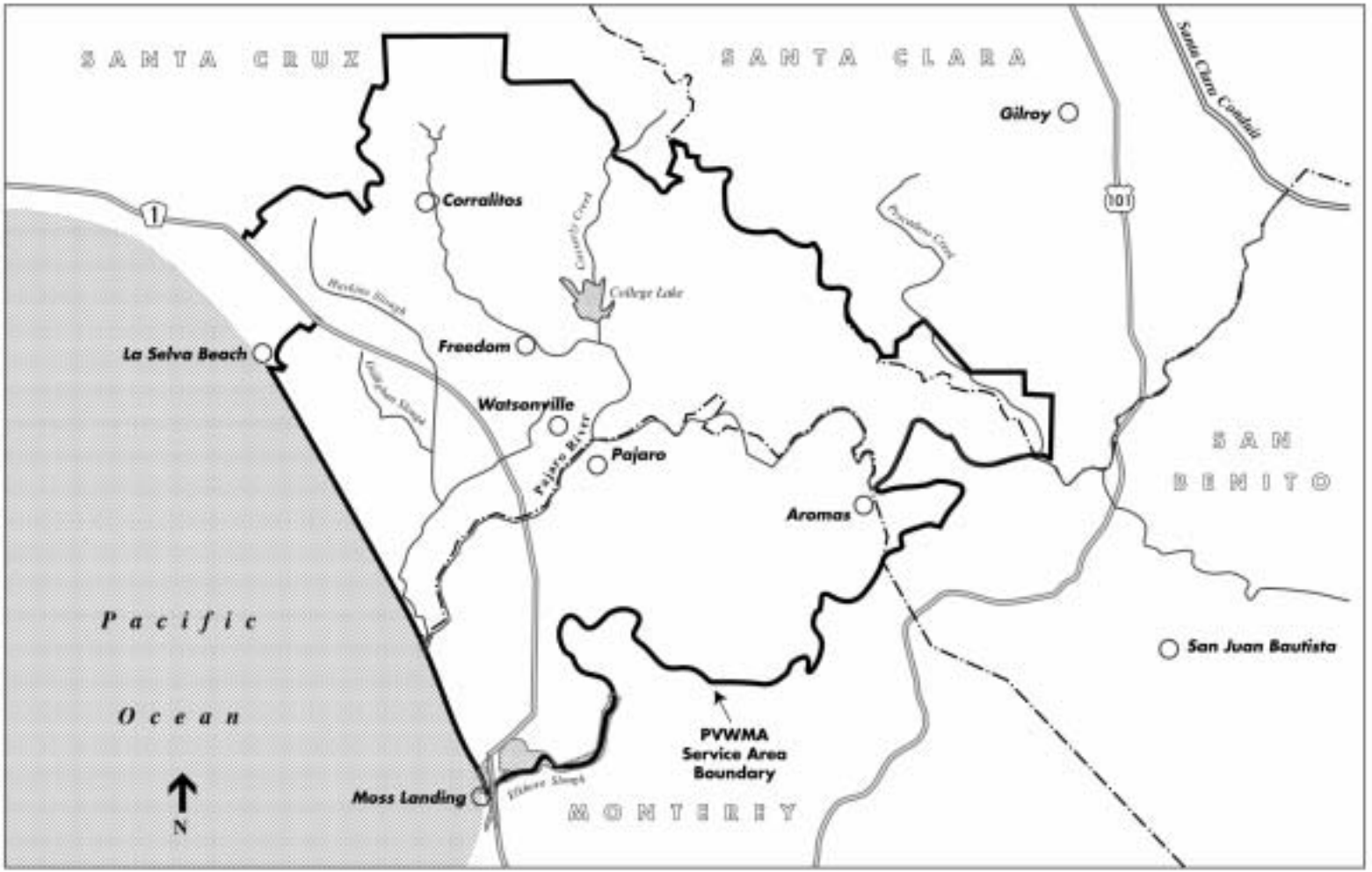

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Figure 1.1
PVWMA Service Area

Valley, and encompass approximately 79,600 acres of irrigated agricultural lands, native and non-irrigated lands in the hillside areas, the City of Watsonville, and the unincorporated communities of Pajaro, Freedom, Corralitos, and Aromas. The Pajaro Valley is home to over 80,000 residents. Agriculture is the most significant economic industry in the valley. High-value crops include strawberries, bush berries, apples, flowers, lettuce, artichokes, and a variety of other vegetables. The Pajaro Valley historically has relied solely upon groundwater to meet agricultural, municipal, and industrial water demands.

1.2.2 OVERDRAFT AND SEAWATER INTRUSION

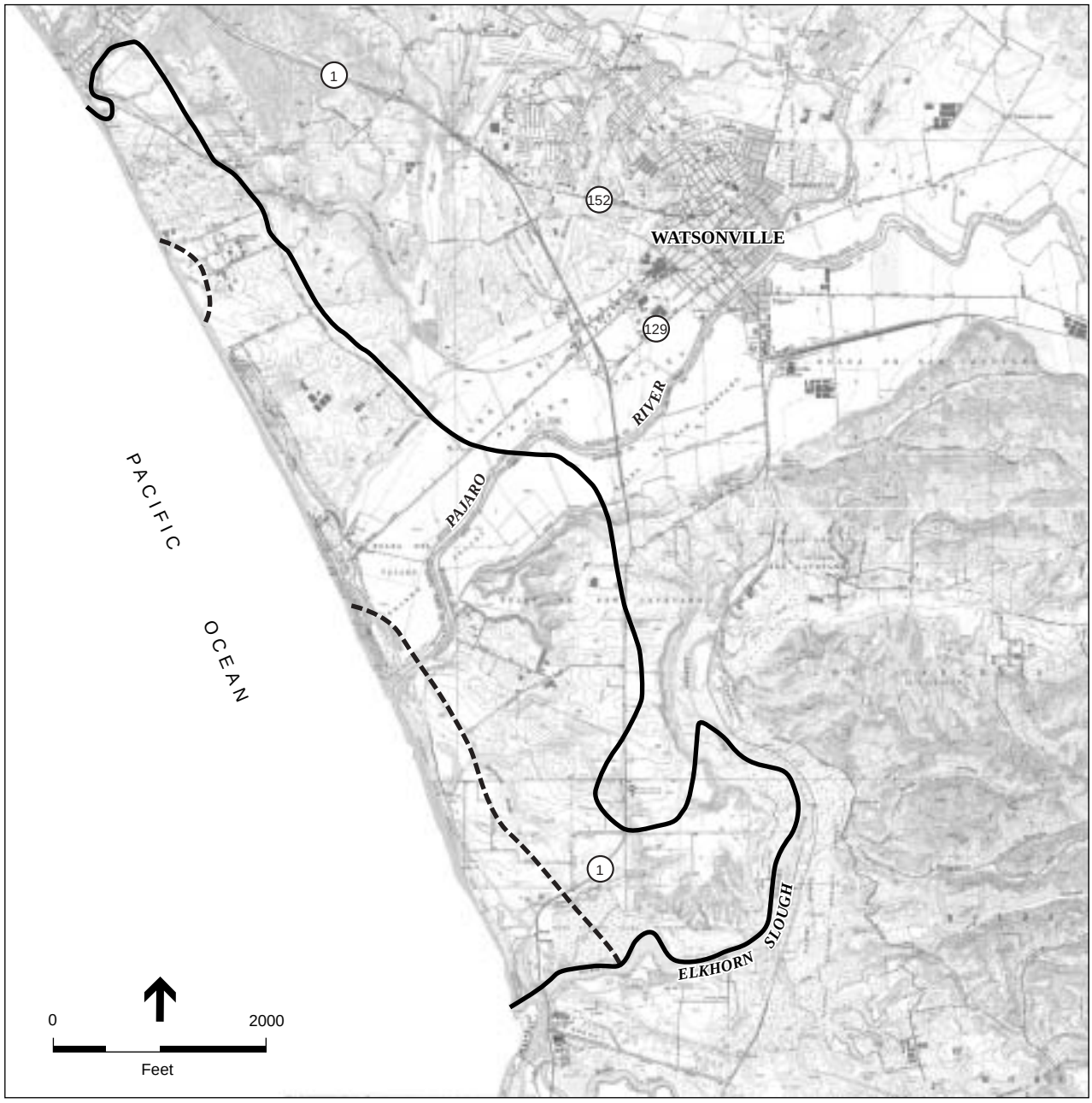
Overdraft occurs when the amount of groundwater withdrawn from a basin exceeds the sustainable groundwater supply. In the Pajaro Valley Basin, groundwater levels have declined as the groundwater pumping rate has exceeded sustainable supply. Groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion problems have been documented by the state and federal government since the 1950s (refer to Appendix A for more information).

In the coastal areas and throughout much of the basin, overdraft conditions have caused groundwater levels to drop below sea level, creating a landward pressure gradient that causes seawater from the Pacific Ocean to move inland toward areas of depressed groundwater levels, where it mixes with fresh groundwater. The density difference causes the fresh water to stratify above the seawater. As seawater encroaches into the fresh groundwater basin, water quality degrades, limiting the beneficial use of groundwater for irrigation and domestic purposes, and wells have to be abandoned. Seawater intrusion creates a progressive increase in the concentrations of chloride, magnesium, and/or other constituents in groundwater. Elevated chloride concentrations in well water samples are used as an indicator of seawater intrusion. The average concentration of chloride in seawater is 19,000 mg/L. Irrigation water is likely to increase problems for agriculture when chloride levels exceed 142 mg/L. **Figure 1.2** presents the postulated movement of seawater intrusion based on chloride concentrations measured in well water samples (PVWMA, 2000b). The actual progress of seawater intrusion is irregular, with seawater moving into different freshwater aquifers at different times. These conditions are not expected to improve without the elimination of groundwater pumping in areas adjacent to the coast and development and delivery of additional water supplies.

1.2.3 WATER USE AND SUPPLY

HISTORIC PATTERNS OF GROUNDWATER PUMPING IN THE BASIN

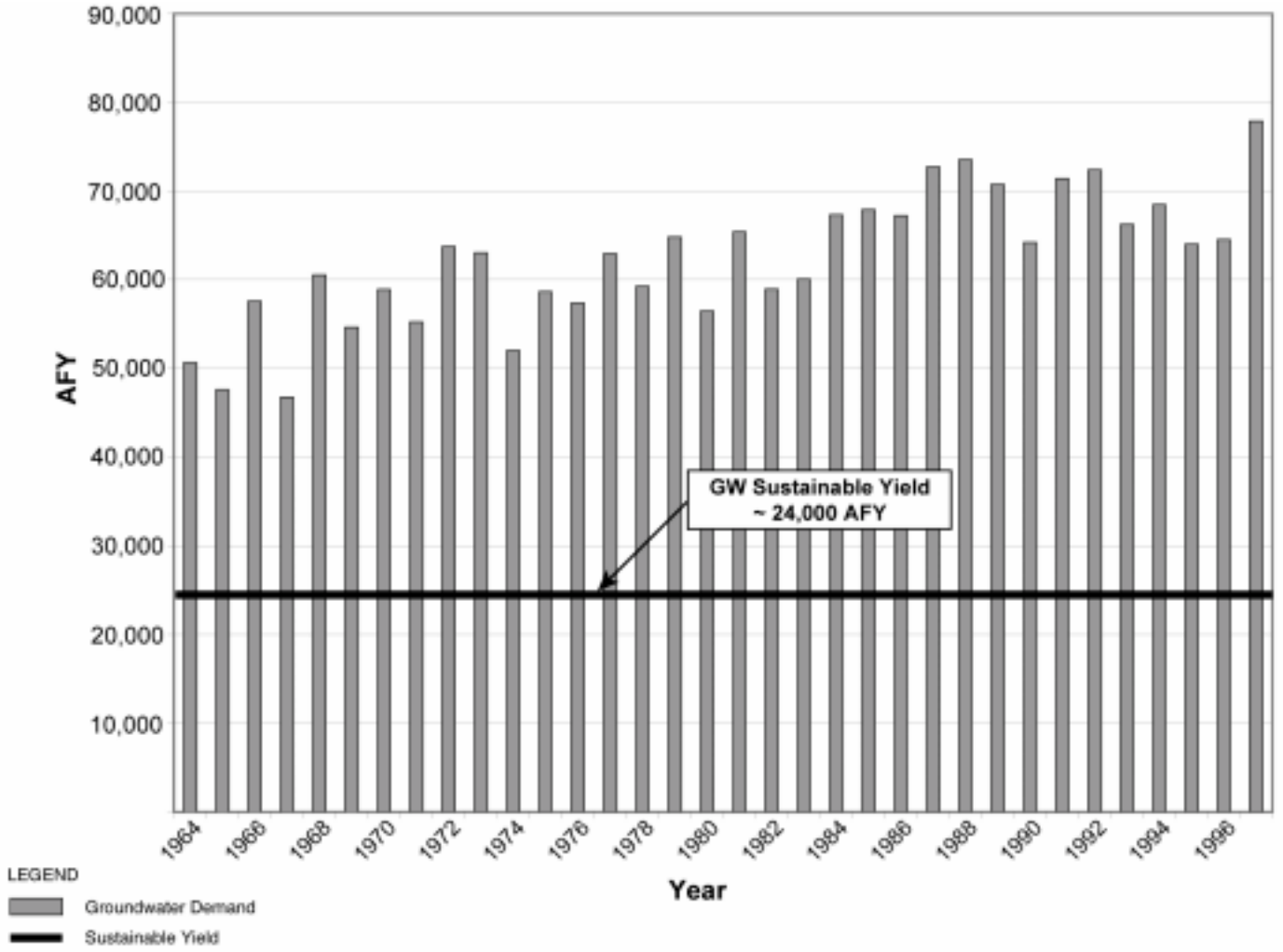
Figure 1.3 illustrates historic patterns of groundwater pumping in the Pajaro Valley. The figure also delineates the sustainable groundwater supply (24,000 AFY). When demand exceeds sustainable yield, overdraft of the groundwater basin occurs. Demand exceeded sustainable yield every year depicted in **Figure 1.3**.



SOURCES: RMC, 2002

PVWMA Revised BMP EIS / 200179 ■

Figure 1.2
Seawater Intrusion Areas of
Elevated Chloride Levels (100 mg/L or Greater),
1951 and 2000



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SOURCE: RMC, Inc.

Figure 1.3
Groundwater Demand vs. Sustainable Yield
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

EXISTING AND FUTURE WATER USE[3]

Table 1.1 shows existing and projected future water use in the PVWMA service area. Total current water use is approximately 71,500 afy. PVWMA projects a 9,000 afy increase in water use by 2040. Urban demand represents about 3,900 afy of the projected increase, while agricultural demand represents about 5,100 afy of the increase. According to PVWMA's Water Conservation 2000 report, summarized in Appendix B of this EIS, water conservation by PVWMA (for agricultural uses) and the City of Watsonville (for urban uses) is expected to reduce demand by approximately 5,000 afy. Appendix B presents additional information on PVWMA's current conservation practices and opportunities for additional urban and agricultural water conservation alternatives within the Pajaro Valley.

TABLE 1.1
EXISTING AND FUTURE WATER USE WITHIN PVWMA AREA

	Current (2001) Conditions (afy)[a]	Future (2040) Conditions (afy)[a]
Demand[b]		
Agricultural Uses	59,300	64,400
Urban Uses	12,200	16,100
Total Demand Before Additional Conservation	**71,500**	**80,500**
Conservation		
Increased Agricultural Conservation (To be achieved by 2010)	4,500	4,500
Increased Urban Conservation (To be achieved by 2010)	500	500
Total Additional Conservation	**5,000**	**5,000**
Project Total Demand with Additional Conservation	**66,500**	**75,500**

a Values rounded to the nearest hundred to represent the values' significant accuracy.
b Current demand is based on current pumping (estimated at about 69,000 afy) and surface water diversions.

SOURCE: RMC, Inc., 2002

For the purposes of determining current and future water use in the PVWMA service area, land use is divided into two categories: agriculture (irrigation water only) and urban (municipal, commercial, and industrial water users). PVWMA determined historic water use from data for the urban category (City of Watsonville groundwater production records, adjusted to include urban acreage in unincorporated areas) and groundwater basin modeling (the Pajaro Valley Integrated Groundwater Surface Water Model [PVIGSM]) for the agricultural category.

3 This section presents a summary of the complex land use and water consumption information developed for the Revised BMP. For further information on these issues, refer to Sections 2.6 and 2.7 in the Revised Basin Management Plan (BMP). The Revised BMP can be viewed at http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/.

PVWMA estimated current urban water use by averaging monthly urban water use during the 1994 through 1997 hydrologic period. Future urban water use was estimated based on population projections provided by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and a water use factor of 131 gallons per day per capita.[4]

For current agricultural water use, the basic inputs and assumptions used in modeling the groundwater basin included the following:

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) land use survey data (1997) for cropping patterns;
- Historic hydrologic data, including average, wet, and dry years (to determine the amount of water provided by the natural hydrologic cycle in comparison to pumping); and
- Water use factors (based on application rates by crop type, irrigated acreage, effective rainfall, minimum soil moisture, crop evapotranspiration, irrigation efficiency, cultural practices such as crop rotation, and marketing factors).

For future agricultural water use, PVWMA assumes that the total acreage of land under cultivation would remain constant, but that historic shifts in crop type—from deciduous crops to strawberry and vine crops—would persist. PVWMA assumes that approximately 2,000 acres of deciduous crops would be converted to berry crops and that future agricultural water use would increase commensurately.

WATER SUPPLIES

Existing Water Supply

Groundwater pumping provides for more than 95 percent of this current demand, or an estimated 69,000 afy.[5] Approximately 2,100 afy from local surface water diversions are used (Watsonville diverts approximately 1,100 afy from Corralitos Creek, and agricultural users are projected to divert another 1,000 afy from local surface waters).

PVWMA has conducted a detailed assessment of the groundwater basin to determine the sustainable yield of the groundwater resources and the role groundwater can play in meeting current and future water demands. Advancing seawater intrusion in the Pajaro Valley area (**Figure 1.2**) indicates that the existing level of groundwater pumping is not sustainable and that groundwater alone cannot continue to meet existing water demands, or increases in future demands.

[4] AMBAG provides forecasts of population growth in five-year increments through 2020. The BMP performance period is through 2040. The Revised BMP assumed that the growth rate from 2020 to 2040 would be consistent with the AMBAG growth rate assumed for the years 2015 to 2020, which is 3.8 percent.

[5] Total groundwater pumping values are rounded to two significant figures or to the nearest thousand to represent significant accuracy.

Groundwater Sustainable Yield for Current Pumping Conditions

Sustainable yield is defined as the level of pumping that the groundwater basin can sustain without inducing seawater intrusion and/or lowering groundwater elevations. PVIGSM model results indicate that, under current pumping practices, a 65 percent reduction in basinwide groundwater pumping (45,000 afy) is necessary to eliminate seawater intrusion. Under this scenario, the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin is approximately 24,000 afy (69,000 afy minus 45,000 afy), or approximately one third of the current average annual demand on groundwater supplies (refer to **Table 1.2**). However, the basin sustainable yield could be doubled if pumping in the areas adjacent to the coast were eliminated and replaced by an alternative supply. The basin sustainable yield estimated for this scenario is 48,000 afy. The modeling indicates that elimination of groundwater pumping in the coastal area would allow groundwater levels in the area to increase, thereby creating a hydrostatic barrier that would prevent further seawater intrusion. This scenario requires a firm (100 percent reliable) supplemental water supply with very little variation in year-to-year availability and construction of a coastal distribution system to provide coastal agricultural users with water.

TABLE 1.2
SUSTAINABLE YIELD

	Assuming Basinwide Pumping Reductions (AFY)	**Assuming Pumping Eliminated Along the Coast (AFY)[a]**
Total Groundwater Pumping	69,000	69,000
Pumping Reduction Needed to Stop Seawater Intrusion	45,000	21,000
Sustainable Yield	24,000	**48,000**[b]

a The proposed action would eliminate pumping in areas adjacent to the coast rather than reduce pumping throughout the Basin.

b Conjunctive use of the groundwater basin, necessitated by wet year/dry year fluctuations in the supplemental supply, reduces the estimated sustainable yield to 47,000 AFY.

Meeting Future Water Needs

PVWMA proposes to maximize the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin to meet current and future water demands while protecting the basin from further seawater intrusion and degradation. Therefore, PVWMA has adopted a water supply project that would eliminate groundwater pumping in the area adjacent to the coast and develop additional surface water and recycled water supplies along with new distribution infrastructure to provide coastal agricultural users with an alternative source of water supply. **Table 1.3** lists all of the projects under the Water Supply Project by implementation phase; for more detail, refer to the description under "Revised Basin Management Plan" in Appendix A, Project History and Alternatives Development.

TABLE 1.3
PVWMA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Project	Status
Phase 1	
▪ Coastal Distribution System (Harkins Slough portion only)	In operation
▪ Coastal Distribution System (Accelerated Pipeline Project)	Currently underway; completion in 2003
▪ Conservation: (5,000 afy)	Currently underway; full implementation in 2010
▪ Harkins Slough with Harkins Slough Recharge Basin, Supplemental Wells, and Connections (1,100 afy)	In operation
Phase 2 – 2004-2007	
▪ Remaining portions of the Integrated Coastal Distribution System (ICDS)	Evaluated in this EIS
▪ Import Water Project with Out-of-Basin Banking (13,400 afy) and Supplemental Wells	Evaluated in this EIS
▪ Water Recycling Project (4,000 afy)	Evaluated in this EIS
▪ Watershed Management Programs (e.g., nitrate management)	To be developed
Phase 3 – After 2007 (Potential Future Projects)	
▪ Wells for conjunctive use of CVP water ▪ Inland Distribution System ▪ College Lake (storage project) ▪ Watsonville Slough (local surface water diversion project) ▪ Murphy Crossing (local surface water diversion project)	Need for and selection of Phase 3 projects to be implemented will be determined after 2007, based on future water supply and demand conditions. Not addressed in this EIS; additional environmental review will be required.

SOURCE: RMC, Inc., 2002.

Groundwater Sustainable Yield Assuming Fluctuating Supplemental Supply

CVP contractors experience supply reductions during dry years. The yield in any given year could range from zero percent to 100 percent of a contract entitlement because of dry-year reductions. Due to legal restrictions (such as implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act [CVPIA] and requirements established by CALFED for fisheries and water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) and to fluctuations in weather conditions, Reclamation has predicted that agricultural CVP contractors south of the Delta may receive only 60 percent of their annual contract allocations on a long-term average basis.[6] In order to offset the anticipated shortfall in CVP water supplies due to dry-year reductions, PVWMA would rely

6 This delivery figure, while subject to various considerations, is explained further in the CVPIA Programmatic EIS.

on groundwater banking within the basin and in a groundwater basin outside the Pajaro Valley (out-of-basin banking). The basin sustainable yield is then reduced from 48,000 afy to 47,000 afy due to increased reliance on groundwater pumping during dry years, when cutbacks in CVP water would occur. PVWMA's assessment of how much additional, supplemental water supply needs to be developed assumes that the groundwater basin sustainable yield is 47,000 afy.

Amount of Supplemental Water Supply Needed

PVWMA needs to prevent further overdraft of the groundwater basin and to halt seawater intrusion into the aquifer. **Table 1.4** indicates the amount of supplemental water supply that PVWMA needs to accomplish these goals. The current total water demand is estimated at 71,500 afy. Of this amount, total groundwater demand is estimated at 69,000 afy. Conservation measures are expected to reduce groundwater demand by 5,000 afy. The difference between total groundwater demand (69,000 afy) and a basin sustainable yield of 47,000 afy (assuming fluctuations in the supplemental water supply) is 17,000 afy. Groundwater modeling results indicate that PVWMA needs to supply a total of 18,500 afy to the coastal area in order to create a hydrostatic barrier to prevent further seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin while also meeting near-term (2007) demand. The Harkins Slough project will supply approximately 1,100 afy of the 18,500 afy needed; PVWMA proposed to obtain the balance – 17,400 afy – via CVP water and other imported water and recycled water. As **Table 1.4** indicates, additional supplies would need to be developed to meet long-term (2040) demand. PVWMA will evaluate the need for additional water supply projects (see Phase 3 projects in **Table 1.3**) after 2007, based on future water supply and demand conditions.

1.3 FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under federal law, the following actions must be authorized by Reclamation:

- connection of the Import Pipeline to the CVP Santa Clara Conduit of the San Felipe Unit, and
- the provision of federal funds for design, planning and construction of the Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project under PL102-575, Title XVI, Section 1619, as amended.

Reclamation examines the use of CVP water and associated impacts in the PVWMA service area in this EIS. Specific proposals for Reclamation's approval of future CVP water transactions for delivery of CVP water to PVWMA will be analyzed in separate environmental documentation. Other analyses required by Reclamation are described below.

1.3.1 LAND CLASSIFICATION

Prior to receiving CVP water, lands within the PVWMA service area must be evaluated pursuant to Reclamation's land classification process. The land classification process is Reclamation's systematic placing of lands into classes based on their suitability for sustained irrigated farming. Land classes are defined by productivity, with class 1 being the most productive. For other

classes, the equivalent acreage to class 1 for the same productivity is defined (class 1 equivalency). Reclamation will conduct the land classification process for PVWMA in 2004.

TABLE 1.4
REQUIRED SUPPLMENTAL SUPPLIES WITH CONSERVATION

Demand, Supply and Conservation	Balancing Current (2001) Condition (AFY)	Balancing 2040 Conditions (AFY)
Agricultural Demand	59,300	64,400
Urban Demand	12,200	16,100
Total Groundwater and Surface Water Demand	***71,500***	***80,500***
Corralitos Creek Diversion (City of Watsonville)	(1,100)	(1,100)
Other Surface Water Diversions	(1,000)	(1,000)
Total Groundwater Demand[a]	***69,000 (rounded)***	***78,000 (rounded)***
Current Basin Sustainable Yield	(24,000)	(24,000)
Future Increased Yield Due to Pumping Management at the Coast and 100% Reliable (Wet and Dry Year) Supplemental Supply[b]	(24,000)	(24,000)
Water Demand without Conservation	***21,000***	***30,000***
Increased Agricultural Conservation (Achieved by 2010)[c]	(4,500)	(4,500)
Increased Urban Conservation (Achieved by 2010)[c]	(500)	(660)
Required Additional Supply[d]	***16,000***	***25,000 (rounded)***
Adjusted to Create Hydrostatic Barrier to Mitigate Seawater Intrusion, based on PVIGSM Results [e]	***18,500***	***25,000 (rounded)***

[a] Values rounded to two significant figures or to the nearest thousand to represent the values significant accuracy.
[b] The amount achieved if supply is 100 percent reliable. With less reliable supply, the amount of increased yield would be lowered.
[c] Conservation to be achieved over several years, but is included here to show impact on current levels of demand.
[d] This value represents the supplemental supplies required to meet the overall water balance in the basin assuming 100 percent supply reliability.
[e] PVIGSM results indicate that elimination of approximately 18,500 AFY of pumping along the coast is required to eliminate seawater intrusion.

1.3.2 WATER NEEDS ANALYSIS

Water needs assessments serve to confirm a contractor's current water use and to determine the need for CVP water supplies to meet the contractor's anticipated future demands. The assessments are based on a common methodology that is used to determine the amount of CVP water needed to balance a contractor's water demands with its available surface and groundwater supplies.

Water needs assessments have been performed for most of the CVP water contractors eligible to participate in the CVP long-term contract renewal process. As of April 2003, most of the contractor's assessments have been finalized. However, a small number of assessments remain under analysis. These assessments either require additional information from the contractors or do not fit into the assumptions incorporated into the methodology used for the rest of the CVP. These contractors are located primarily in the American River and San Felipe Unit of the CVP. A water needs analysis for the PVWMA service area is currently underway. It is anticipated that all the assessments will be concluded by December 2003. Because of the remaining assessments, the total supply required to meet all the demands for the CVP cannot be determined at this time.

1.3.4 TITLE XVI FUNDING

Reclamation's focus is on components of the Water Recycling Project that follow Reclamation's "Guidelines for Preparing, Reviewing, and Processing Water Reclamation and Reuse Project Proposals Under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, as Amended," December 1998. Only those components of the Water Recycling Project that are legitimate Title XVI components—the Recycled Water Facility, 4,200-foot-long pipeline to the blending facility, the Integrated Coastal Distribution System, an 8-mile pipeline to the supplemental wells (portion of overall import pipeline that is eligible under Title XVI), and the supplemental wells—are the focus of the Federal Title XVI action. The whole Import Pipeline is not a Title XVI component.

1.3.5 LONG TERM CONTRACT RENEWAL PROCESS

CVP contract assignments transfer the terms and conditions in the existing contract and do not result in new contracts or additional CVP supplies. The Mercy Springs Water District Assignments in 1998 and 1999 resulted in PVWMA becoming a CVP contractor. PVWMA will be included in the CVP long-term contract renewal process in the San Felipe Unit. Reclamation is currently evaluating the proposal to renew the Long-Term Water Service Contract (Contract No. 14-06-200-3365A) for the Mercy Springs Water District in an Environmental Assessment. That Environmental Assessment addresses only the effects of the long-term contract renewal of Contract No. 06-200-3365A on Westland Water District (WWD) and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) as that is the only reasonably foreseeable use of the MSWD contract assignment until this EIS is completed.[7] Neither the proposed project evaluated in this EIS, the Mercy Springs Water District Assignment, nor the CVP long-term contract renewal process results in forcible increases to yields, allocations, or contract entitlements from the CVP.

Other requirements related to the proposed action include certain consultations to ensure compliance with federal laws and executive orders. These consultations are discussed in Chapter 5 of this EIS.

[7] Prior to 1999, MSWD received up to 13,000 afy of CVP water pursuant to Contract Number 14-06-200-3365A. In 1999, MSWD assigned 6,260 afy of its CVP Water Service Contract jointly to the PVWMA, WWD and SCVWD (Contract No. 14-06-200-3365A-IR3-B). In conjunction with the assignment, PVWMA, WWD, and SCVWD executed the "Agreement Relating to Partial Assignment of Water Service Contract." Generally, the agreement allows SCVWD and WWD to take delivery of the water on an interim basis until PVWMA is eventually ready to take delivery of the CVP water for beneficial use in its service area.

1.4 RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Other environmental documents that are related to, but distinct from, the specific Reclamation actions evaluated in this EIS that are either completed or in preparation are described below.

1.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION FOR WATER SUPPLY TRANSACTIONS

The proposed project, if approved, would allow PVWMA to develop and deliver a substantial portion of the supplemental water supplies recommended in the Revised BMP to offset the current and projected future shortage. By securing the proposed project, PVWMA would be positioned to produce approximately 4,000 afy of recycled water and to take delivery of the Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD) contract assignment (up to 6,260 afy, based on the annual water delivery schedules established by Reclamation). This EIS does not evaluate Reclamation approval of any CVP contract assignment to PVWMA. Consequently, delivery of the balance of imported surface water needed could not occur until project-specific environmental clearances are secured, including preparation of supplemental NEPA documentation. Consistent with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 1508.7, 1508.25 and 1508.28, supplemental water supply options are evaluated at a programmatic level of detail in this EIS in Section 4.11, Cumulative Impacts. Long-term or permanent assignments of CVP water above and beyond the MSWD assignment would require separate approval of the assignment to PVWMA by Reclamation (refer to discussion under Section 1.5 for proposed Broadview Water District assignment).

MERCY SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT PARTIAL CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

The *CVP Water Supply Contract Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District (Contract No. 14-06-200-3365A) to Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact* (EA/FONSI; Reclamation, PVWMA, 1998) was approved by Reclamation on November 6, 1998. The proposed action evaluated in the EA/FONSI was the assignment of a portion of the Mercy Springs Water District's CVP contract to PVWMA. The EA/FONSI evaluated PVWMA putting the water to beneficial uses, potentially using it at some future date for importation into the Pajaro Valley, or using it to generate revenue to support other programs to resolve its water supply programs. The MSWD EA did not specifically include delivery of the water to the PVWMA service area as part of the proposed action. The use of the water obtained from MSWD in the Pajaro Valley is evaluated in this EIS. In conjunction with the partial assignment from MSWD, PVWMA executed the "Agreement Relating to Partial Assignment of Water Service Contract", which allows Santa Clara Valley Water District and Westlands Water District to take delivery of the water on in interim basis until PVWMA is ready to take delivery for beneficial use in its service area (i.e., until after the Import Pipeline is approved and constructed).

1.4.2 DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY PVWMA PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

REVISED BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

In 2002, the PVWMA Board of Directors approved a Revised Basin Management Plan (BMP) to manage groundwater supplies and eliminate seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin. Impacts of the projects recommended in the Revised BMP, referred to as PVWMA's Water Supply Project, were evaluated in the *Revised Basin Management Plan Environmental Impact Report* (Environmental Science Associates, 2001; certified by the PVMWA Board of Directors in February 2002).

The Revised BMP EIR was prepared pursuant to CEQA with PVWMA as the lead agency. The EIR contains a project-level evaluation of a variety of projects and alternatives identified in the Revised BMP. The Revised BMP EIR evaluates the Import Pipeline and the Water Recycling Project; these analyses are also included in this Revised BMP EIS. The Revised BMP EIR also contains the environmental impact analysis required by the SWRCB for the change in Place of Use pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. Portions of the Revised BMP are incorporated by reference in this document, as noted.[8]

PVWMA LOCAL WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION EIR

The *Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Local Water Supply and Distribution Environmental Impact Report* (referred to as the Local Projects EIR; Environmental Science Associates, 1999a) was prepared by PVWMA in compliance with CEQA to address impacts of development of various local surface water supplies within the PVWMA service area, including surface water diversions and groundwater recharge. The Integrated Coastal Distribution System was evaluated in this document.

1.5 USES OF THIS EIS

In taking action on the proposed project, Reclamation must ensure that the requirements of NEPA have been met. This document is intended to satisfy the environmental analysis and public disclosure requirements of NEPA. Upon completion of NEPA document review, Reclamation will determine whether to approve the proposed federal actions.

This EIS provides an evaluation of indirect and cumulative effects for NEPA documentation evaluating PVWMA purchase, on a willing seller basis, of approximately 9,100 acres of lands within the Broadview Water District and assignment of Broadview Water District's Central Valley Project water supply contract (Contract No. 14-06-200-8092-1R7) for 27,000 acre-feet per year of entitlements to PVWMA. The Broadview EA will rely on the Revised BMP EIS for

[8] The PVWMA service area is now included in the CVP Consolidated Place of Use, pursuant to orders issued by the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights, dated July 19, 2002. The orders approved a change in Place of Use and amended 13 of Reclamation's CVP water right permits to include 30,000 net acres within a gross area of 70,000 acres in the PVWMA service area, as shown on USBR Map #214-208-12480, dated November 1, 1996.

evaluation of the effects of construction and operation of the conveyance facility (the Import Pipeline) that would transport CVP water from the CVP system at the Santa Clara Conduit to the Pajaro Valley as well as the potential effects of use of CVP water from the BWD contract in the PVWMA service area. The BMP EIS analyzes the effects of using CVP water within PVWMA's service area, including direct and indirect effects, and secondary effects of potential growth. For further discussion of the proposed Broadview assignment, refer to Section 4.11.

While PVWMA has identified a program of activities to meet its water supply needs, the proposed project is a stand-alone action that is consistent with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA. The proposed action could proceed, if approved by Reclamation, regardless of other elements in PVWMA's Water Supply Project. PVWMA is already implementing some elements of the Water Supply Project (conservation programs and a local water diversion project called Harkins Slough, described in Appendix A), as these actions have independent utility from the Water Recycling Project or the Import Water Project, and do not require NEPA compliance. PVWMA will continue to pursue the proposed project evaluated in this EIS whether or not Reclamation approves use of the CVP assignment of Broadview Water District (BWD) in the PVWMA service area.