

**PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) /  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) SCOPING MEETINGS  
SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

City of Watsonville Community Rooms  
275 Main St. 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Watsonville, CA  
Wednesday, February 27, 2013  
4:00 – 5:00 PM & 5:30 – 6:30 PM

**PVWMA PRESENTATION (4 – 5 PM)**

Mary Bannister began the presentation by summarizing the purpose, performing introductions, providing the background on past BMP's and the development of the BMP 2012. Alison Imamura provided an overview of CEQA requirements, NOP and scoping process, commenting instructions, and schedule for the EIR process. Brian Lockwood provided a presentation on the BMP 2012 components. See the slide presentation and attendee list at [www.pvwater.org](http://www.pvwater.org) ("About PVWMA → BMP/EIR,") or [http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/about-pvwma/bmp-update\\_2012.php](http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/about-pvwma/bmp-update_2012.php)).

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (4 – 5 PM)**

DAVE CAVANAUGH: Has John E. Eiskamp submitted concerns? Has he received presentation?

*Mary (response): Yes, he has been involved.*

RICH PERSOFF: In considering hydrology, do we run the modeling based on PVWMA boundary or the watershed area of College Lake? Please provide map.

*Brian (response): overview of the Pajaro Valley Hydrologic Model (developed between the agency and the USGS) geographic boundaries that extend beyond the agency's boundary. Later-> provided map on overhead screen showing boundaries.*

LOU CARELLA: There are two documents, the EIR being prepared and the BMP 2012 Public Review Draft Where to submit comments on BMP 2012?

*Alison (response): Comments on the BMP can also be submitted to Mary Bannister (same contact information).*

RICH: The substantial surface water flow from rainfall events outside groundwater basin should be included.

*Brian (response): The surface water flow the upper Pajaro River watershed is measured at Chittenden Gap by a USGS gaging station for; Corralitos Creek flow is measured at Green Valley Road by another USGS gaging station. Other streams are ungaged, but flows can be approximated from a combination of existing data and tools such as rainfall runoff models to estimate flows for periods of dry, wet and average times.*

JERRY BUSCH: Do you have preliminary flow data from streams that flow into College Lake?

*Brian (response): Chris Hammersmarck with CBEC is working on that with the Resource Conservation District (Santa Cruz).*

DAVE: USACOE is involved in College Lake, how is PVWMA engaging/ collaborating with them?

*Brian (response): We've invited their involvement and PVWMA staffs are working with Mike Sapunor at Santa Cruz that is partnered with USACOE.*

DAVE: To whom is staff PVWMA staff presenting information? City Council?

*Mary (response): Aromas Water District, Farm Bureau, Rotaries, Board of Realtors, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, also timely to present to Watsonville City Council, Any ideas are welcome*

RICH: Fisheries / Wildlife interests have concerns about College Lake.... How have these entities been involved officially and asked to be involved?

*Alison (response): PVWMA staff and consultant team sent the NOP to a wider-than-typical distribution list, in addition to the minimum required entities and newspaper posting. Gary Patton announced it on public radio.*

*Gary Kittleson (response): Has coordinated with his contacts at the resource agencies, but that can be difficult at this planning level of detail.*

### **PVWMA PRESENTATION (5:30 – 6:30 PM)**

*NOTE: There was only one member of the public, Jerry Busch, at the 5:30 PM meeting. All other agency staff or interested entities had been present for the full presentation and public comments at 4 pm. Jerry Busch had been present for the BMP components presentation and public comments during the 4 PM meeting but not the introductory and EIR/scoping information; therefore, PVWMA staff and consultant gave an abbreviated presentation on the issues of interest to that individual, but offered to provide more if needed.*

Mary Bannister gave introductory presentation to the meeting purpose, introductions, background on BMP history and development of the BMP 2012. Alison Imamura provided overview of CEQA requirements, NOP and scoping process, commenting instructions, and schedule for EIR process. Brian Lockwood provided presentation on the College Lake component of the BMP 2012. See the slide presentation and attendee list at [www.pvwwater.org](http://www.pvwwater.org) ("About PVWMA → BMP/EIR,") or [http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/about-pvwma/bmp-update\\_2012.php](http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us/about-pvwma/bmp-update_2012.php)).

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

JERRY BUSCH: What is the number of acres shown on the College Lake slide?

*Brian (response): Conceptual of the area of inundation.*

JERRY: Want to uncover all fatal flaws, note costs for mitigation measures and make your program EIR to be specific enough to identify cost. College Lake used by thousands of waterfowl, exceeds all other regional wetlands more than Pescadero or Elkhorn Slough and Watsonville slough. Watsonville Slough is changing its use by Types of waterfowl (diver versus tipping ducks). Botanic / invertebrate diversity of species, types, variety, important waterfowl stop-over that conjunctive environment where you have waterfowl that are moving between sloughs and Lake is more important than previously due to changes to sloughs, the lake is more important than 10 years ago. This is a qualitative regional setting of the project.

*[Brian asks: Are you submitting written comments? Jerry Yes, I am]*

JERRY: Riparian habitat is important to support bird species of special concern and there has been a net loss of riparian habitat with bench lands excavation project. Proximity of College Lake to agricultural lands/activity in and adjacent the lake has an affect on the quality of habitat. College lake is a great example of conjunctively used by agriculture and species. Not typically appreciated in Pajaro Valley. Usually in conflict in Pajaro....the system is working.... Tying to qualitatively identify impacts not enough. Should use quantitative data that is available to analyze the impacts; compare with other wetlands regionally/state-wide importance in the coastal strand statewide importance. It also has a cultural resource as the primary destination for the Monterey Bird Festival. The seasonal nature of the lake is important, seasonal fluctuation. Annual spring drawdown, the fluctuation of lake water, the intermediate ebb and flow through seasons, for example, dabbling ducks. They pump the lake throughout the winter and therefore, it has great function for waterfowl. Similar to historic wetlands a wide area of habitat, the pumping actually helps maintain shallow water habitat that is key to waterfowl habitat. One mitigation measure that I request you include is to manage lake to get water, but retain the hydrology to maintain the bird habitat attributes. Perhaps, find a way to use or store the water in winter; to store in through late winter to still find the benefit in the summer. The total numbers of Waterfowl could exceed ~ 500

*[Margie- Is that because this is fresh water instead of salt water? Jerry: Yes]*

JERRY: If the project results in loss of wetlands, some areas are emerging wetlands existing wetlands. Loss of wetlands? Must be mitigated, must proposed compensatory mitigation. A problem in the winter is that the water gets too deep. Shallow water is important. Agricultural activity to continue?

*[Mary (response): yes]*

JERRY: Mitigation measure.....could plant millet Reserve land for farming, shallow shoreline and upper reaches of inundation? Crop choice is a key considerations, zucchini a good choice.

*[Mary: right now plants include a lot of willow and arrundo]*

JERRY: Recommends:

- Maintain and improve willows habitat for songbirds
- Get rid of arrundo
- Easements – buy back land, create jurisdictional wetlands to make up for other species impacts

JERRY: How much jurisdictional wetlands are in College Lake area? Seasonal marsh & willows are if jurisdictional wetlands, PVWMA must comply with federal laws concerning wetlands. Increasing the water storage may create increased sedimentation. Identify sediment issues address new TMDLs including nitrates, pesticides. Even physical deposition of sediment (polluted or not) in a wetland can have an effect; sediment can be considered a contaminant that must be addressed. How does the turbidity affect the water supply yield?

*[Brian: we don't exactly know yet, but a filter plant is proposed.]*

JERRY: Mitigation suggestion:

- Maintain shallow water December – February
- Foster/grow waterfowl food plants
- Draw down the water to the appropriate level for waterfowl
- Purchase more land/easement and manage habitat for waterfowl

JERRY: Shorebirds at Elkhorn Slough is better, College lake population is smaller, thousands go through and could be most profoundly impacted, because they come earlier and if the habitat they use is inundated there won't be enough habitat to run around (i.e., they do not swim) and then they may not come. Also, raptor species (eagles, etc.) also use lake. Red legged frog and Western Pond Turtles will of course also be addressed. Accurate topographic surveys to put together analysis of the lake will correlate it to the impacts on species. With data that PVWMA has, they have the parts to do the required analysis of the lake. Will correlate the PVWMA and consultant data to the data I have. Looking forward to doing that. Will be sending written comments.

Dave: When will the notes be available?

*Alison (response): A scoping memo will be prepared approximately a week after the March 11 deadline of the NOP comments received, including written and verbal comments received.*