

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency 2012 Basin Management Plan Update

Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), as CEQA Lead Agency, is preparing a Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR) for its proposed 2012 Basin Management Plan Update (BMP 2012 or proposed program). The BMP 2012 represents a comprehensive set of actions, including individual projects, policies and basin management strategies, to stop seawater intrusion and overdraft of the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin while providing an adequate water supply to meet annual demands within the basin. The current draft BMP 2012 can be reviewed at the PVWMA website at: www.pvwater.org.

This document serves as the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the SPEIR and solicits relevant comments on the scope of environmental issues as well as alternatives and mitigation measures that should be explored in the Draft SPEIR. The 30-day public scoping period begins on February 8, 2013 and closes at 5 PM on March 11, 2013. This NOP provides background information on prior PVWMA planning efforts, briefly describes the proposed program (the BMP 2012), and identifies the environmental issue areas that will be analyzed in the SPEIR.

Project Background

The PVWMA is a state-chartered water management district, formed in 1984 to manage groundwater resources and supplemental water supplies in its service area. The service area encompasses approximately 70,000 acres in the Pajaro Valley, located in southern Santa Cruz County, northern Monterey County, and a small portion of San Benito County (Figure 1). Seawater intrusion in the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin was first documented in 1953 and has continued to become more severe. In the coastal areas and throughout much of the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin, overdraft conditions have caused groundwater levels to drop below sea level seasonally, creating a landward pressure gradient that causes seawater to move inland. Seawater intrusion has elevated the chloride concentration in groundwater up to two and a half miles inland from the coast, in some areas contaminating the groundwater to the point that it is unsuitable for agricultural irrigation.

The PVWMA's role is to manage existing and supplemental water supplies for its service area. Its intent is to manage local groundwater resources in a manner to halt, and eventually reduce, long-term overdraft of the groundwater basin while ensuring sufficient water supplies for present and anticipated needs. To

achieve this objective, PVWMA has prepared and periodically updates a basin-wide groundwater management plan, the BMP, to serve as the guiding document for its major projects and programs. The BMP preparation process includes review of the existing groundwater basin conditions, evaluation of the results of implemented projects to reduce overdraft and seawater intrusion, as well as the identification of additional projects and management strategies to achieve its stated goals.

The PVWMA adopted its first BMP in 1994. The 1993 BMP, developed in conjunction with the US Bureau of Reclamation, identified a preferred alternative that called for importing surface water supply to the region via the federal Central Valley Project through an import pipeline to substantially augment the use of local surface water supplies. A Program Environmental Impact Report (1993 BMP PEIR) was prepared for the 1993 BMP to analyze, at a program-level, these concepts – both the importation of surface water supplies and development of additional local surface water supplies¹.

In March 1994, PVWMA initiated investigations to identify specific local water supply projects. The 1999 Local Water Supply and Distribution EIR² evaluated the following projects at a project-level: Harkins Slough, College Lake, Murphy Crossing/Inland Distribution System, and the Coastal Distribution System (CDS). A separate project-level EIR was prepared to analyze the import pipeline (1999 Import Pipeline EIR)³. Starting in 1999, PVWMA constructed the Harkins Slough Project and a large portion of the CDS.

A subsequent BMP revision, the 2002 Revised BMP, has been the guiding framework for the PVWMA since 2002. The BMP 2012 process was initiated primarily to acknowledge more recent hydrologic modeling of the Basin and the PVWMA Board of Directors' commitment to solving the basin-wide problems. The 2002 Revised BMP EIR⁴ provided program-level analysis of the environmental impacts of two alternatives (Local-Only Alternative and BMP 2000 Alternative), and project-level analysis of additional local projects not evaluated in the 1999 Local Water Supply and Distribution EIR. The final strategy of the 2002 Revised BMP adopted by the Board was called the Modified BMP 2000 Alternative and included the following six major projects and programs: Harkins Slough, CDS Project, Import Pipeline, Recycled Water, supplemental wells, and conservation. Subsequently, PVWMA constructed the supplemental wells and, in cooperation with the City of Watsonville, the Recycled Water Project.

Even with implementation of the Harkins Slough project, the Recycled Water Project, supplemental wells and the CDS, the groundwater overdraft problem continues. PVWMA had contracted with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in 2005 to develop a robust hydrologic model of the groundwater basin, incorporating past and current land use and groundwater pumping data (now available as a result of PVWMA's programs) to use as a tool to estimate the water budget of the basin and to compare the effectiveness of various proposed water management scenarios. Based on the hydrologic modeling results, PVWMA established a target of reducing groundwater pumping in the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin by approximately 12,000 acre-feet per year (AFY).

In early 2010, the PVWMA Board of Directors removed the Import Pipeline Project from further consideration for a variety of reasons, including feasibility and cost. Further, legal issues regarding planned increases in augmentation fees curtailed the agency's budget and indicated that development of community

¹ PVWMA, 1993. Final Program EIR for the Pajaro Valley Basin Management Plan.

² PVWMA, 1999. Local Water Supply and Distribution Final EIR.

³ PVWMA, 1999. Pajaro Import Pipeline EIR.

⁴ PVWMA, 2002. Revised BMP Final EIR (SCH#2000062030).

consensus, including development of a Proposition 218 compliant process, must precede approval of any significant new water supply project. Without the Import Pipeline Project supplies, the PVWMA needed to identify additional surface water supplies and/or reductions in groundwater pumping to meet its objectives and again initiated the process of updating/revising the BMP.

In 2010, PVWMA formed the Ad Hoc BMP Committee to allow the Pajaro Valley community to help guide the Board in the development of an updated BMP to address the water issues discussed above. The BMP 2012 planning process began with the development of a comprehensive list of supplemental water supply projects, including some identified in previous BMPs (see Table 1), that could help meet the goals of stopping seawater intrusion and basin overdraft. The 44 potential projects were screened, ranked and prioritized for feasibility, cost, and other factors. Based on this analysis, seven components were selected for inclusion in the BMP 2012 portfolio. As a group, the seven components of the BMP 2012 were simulated using the Pajaro Valley hydrologic model and were considered adequate to solve more than 90 percent of the seawater intrusion and basin overdraft problems. Additional component projects were identified as potential future projects should the selected portfolio not meet the planning-level expectations with respect to supply yield or demand offset. The portfolio of recommended projects and programs in the BMP 2012 is presented below as the Proposed Program.

Program Purpose

The primary purpose of the BMP 2012 is to identify projects to be implemented over the next 30 years to balance the groundwater basin, stop seawater intrusion, and meet the water supply needs in the service area. The BMP 2012 and BMP 2012 SPEIR are needed before the PVWMA Board of Directors can formally adopt the BMP 2012 and move forward with implementation, including the Proposition 218 process in order to fund continued construction, operation and maintenance of PVWMA activities and the proposed program.

Proposed Program

The recommended BMP 2012 portfolio consists of the following seven components to achieve approximately 12,000 AFY of reduced groundwater pumping while providing adequate water supply to meet annual needs within the service area:

- 1) **Conservation:** This component would encourage and increase water conservation through a series of programs that would maximize irrigation efficiencies without sacrificing agricultural yield, in order to reduce groundwater pumping valley-wide by 5,000 AFY or approximately 10 percent.
- 2) **Increased Recycled Water Storage at the Watsonville Recycled Water Facility (RWF):** The addition of two, one-million gallon storage tanks at the existing Watsonville RWF would allow operators to maximize the use of recycled water and have the flexibility to accommodate more customers during the daytime in the CDS during the peak months (May through September). This component is anticipated to increase the use of recycled water and associated reduction in groundwater pumping by about 750 AFY.
- 3) **Increased Recycled Water Deliveries:** This component would increase irrigation season recycled water deliveries by approximately 1,250 AFY to fully utilize the 4,000 AFY available from the existing RWF, in conjunction with proposed new recycled water storage tanks.

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- 4) **Harkins Slough Recharge Facilities Upgrades:** The Harkins Slough Recharge Facilities were constructed in 2002 to seasonally store wet weather flows from Harkins Slough in the shallow aquifers near the coast, for distribution to growers in the irrigation season. PVWMA is permitted to divert up to 2,000 AFY from Harkins Slough (and Watsonville Slough)⁵. Existing facilities include a diversion pump station and filtration facility at Harkins Slough, a pipeline to the recharge basin, fourteen monitoring wells, and thirteen extraction wells surrounding the basin, six of which are presently active and three of which were installed in June 2012. A number of the original extraction wells are currently undergoing maintenance and operational improvements, while designs are being drafted to plumb the new wells into the distribution system. The project has recently yielded over 200 AFY, which remains lower than the originally estimated yield of approximately 1,000 AFY. Proposed improvements to the facilities include replacement of the pump station and construction of coagulant treatment facilities and additional filters at Harkins Slough, a 4,000-foot pipeline to the sanitary sewer for discharge of filter waste backwash, and new extraction wells at the recharge basin resulting in an anticipated increase in yield of approximately 1,000 AFY.
 - 5) **Watsonville Slough with Recharge Basins:** As discussed above, PVWMA is entitled by existing permit to divert water from both the Harkins Slough and the adjacent Watsonville Slough, but currently diverts only from Harkins Slough. The proposed facilities would include a new diversion facility on Watsonville Slough, additional filters at the existing Harkins Slough filtration plant, one or more new recharge basins with extraction wells, and a pipeline to send water to one or more existing or new recharge basins. The water would be filtered at the upgraded Harkins Slough filtration plant and pumped, along with Harkins Slough water, through the existing Harkins Slough Recharge Facilities pipeline and new pipeline to the recharge basin(s) for storage in the shallow aquifer and subsequent recovery of a planned 1,200 AFY of water.
 - 6) **College Lake with Inland Pipeline to Coastal Distribution System (CDS):** College Lake has an existing low flashboard dam that causes inundation of up to approximately 260 acres of the basin during the winter; during the summer, the water in the lake is pumped into Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks and the dry lakebed is used for agriculture production. The proposed conceptual facilities at College Lake include a new outlet weir to increase the maximum (seasonal) College Lake surface area to approximately 300 acres, a pump station, treatment plant and approximately 6 miles of water main. The water pumped out of College Lake would be provided to inland users and coastal users through the existing CDS.

Currently, two studies are underway at College Lake that will inform the ultimate design of this project. The US Army Corps of Engineers is studying how to optimize College Lake for flood protection, and the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District is investigating the hydrology, usage and resource management. PVWMA is collaborating with these agencies with the intent to develop a project that maximizes benefits for water supply and flood management, while enhancing ecological benefits.

- 7) **Murphy Crossing with Recharge Basins:** This project would divert and recharge water from the Pajaro River between December and May, when the Pajaro River water quality is within an acceptable range and stream flows are above the required minimum necessary to maintain steelhead habitat. The project is envisioned to include either an infiltration gallery or a bank intake structure in the Pajaro River, a pump station, connector pipeline, recharge basin and monitoring wells. Project design and operating plans are not clearly defined at this time due to issues related to water rights and resource agency permitting requirements.

⁵ California State Water Resources Control Board, 2000. Permit for Diversion and Use of Water No. 21039, June 8, 2000.

Based upon an assessment of timing issues for implementation, some components of the proposed BMP 2012 could be implemented within the near-term (2015-2024) following a successful Proposition 218 funding process. Other components, such as Murphy Crossing, would require further design development, interagency agreements, acquisition of water rights, and resource agency permits and, therefore, would likely not be constructed until 2025-2035.

Approach to the EIR

As discussed, many components of the BMP 2012 have been evaluated in the previous 1999 Local Water Supply and Distribution EIR and/or the 2002 Revised BMP EIR. The proposed approach to assessing impacts of the BMP 2012 is to build on the previous analyses, supplemented with current site information and regulatory setting obtained from readily available public information; no site-specific field surveys will be performed at this time. The Draft BMP 2012 SPEIR will provide a program-level evaluation of the BMP 2012. Following adoption of the BMP 2012, PVWMA will conduct additional project-level CEQA review, as needed, on the specific projects it proposes to implement. Table 1 provides an overview of the BMP 2012 components and the previous EIR analyses that have been performed for the various components.

TABLE 1
BMP 2012 COMPONENTS – PREVIOUS EIR ANALYSES

BMP 2012 Components (estimated/approximate yield, acre-feet per year, AFY)	Local Water Supply and Distribution EIR (1999)	Revised BMP EIR (2002)		Proposed Level of Analysis in the BMP 2012 SPEIR
		Local-Only Alternative	BMP 2000 Alternative	
Conservation (5,000 AFY)		Conservation: 10,000 AFY	Conservation: 5,000 AFY	No physical impact – does not require CEQA analysis.
Increased Recycled Water Storage at RWF (750 AFY) Two 1-MG storage tanks, additional pumps at the RWF, and 500 feet of parallel pipe to the CDS.		Recycled Water Project: 7,700 AFY. Included tertiary treatment facility with year-round operation, storage tanks, pipelines, and excess recycled water storage in Harkins Slough and North Dunes recharge basins. Analysis included two proposed storage tanks that were not constructed at the time of treatment facility construction.	Recycled Water Project: 4,000 AFY. Included tertiary treatment facility (irrigation period operation only), storage tanks, and pipelines Analysis included the two proposed storage tanks (although not constructed at the time of treatment facility construction).	Proposed water storage tanks and additional pumps were previously analyzed in the 2003 Revised BMP EIR and do not require additional CEQA analysis.
Increased Recycled Water Deliveries (1,250 AFY) Increase irrigation season recycled water deliveries at night and during the shoulder months to fully utilize the 4,000 AFY available from the RWF (in conjunction with proposed recycled water storage tanks).		Recycled Water Project: (see above) Analysis included 7,700 AFY water supplies.	Recycled Water Project: (see above) Analysis included 4,000 AFY water supplies.	Proposed increased deliveries were previously analyzed in 2002 Revised BMP EIR and do not require additional CEQA analysis.
Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrade (1,000 AFY) - Upgrade Harkins Slough Pump Station - Upgrade existing filtration plant - New Pipeline to sanitary sewer - Additional extraction wells.	Watsonville/Harkins Slough (2,000 AFY) Project included existing pumps on Harkins Slough; filtration facility; pipeline; Harkins Slough Recharge Basin; extraction and monitoring wells. Project approved and constructed.		Harkins Slough Project (1,100 AFY) included in BMP 2000 Alternative. No CEQA analysis (refers to 1999 EIR).	Proposed facilities (upgrade pump station and filtration plant, and a new pipeline to sanitary sewer) will be analyzed qualitatively at a program level in the BMP 2012 SPEIR. Additional extraction wells were analyzed in the 1999 EIR and do not require additional CEQA analysis.

<p>Watsonville Slough with Recharge Basins Project (1,200 AFY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watsonville Slough Intake Structure and pumping station. - Additional storage in recharge basins (three potential locations) - Pipelines 		<p>A component of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project. Included a Watsonville Slough diversion structure (no design provided) and 7,500 gpm pump station assumed to occupy approximately 0.5-acre on the north bank of Watsonville Slough. Diverted water to be conveyed to College Lake in a new pipeline and for treatment and subsequent ASR storage along the pipeline.</p>	<p>A component of the Water Recycling and Storage Project. Included pipeline and North Dunes recharge basin for storage of recycled water during the off-season.</p>	<p>Watsonville Slough diversion structure, new diversions up to 2,000 AFY, alternative recharge basin locations and associated pipelines will be analyzed qualitatively at a program level. Project will require future additional project-level CEQA analyses of specific diversion and operation plans to support water rights application and environmental permits.</p>
<p>College Lake (2,400 AFY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raise headgate (dam) elevation to 62.5 ft to increase lake capacity to 2,000 AF, increasing the maximum inundated area from 260 acres to 300 acres. - Pump station, treatment plant, approximately 6-mile water main to RWF and/or CDS. 	<p>College Lake (1,800 AFY)</p> <p>Project analyzed was similar to current proposed project, although pipeline routes may differ.</p> <p>Project was not approved.</p>	<p>Expanded College Lake: (6,700 AFY) with additional surface water diversions from Harkins Slough, Watsonville Slough, Corralitos Creek and Pinto Creek and aquifer storage and recovery.</p> <p>Project was not approved.</p>	<p>---</p>	<p>Planning and technical studies for a multi-benefit project currently underway by PVWMA, USACOE, and SCRCD may alter proposed conceptual design. Project design plans to be developed after BMP 2012 approval.</p> <p>BMP 2012 SPEIR will analyze College Lake qualitatively at a program-level; project will require future additional project-level CEQA analyses for permitting, implementation and water rights.</p>
<p>Murphy Crossing (500 AFY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversion of water from Pajaro River through either infiltration gallery or bank intake. - Conveyance pipeline. - Pumping station - 10 acre recharge basin. 	<p>Murphy Crossing (1,500 AFY)</p> <p>Project same as currently proposed.</p> <p>Project was not approved.</p>	<p>---</p>	<p>Murphy Crossing (1,600 AFY)</p> <p>Project same as currently proposed. No CEQA analysis (refers to 1999 EIR).</p>	<p>This project was analyzed in 1999 EIR and no additional project design information is available; therefore, the BMP 2012 SPEIR will address Murphy Crossing qualitatively at a program-level.</p> <p>Will require future additional CEQA analyses for implementation, permitting and water rights when design details are available.</p>

Environmental Effects to be Analyzed

The Draft BMP 2012 SPEIR will analyze the overall environmental effects of implementing the seven BMP 2012 programs and projects. The BMP 2012 SPEIR will assess at a program level the following issues of potential environmental effect:

- **Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality** – The BMP 2012 would divert and recharge water from surface waters in the Pajaro Valley including Harkins Slough, Watsonville Slough, College Lake and the Pajaro River, potentially altering hydrologic flows causing downstream effects. Project construction could increase soil erosion and adversely affect water quality in receiving water bodies. The SPEIR will rely on the 1999 and 2002 EIRs, augmented with data from the Pajaro Valley Hydrologic Model, to qualitatively evaluate impacts on surface water systems, flooding, and water quality as a result of overall program construction and operation. The SPEIR will evaluate projected changes to precipitation, runoff, and surface water flows resulting from the BMP and anticipated climate change.
- **Groundwater Resources** – Updated groundwater modeling prepared for the BMP 2012 will be used to evaluate potential impacts to groundwater levels and groundwater quality associated with the overall BMP program, including beneficial effects on overdraft conditions and seawater intrusion. The SPEIR will compile, review, evaluate, and update where needed, the available information on present and projected ground water levels and sea level rise effects. Effects on the ground water basin due to climate change-related precipitation and runoff changes will be summarized qualitatively based on a review of readily available reports, studies, and maps.
- **Terrestrial Biological Resources** – The SPEIR will evaluate potential program impacts on terrestrial special-status animal and plant species, sensitive habitats, mature native trees, and migratory birds believed to occur in the program area. Information presented in the 1999 and 2002 EIRs will be updated with current database reviews and mapping to identify the biological resources that could be affected and set forth measures to be implemented in the future to avoid, reduce or compensate for potential adverse impacts. No additional site-specific surveys will be performed.
- **Fisheries / Aquatic Wildlife** – The previous EIRs and studies prepared over the past decade by various entities provide valuable background information on fisheries resources, with particular emphasis on federally listed south-central California coast steelhead. Available information will be compiled and evaluated to qualitatively evaluate potential impacts of surface water diversions and establish mitigation measures that set out a clear framework for additional studies, agency review and performance standards that would be needed for the next phase of environmental documentation as well as the permitting process. No aquatic surveys will be performed.
- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – The SPEIR will qualitatively evaluate construction- and operation-related emissions of criteria air pollutants. The BMP 2012 will be evaluated in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and regional rules and guidelines. Potential human health risks at nearby sensitive receptors from emissions of diesel particulate matter and toxic air contaminants during project construction and operations will be addressed qualitatively. Based upon new guidelines published since 2002, the SPEIR will also address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would be associated with project construction and operations, and describe any potential conflict the project may have with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.
- **Geology and Soils** – The SPEIR will review general seismic, geologic, and soil conditions of the program area, which is expected to experience strong ground shaking from at least one major earthquake in the next 30 years. The location of the dam and related structures for College Lake is

underlain by the Zayante fault. The SPEIR will clearly lay out necessary geotechnical review and construction considerations to serve as framework for BMP implementation and subsequent project-level environmental review.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials** – The SPEIR will summarize documented soil and groundwater contamination cases in the BMP 2012 area, and evaluate the potential for hazardous materials to be encountered during construction. The analysis will also consider the proper handling, storage, and use of hazardous chemicals that may be used during construction and operation. Flood hazards will be assessed within the **Surface Water Hydrology and Water Quality** section. The Previous EIRs have shown that BMP implementation would have little to no adverse effect on forest land, wildland fire hazards, and airport hazards. In addition, conditions, including the components of the BMP, have not changed since those EIRs were certified such that an effects analysis is warranted in these issue areas; therefore, the SPEIR will not address these environmental topics.
- **Noise** – The SPEIR will evaluate construction- and operation-related noise increases and associated effects on ambient noise levels, relative to applicable noise standards, and will address the potential for indirect impacts to nearby land uses.
- **Transportation and Traffic** – The SPEIR will generally describe the types of construction activities that would generate temporary increases in traffic volumes along local and regional roadways. The installation of pipelines within or adjacent to road rights-of-way could result in temporary lane closures and traffic delays. The analysis will use information about construction activities (e.g., the numbers of trucks and workers) to the extent such information is available. The analysis will generally describe the types of traffic control plan measures that would be necessary for reducing impacts to vehicular traffic, traffic safety hazards, public transportation, and other alternative means of transportation.
- **Cultural Resources** – The SPEIR will review cultural resource records and evaluate potential impacts on historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources, and human remains in the program area. The SPEIR would characterize the BMP 2012 area based on low, medium and high archaeological sensitivity and identify appropriate mitigation measures based on the likelihood of encountering archaeological resources during future earth-disturbing construction activities that may occur during future implementation of BMP 2012 components. No site-specific ground surveys will be performed.
- **Land Use** – The SPEIR will evaluate potential conflicts with established land uses as a result of placing new facilities at specific sites currently envisioned for the BMP 2012 components. Potential conflicts with applicable plans and policies will also be evaluated. Particular attention will be given to consistency with the California Coastal Act and relevant local coastal plans.
- **Agricultural Resources** – Agricultural land uses are present within and around the BMP 2012 area. The SPEIR will discuss the overall beneficial impact of the BMP 2012 program on agricultural resources by securing a long-term reliable water supply, as well as quantify the potential temporary or permanent loss of designated farmland and Williamson Act contracts which could result from projects such as College Lake, Murphy Crossing, and new recharge basin(s) associated with any diversion and recharge projects.
- **Utilities and Service Systems** – The SPEIR will evaluate the types of potential conflicts with existing utility lines during construction of individual BMP 2012 components and describe potential impacts related to landfill capacity associated with the disposal of spoils and debris generated during construction of individual BMP 2012 components will be described. Consistency with federal, state, and local waste diversion goals will also be considered.

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- **Aesthetic Resources** – BMP 2012 facilities would be sited in potentially scenic, agricultural and open space areas. The SPEIR will evaluate visual impacts related to the proposed BMP 2012 component above-ground facilities.
 - **Energy** – Water conveyance is a large source of energy consumption in California. The BMP 2012 components could result in new energy uses from pumping and conveyance facilities, as well as decreases in individual energy demand from changes in groundwater pumping in the groundwater basin, e.g., from reduced irrigation. The SPEIR will identify the agencies that would distribute electricity and estimate the net change in energy consumption due to the program.
 - **Forestry and Mineral Resources** – Previous EIRs have shown that there would be little to no effect on these environmental topic areas; therefore, the SPEIR will not address these topics.
 - **Population and Housing** – Proposed BMP facilities would not displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing; the SPEIR will not address these topics. The BMP Program would not increase available water supply and, therefore, would not induce substantial population growth. The new water supplies developed under the BMP 2012 would replace use of groundwater in an effort to stop overdraft and seawater intrusion in the groundwater basin, which will be discussed in the SPEIR.
 - **Public Services** – Implementation of BMP 2012 components would not result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. The SPEIR will not address these topics.
 - **Alternatives** – The SPEIR will discuss the decision-making approach for selection of the preferred strategy outlined in the BMP 2012. The SPEIR will identify and evaluate other alternatives capable of feasibly meeting most of the basic objectives of the program while reducing significant environmental effects, in addition to discussing the No Action alternative.
 - **Growth Inducement** – To the extent that the lack of a reliable water supply poses a constraint to the urban areas within PVWMA, BMP 2012 implementation could reduce, but not eliminate all, constraints to growth. The SPEIR will review general plans and their accompanying EIRs and other land management plans within the region and summarize the environmental effects identified for planned growth.
 - **Cumulative Impacts** – The SPEIR will assess the environmental effects of the BMP 2012, in combination with the effects of past, present, and future foreseeable cumulative projects in the vicinity, which together could result in significant cumulative impacts.

Scoping and Public Meeting

CEQA Statute Section 21083.9 mandates that a scoping meeting be held for projects of statewide, regional or area-wide significance. Given the high level of interest in and the importance of this proposed program to the Pajaro Valley region, and to ensure that the public and regulatory agencies have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope and content of the EIR, two scoping meetings will be held during the NOP review period, both occurring on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013**, in the **Community Room at the City of Watsonville Civic Plaza (275 Main St., Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076)**. A meeting from **4:00 to 5:00 PM** will be held that day that is intended to be primarily for public agencies; however, the public is invited to attend, also. In addition, a meeting from **5:30 to 6:30 PM** will be held for those members of the public that cannot attend during business hours.

Both scoping meetings will start with a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed BMP 2012 and the alternatives identified to date. Following the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to interact with technical staff. Participants are encouraged to submit written comments; comment forms will be supplied at the scoping meetings. Written comments may also be submitted anytime during the NOP scoping period to the mailing address, fax number, or email address listed below.

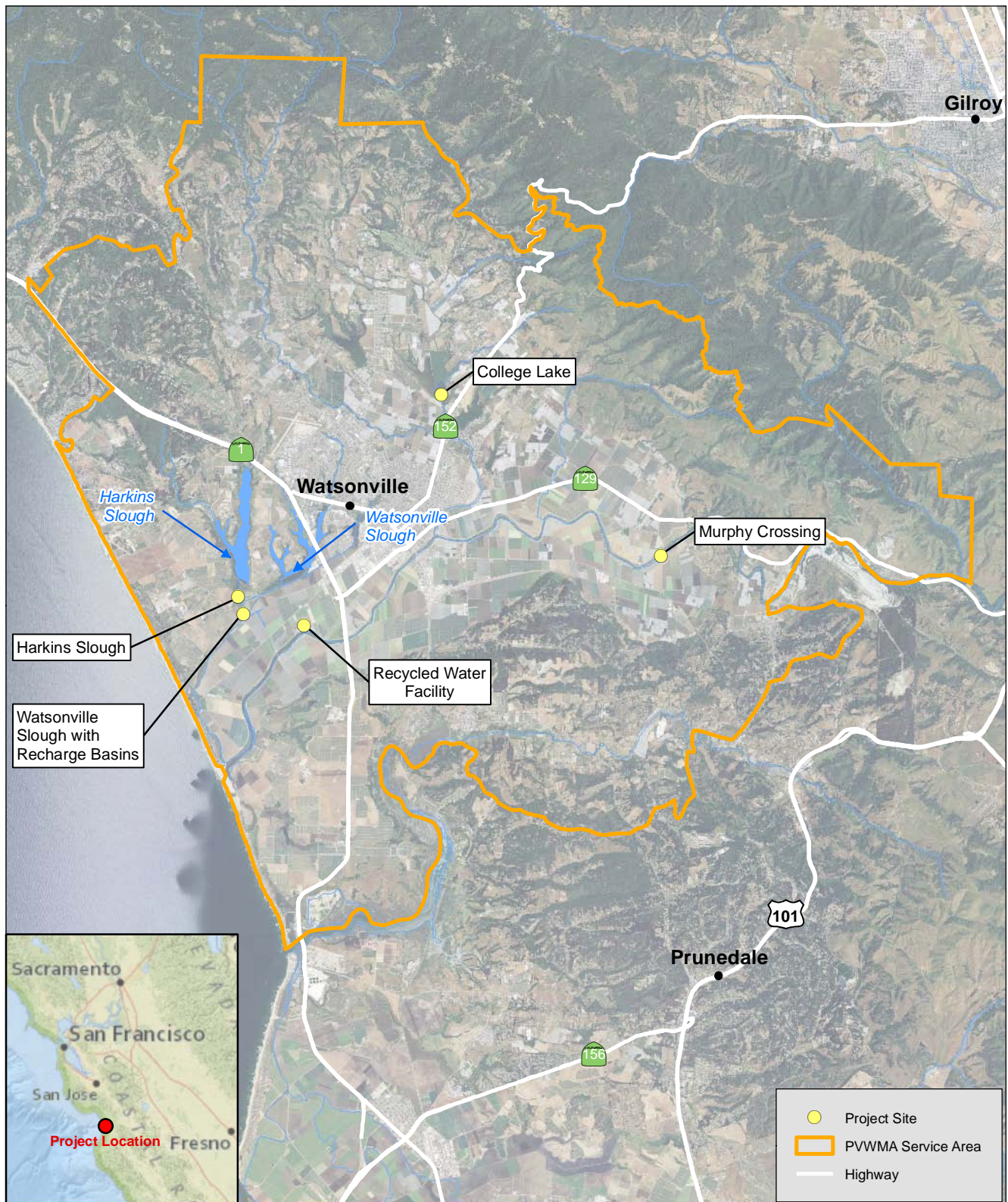
Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. The public comment period will close at **5:00 PM on March 11, 2013**. Please include a name, address, email address, and telephone number of a contact person in your agency for all future correspondence on this subject. Please send your comments to:

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
ATTN: Mary Bannister, General Manager
36 Brennan St.
Watsonville, CA 95076

Fax: (831) 722-9292

E-mail: bannister@pvwater.org

This Notice of Preparation is available electronically at the PVWMA website: www.pvwater.org.



SOURCE: ESRI, 2012; PVWMA, 2012

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
2012 Basin Management Plan Update

Figure 1
Project Location