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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENGINEERING EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT WATER PLAN

Watsonville, CA - The team of Environmental Science Associates (ESA) and Carollo Engineers has been retained by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency to support an update in the Agency's Basin Management Plan (BMP).

The Board approved a \$1.752 M contract with the team which is tasked with evaluating water supply projects that are proposed for consideration by the community and the Agency Ad Hoc BMP Committee. The Agency is updating the Basin Management Plan and, unlike previous planning efforts, the BMP will be developed through a community driven rather than a consultant led process. The committee is tasked with identifying the water supply alternatives that will be technically and environmentally evaluated by the engineering team for ultimate review and consideration by the committee and Board. The Agency expects this approach to result in a BMP that reflects the community's water management priorities as well as state and local water management regulations.

The BMP will include an evaluation of various water supply alternatives including landowner developed demand management strategies and projects evaluated in prior management plans including College Lake. The BMP and EIR process is expected to take two years to complete and the Agency will be inviting the community to participate in the process.

The PVWMA is a public agency whose mission is to protect and preserve the water resources within the agency's jurisdiction, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley.

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