



Contact: Steve Stagnaro
Direct Line 408-354-5145
PVWMA Office 831-722-9292
steve@stagnaro.com

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SECOND COURT BACKS WATER AGENCY FEE COLLECTION

Watsonville, CA – Close on the heels of the January 4, 2012 Sixth District Court of Appeal ruling affirming the dismissal of a lawsuit challenging the Agency's \$80 per acre-foot augmentation charge (repealed in 2010), a second court has upheld the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency's (PVWMA) authority to collect current augmentation charges and an \$18-\$20 dollar per parcel management fee.

Santa Cruz Superior Court Judge Timothy Volkmann issued a statement of decision rejecting the most recent legal challenge on January 9, 2012. Once a judgment is entered, and barring a successful appeal, Judge Volkmann's decision affirms the Agency's legal right to collect augmentation charges and management fees. The decision also provides clear guidance for future actions to extend or replace the current charge which expires in 2015. A final judgment based upon the statement of decision is expected in the coming weeks.

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. More information on the agency and its work is available at www.pvwater.org.

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