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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PVWMA BOARD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Watsonville, CA - The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) went looking for a director to represent District C, the city of Watsonville, and quite happily found Amy Newell. Newell's appointment was unanimously approved at the February 20, 2013 meeting to fill the remaining term of director Dennis Osmer.

Newell graduated from Watsonville High School and holds degrees from Stanford University and the London School of Economics. As the daughter of two active trade union parents, it was no surprise that she followed them into the labor movement. She spent twenty-two years working for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) in various capacities in many different parts of the United States. Newell eventually was elected to the position of General Secretary-Treasurer and served nine terms of office before retiring from UE in 1994.

Aging parents brought Newell back to the Pajaro Valley in 1995. Since then she has served as the business agent of the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, as a national organizer for U. S. Labor Against the War in Iraq, and as an organizer for the University Professional and Technical Employees at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Retiring for good in 2010 Newell turned her seemingly unlimited energy to volunteering locally. She has served on the board of Action Pajaro Valley, as a volunteer with Children's Hospice, as a state park docent, and most recently as a member of the PVWMA Ad Hoc Basin Management Plan (BMP) Committee. It was her work with the BMP Committee that heightened her awareness of water challenges in the Pajaro Valley Basin and led to a desire to join the PVWMA Board when Osmer's resignation created a vacancy. Newell will take her seat during the March 20, 2013 board of directors meeting.

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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