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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Basin Management Plan EIR certification delayed by Water Agency Board**

Watsonville, CA – After receiving public comment from several interested citizens, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board of Directors agreed to delay certification of the Basin Management Plan Update, Environmental Impact Report (EIR), continuing the matter until April 16.

Comments centered primarily on the use of water from College Lake and balancing protection of the basin's groundwater supply with the needs of growers who farm the lake bed each summer as well as the importance of the lake as a habitat for waterfowl. Agency General Manager Mary Bannister recommended holding off on a decision to certify the EIR to give staff time to incorporate comments from the public hearing into the environmental report. The board agreed to delay certification of the EIR pending the staff report.

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 [pvwater.org](http://pvwater.org).

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