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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reporter's note: A Press Conference on this important drought relief funding award will be held Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 12:00 Noon at the Recycled Water Facility, 500 Clearwater Lane, Watsonville

PV Water Leads Successful Effort in Securing \$12.3 Million in Funding

Money to be used for a Variety of Drought Relief Projects

Watsonville, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water), in partnership with Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Benito County Water District, and City of Watsonville scored big again with a draft award of \$12.3 million from the Department of Water Resources Emergency Drought Funding Program. This brings to over \$45 million the amount awarded to the Pajaro River watershed since 2006 under the State's Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWM) process for integrated water resources management.

The \$12.3 million draft funding recommendation, announced Tuesday will provide \$3.6 million to the Pajaro Valley for recycled water project pipeline and conservation programs. In addition, the City of Watsonville will receive full funding for their \$6.3 million Corralitos Filter Plant Project which increases drinking water supplies and fisheries enhancements, both benefiting the groundwater basin and the environment. The City's project will receive full funding because the project is a critical drinking water supply project for a disadvantaged community whereas the other projects are required to provide up to 25% in matching funds.

Over \$500,000 will be provided to support a critical conservation program that is a key component of PV Water's recently adopted Basin Management Plan. Under this program, the Central Coast Ag Water Quality Coalition, in concert with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County and UC Cooperative Extension will assist growers in improving the efficiency of their irrigation systems and optimizing their irrigation scheduling practices, provide grower trainings, and will use on-farm performance monitoring and grower surveys to measure program impacts. The other two projects to be funded under this grant are the San Benito County Water District's Expanded Recycled Water Use Project which will receive \$2.2 million and the Santa Clara Valley Water District's South County Recycled Water Pipeline capital improvement project will receive \$121,000.

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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