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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2015

**Community Commitment for Groundwater
Join Us to Explore Solutions**

Watsonville, CA – With brown lawns and dying vegetation evident everywhere in California, can we still look to agriculture to provide locally grown food sustainably? This and other questions will be addressed by members of the Community Water Dialogue at the launch of the “Community Commitment for Groundwater” next Tuesday, July 28, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Pajaro Dunes Sandpiper Center (2661 Beach Rd).

The Community Water Dialogue (CWD) is a stakeholder sponsored group committed to finding local, community supported solutions to the long-term overdraft in the Pajaro Valley. Those solutions include on-farm conservation measures, managed aquifer recharge, novel technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies for all agricultural users in the Valley, and supporting the Basin Management Plan capital projects and programs developed by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water). Together with PV Water the CWD has raised awareness of the urgency of seawater intrusion and decreasing groundwater levels. With these new technologies and the increased awareness to protect the groundwater that we rely on, there appear to be significant improvements in irrigation efficiencies. More details on historic water use and updates on work being done by local growers, UCSC, the RCD and others will be presented at this event.

News media are invited to join us next Tuesday to learn about the current state of the groundwater basin, the new sustainable groundwater management legislation in the state and the hard work being done by the agricultural community and committed stakeholders to protect the aquifer that supports the vibrant agricultural community here in the Pajaro Valley. Hear directly from growers and landowners who are making a commitment and taking action to conserve water on their operations.

The meeting agenda is attached.

Learn more about the Community Water Dialogue at www.communitywaterdialogue.org

Learn more about PV Water at pvwater.org

Community Water Dialogue

July 28, 2015

3:30 check-in and reception

4:00-6:00 meeting

6:00-7:00 Dinner

**Pajaro Dunes Association Sandpiper Center – Dunes Hall
2661 Beach Rd, Watsonville**

Today's Topic: Shared commitments for bringing our aquifer into balance

Goals

1. Update on the status of the basin, drought conditions, progress and new initiatives
2. Hear from inspiring growers and landowners who are taking action to conserve water
3. Share ideas on actions, sign on to the Community Commitment for Groundwater

	Agenda
3:30pm	Check-in, wine and cheese reception
4:00pm	Welcome, Why are we here? Today's agenda and goals <i>(Jim Marshall, Suncrest Nurseries)</i>
4:10pm	Status of the Basin, Drought, and Basin Management Plan Update <i>(Brian Lockwood, PVWMA)</i>
4:35pm	CWD Action Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Management and Irrigation Best Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PVWMA Conservation Program Update <i>(Erin McCarthy, Ag Water Quality Coalition)</i> o RCD and NRCS technical assistance available for improving irrigation efficiency and scheduling; new initiatives for rotational fallowing and cover crops <i>(Lisa Lurie, RCDSCC)</i> - Managed Aquifer Recharge <i>(Andy Fisher, UCSC)</i> - Big Projects – College Lake <i>(Frank Capurro, Capurro Farms)</i> - Communications <i>(Lisa Lurie, RCDSCC)</i>
5:00	What commitments have growers and landowners made to bring our aquifer into balance? How are they successfully conserving water and improving resiliency to drought? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Murphy, Driscoll's Berries • Stuart Kitayama, Kitayama Brothers • Javier Zamora, JSM Organics
5:50pm	Make the commitment <i>(Emily Paddock, Driscoll's)</i> Learn about and sign on to the Community Commitment for Groundwater
6:00-7:00pm	Dinner and Social <i>(Hosted by Driscoll's Berries)</i>