

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pajaro Valley

Water Management Agency

COLLEGE LAKE COMMUNITY MEETING A SUCCESS

Presentations ranged from Water Management to Waterfowl

WATSONVILLE, CA – Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) today announced its community meeting to share information about College Lake and the agency's overall Basin Management Plan (BMP) drew a crowd of local residents interested in their water supply.

More than 40 people, including elected officials, attended the Sept. 29 College Lake Community Meeting. Attendees heard how drought conditions are impacting water resources in the Pajaro Valley and what PV Water is doing to mitigate the problems of groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion. They also heard about recent work to measure changing streamflow conditions and to document the copious varieties of waterfowl using the lake. Attendees also received an update on the federal flood control project.

Speakers included the chair of the PVMWA Board, Rosemarie Imazio; PV Water General Manager, Mary Bannister; College Lake Reclamation District Board member John Diffenbaugh; from the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, Michael Sapunor; senior water resources hydrologist with PV Water Brian Lockwood; Rusty Barker from cbec eco-engineering; and wildlife biologist Gary Kittleson.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE LAKE WITH INLAND PIPELINE TO COASTAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM(CDS)

College Lake is located approximately one mile northeast of the Watsonville city limits. It is a naturally occurring seasonal lake that receives water inflows from the Green Valley, Casserly and Hughes Creek sub watersheds. These streams drain approximately 11,000 acres of range, rural residential and crop lands. Outflows from the lake naturally flow downstream to Salsipuedes Creek (mixing with overflow from Pinto Lake) in the winter. A low flashboard dam, operated by the College Lake Reclamation District on the south side of the lake, causes inundation of approximately 234 acres. In the spring, usually beginning mid-March to May 1, depending on the amount of spring rains, the lake basin is pumped dry to allow farming to take place during the summer.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is studying how to optimize College Lake for flood control. It is developing plans for levee reconstruction along Salsipuedes Creek, which includes relocating a stretch of Pinto Creek near College Lake.

There is an opportunity to increase the storage capacity of the lake, allowing water to be captured, stored, and delivered for irrigation. This project includes the development of the facilities required to store, treat, and deliver the water. The proposed project would provide a yield of approximately 2,100 to 2,400 acre-feet per year. The estimated yield includes the volume of the lake of 1,700 AF, plus an estimated inflow of 700 to 1,000 AF during the irrigation season, minus an estimated outflow of 300 AF to satisfy minimum flow requirements downstream for steelhead habitat. The project would send water from College Lake during the summer through a new pipeline either to the Recycled Water Facility storage tank or to supply the CDS or directly to the CDS, with provisions to supply inland users along the new water main pipeline.

The College Lake project is the largest water supply project in PV Water's Basin Management Plan, which was approved in 2014.

ABOUT THE PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) is a state-chartered water management district formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. The agency also works to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and future anticipated needs within its boundaries, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley. For more information, visit www.pvwater.org or www.facebook.com/Pajaro-Valley-Water-Management-Agency-239334919458182.