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PV Water provides basin plan update

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

WATSONVILLE The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency announced progress has been made on the implementation of the Basin Management Plan Update adopted in 2014.

The plan addresses three areas: conserving existing water supplies, increasing the use of existing water supplies including recycled water, and developing new water supplies .

Supplemental water deliveries have expanded south of the Pajaro River in North Monterey County this summer with the completion of new pipelines funded through \$1.5 million in grants.

PVWMA also has received \$300,000 in grant funding to support water conservation programs, a major tenant of the BMP. Conservation provides about 40 percent of the reduced groundwater pumping needed to solve the basin problems over the next two decades.

Additionally, PVWMA is increasing recycled water storage at the Watsonville Area Recycled Water Facility . This joint project with the City of Watsonville is u n d e r w a y n o w. A n o t h e r project, upgrades to the Harkins Slough Recharge Facility , is planned during the implementation of the BMP and, together, these projects are to provide a 30 percent reduction in groundwater pumping in the basin.

Supplemental supply projects , such as one proposed to put water from College Lake to beneficial use, are also planned for the future to provide new sources of water to replace groundwater pumping. The BMP Update is being implemented over a 20-year period, and requires water rights and environmental issues to be resolved for the supplemental supply projects.