

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pajaro Valley
Water Management Agency

PV WATER BOARD TAKES ACTION

*Authorizes continued implementation of Basin Management Plan
to balance the groundwater basin and stop seawater intrusion*

Watsonville, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) announced its Board of Directors has approved an agreement for Basin Management Plan (BMP) Program Management Services to advance the implementation of water supply projects.

A team of engineers, planners, and environmental scientists will work with staff to refine project descriptions, meet with stakeholders, apply for water rights permits and acquire grant funds to support project implementation. PV Water is contracting with Carollo Engineers for these services. The agreement begins immediately and goes through June 30, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$6.37 million.

The agreement works to implement the two largest water supply projects in the BMP.

- College Lake with Inland Pipeline to the Coastal Distribution System, which would yield approximately 2,400 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water that currently is pumped out of the lake and ends up in the Monterey Bay.
- Watsonville Slough with Recharge Basins, which is projected to yield 1,200 AFY by diverting storm water runoff from the Watsonville Slough before it flows into the Monterey Bay, storing it underground and recovering it later for use as a supplemental irrigation supply in-lieu of groundwater.

These projects, along with improvements to the existing Harkins Slough Facility, lessen coastal groundwater pumping in order to reduce groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion. Successful implementation is anticipated to lead to a more sustainable water supply for the Pajaro Valley.

Funding the BMP Implementation comes in part from rate increases approved in 2015 as well as from existing reserves and grant funds. An ad-hoc Basin Management Planning Committee made up by regional experts, stakeholders and agency staff created these proposed projects and programs to address the overdraft and seawater intrusion problems caused by over-pumping the aquifer in the Pajaro Valley. Development of the highest yielding and most cost-effective projects are first along with a conservation program that continues to expand and adapt.

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.

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