

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pajaro Valley
Water Management Agency

**PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNVEILS
IMPROVEMENTS TO RECYCLED WATER FACILITY**

Increased recycled water storage and new distribution pumps to help PV Water achieve goals to optimize recycled water use, balance the groundwater basin, and stop seawater intrusion

Watsonville, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) today unveiled the Recycled Water Storage and Distribution Pump Station Improvements Project, a key component of PV Water’s Basin Management Plan (BMP) Update.

The project, completed in collaboration with the City of Watsonville, is projected to help the PV Water achieve approximately 500 acre-feet per year of increased recycled water production by treating and storing nighttime inflows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and delivering the water to growers during the day. The \$5 million cost of construction was offset by funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the CA Department of Water Resources. The success of the Agency in acquiring competitive grant funds has resulted in this project being completed ahead of schedule.

Groundwater is the primary water source in the Pajaro Valley, accounting for approximately 95 percent of the total water supply. For several decades, groundwater pumping has exceeded recharge, leading to an overdraft condition. Chronic overdraft has led groundwater storage depletion and groundwater quality degradation, particularly because of seawater intrusion. These negative impacts threaten the long-term viability of the Pajaro Valley’s groundwater supply.

The new 1.5-million-gallon tank increases recycled water storage from 1.0 million to 2.5 million gallons. In addition to the new storage tank, two new distribution pumps were installed and four existing pumps were improved to be more energy efficient. The upgrade allows for expansion of water deliveries to growers — including increased volume of daytime deliveries —to offset groundwater production and help stop seawater intrusion.

“This project is a win-win-win for the Pajaro Valley because it progresses towards the sustainability of the groundwater basin, expands service for local growers and it was completed ahead of schedule,” said Brian Lockwood, PV Water General Manager. “Also, robust grant funding helped keep cost down for the community.”

Funding for the project included:

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation with Title XVI (\$1.7 M)
- State Water Resources Control Board — Proposition 1 (\$1.6M)
- Department of Water Resources — Proposition 84 (\$900K) and Proposition 50 (\$700K)

The Basin Management Plan Update was developed through a public process with Pajaro Valley stakeholders to help protect the future of local water resources and the agricultural economy. It includes three main components comprised of seven programs and projects, to address groundwater over-pumping issues in the Pajaro Valley. The three key areas of focus are: conserving existing water supplies, developing new supplies and increasing the use of existing water supplies including recycled water.

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 <https://www.facebook.com/PajaroValleyWater>.

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