

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sustainable Groundwater Committee Established

Watsonville, CA, Wednesday, August 19, 2020- PV Water's Board of Directors remains focused on achieving groundwater sustainability for the critically overdrafted Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin. The Board voted unanimously to form an Ad Hoc Sustainable Groundwater Committee for the purpose of engaging stakeholders and interested parties in the effort to update PV Water's Basin Management Plan (BMP), and remain compliant with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

SGMA requires that Groundwater Sustainability Agencies such as PV Water prepare an update to their Groundwater Sustainability Plans every five years. The newly formed Sustainable Groundwater Committee, which will meet up to 10 times through fall 2021; will evaluate technical information presented by staff and consultants, related to the existing and projected conditions of the groundwater basin, consider Sustainable Management Criteria that would avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to the groundwater basin, and make recommendations to the PV Water Board of Directors. The result of this effort will be documented in a report named Basin Management Plan: Groundwater Sustainability Update 2022.

"By forming this committee, the PV Water Board reaffirms its commitment to engage stakeholders and community members in the continuing effort toward achieving groundwater sustainability," said General Manager, Brian Lockwood. Funding for this project comes in large part from a \$500,000 Proposition 68 Grant issued by the Department of Water Resources. "The funding supports a team of technical experts in addition, the United States Geological Survey, who are working closely with staff, to analyze the conditions of the groundwater basin and the effects of PV Water's projects and programs on the basin. Communicating the results of these analyses and obtaining input from Committee members regarding Sustainable Management Criteria will be at the heart of this effort," Lockwood continued.

The Committee will be composed of 17-members, which will be filled by appointments and application. The appointed seats include members from neighboring counties, farm bureaus, water districts, PV Water Board Members, and the City of Watsonville. Rural residential well owners, mutual water companies, disadvantaged communities, environmental, and agricultural interests will be selected by application. PV Water strongly encourages public involvement. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings will take place foreseeably via teleconference. To learn more about how to apply visit www.pvwater.org/sustainable-gw-committee or contact PV Water at 831-722-9292. Applications are due by September 25, 2020.

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/PajaroValleyWater.

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