

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PV WATER BOARD ASKS WATER USERS TO REDUCE WATER USE AMID DROUGHT

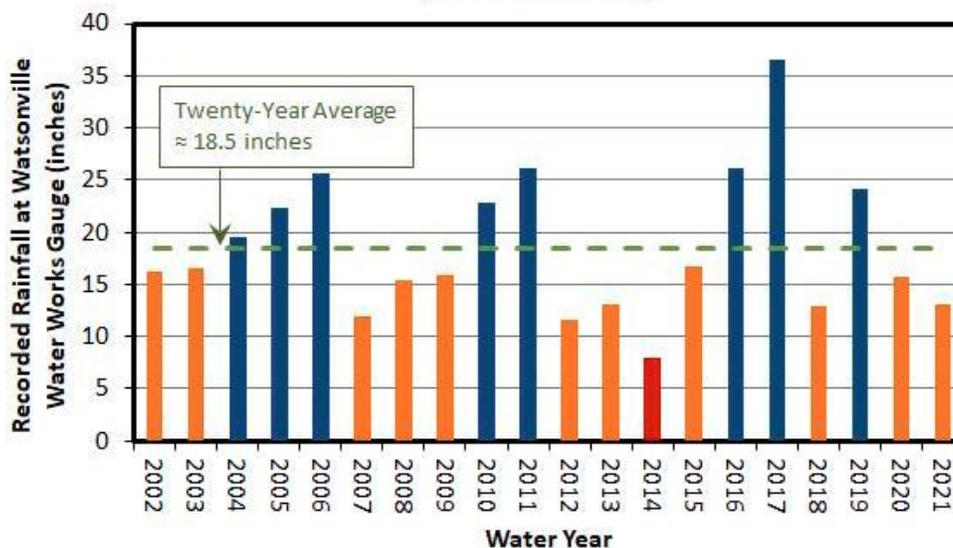
Request connects to state endorsement to save water

Watsonville, CA, September 21, 2021 – The PV Water Board of Directors unanimously voted to request water use reductions from all water users within the Pajaro Valley.

The Pajaro Valley and the majority of the state is experiencing extreme drought, according to the U.S Drought Monitor. This drought, paired with extreme heat and record low water levels statewide, caused Gov. Gavin Newsom to request 15% conservation statewide on July 8.

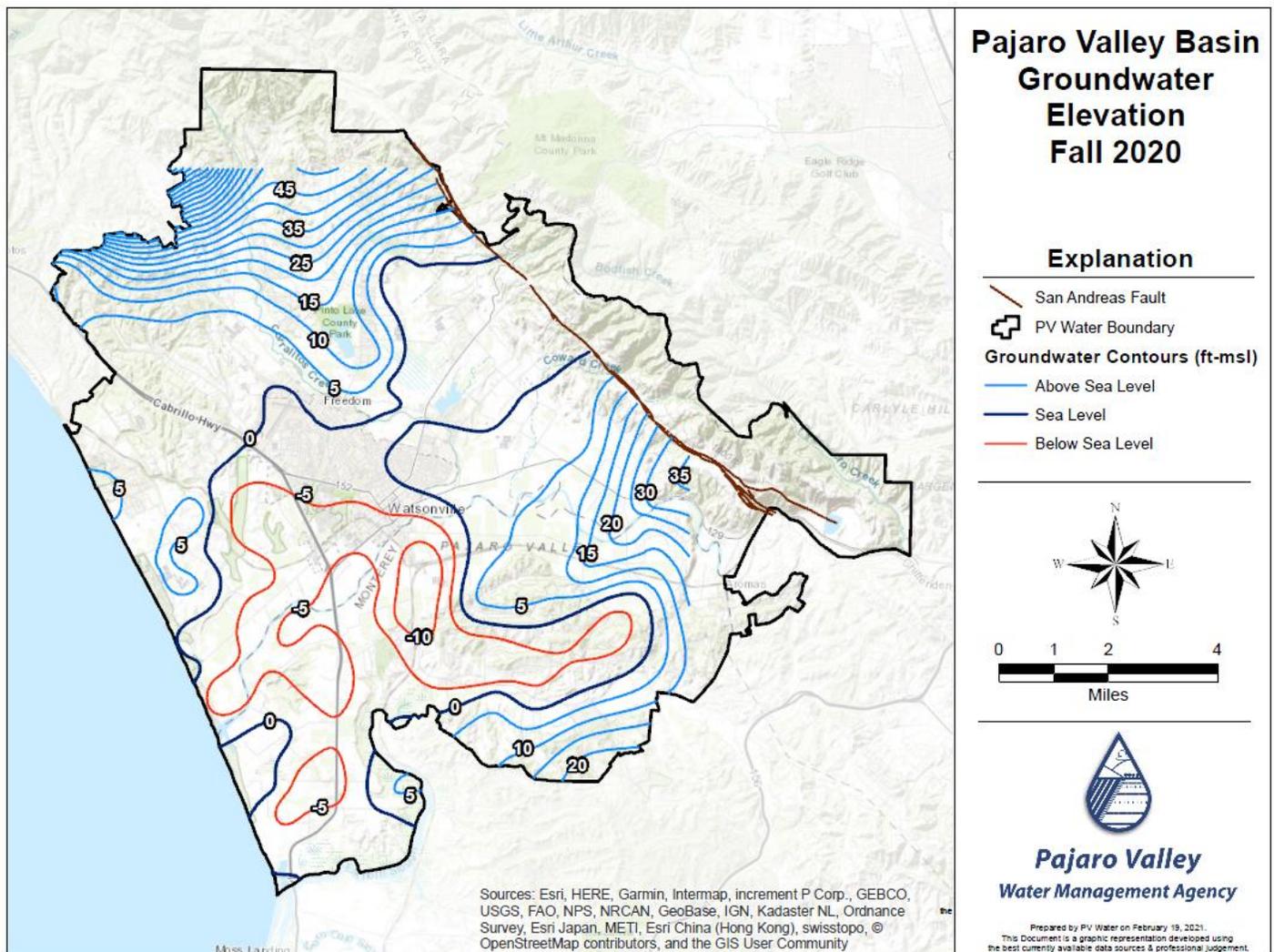
“The Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin remains in a long-term state of groundwater overdraft, which is why lasting water reductions are needed to preserve and protect our groundwater basin,” PV Water General Manager Brian Lockwood said during the presentation to the Board of Directors. “With just 13 inches of rainfall this winter, the demand on groundwater is even greater than during a typical year. It is more important than ever that conservation be embraced.”

**Rainfall Accumulation Watsonville Water Works
(Oct. 1 - Mar. 31)**



Seawater intrusion remains an imminent threat to the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin. Seawater intrusion occurs when water levels are at or below mean sea level. Groundwater data from last fall indicate approximately 27,400 acres — about 38% of the groundwater basin — had groundwater elevations at or below sea level. While this is an improvement compared to conditions during the peak of the last drought emergency in 2015, when nearly 65% of the Valley’s groundwater elevations were at or below sea level, it is likely groundwater levels will further decline during the drought.

“Reducing groundwater use to reduce the magnitude of overdraft will help prevent accelerating the rate of seawater intrusion and preserve the Basin’s important groundwater resources,” Lockwood said.



PV Water offers conservation programs for residential and agricultural water users. The current version of the agricultural conservation program is funded at a level of \$1.25 million dollars for the period 2021 through 2023. Additionally PV Water offers two residential rebates as well as free water-saving devices including showerheads,

aerators and moisture sensors. PV Water and partners continue to innovate and expand the program due to its importance in achieving the goals set forth in the Basin Management Plan (the agency's roadmap to sustainability).

PV Water also is moving forward with two new projects designed to decrease the demand for groundwater and increase supplemental supplies in keeping with its mission 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.

ABOUT PV WATER

PV Water is a state-chartered water management agency formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in and to accomplish the continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. PV Water 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 on [Facebook](#).

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