

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PV WATER BOARD APPROVES RECHARGE NET METERING PROGRAM**

*After 5-Year pilot period, Board enthusiastically endorses novel program as another tool to achieve sustainable groundwater resources.*

Watsonville, CA,— On September 22, 2021, the PV Water Board of Directors enthusiastically endorsed promoting the Recharge Net Metering (ReNeM) Pilot Program to a formal, ongoing program in its quiver of management strategies to achieve sustainable groundwater resources. The ReNeM Program incentivizes groundwater recharge projects within the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin through a public-private partnership by providing landowners (and/or their tenants) with rebates based on net stormwater infiltration benefit.

The intent of the Program is to augment and support the Basin Management Plan (Plan) by helping to collect, infiltrate and recharge stormwater runoff in locations within the Pajaro Valley that are deemed highly suitable for managed aquifer recharge. The Program helps to diversify PV Water’s management strategies by involving private landowners, the University of California Santa Cruz, and the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, to construct and maintain infiltration basins. That many of the most suitable locations for managed aquifer recharge are located near the foothills in the eastern portion of the Basin is another benefit, as the infiltration of higher quality rainwater runoff will improve groundwater quality over time, in an area with elevated concentrations of nitrate.

“We are excited about the pilot Program’s successes on many levels, and with the Board’s support, we look forward to expanding this novel Program” said General Manager Brian Lockwood. “PV Water sees ReNeM as a new and innovative program that will help to achieve the goal of sustainable groundwater resources not only within the Pajaro Valley, but potentially elsewhere in the west as well. An added benefit is the enthusiasm the Program generates with landowners in the valley, who have an opportunity to actively participate in replenishing our critically overdrafted groundwater resources,” Lockwood continued.

ReNeM fits in with PV Water’s existing and future projects as described in the stakeholder driven Basin Management Plan Update. PV Water is working toward

sustainable groundwater resources through increasing water supply and quality with projects like ReNeM, Recycled Water, College Lake and Watsonville Slough, and through demand management with conservation programs, including technical assistance and rebates on high efficiency equipment.

### **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](http://www.pvwater.org) or on [Facebook](#).

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