



*PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

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September 17, 2015

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236  
[Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov)

**Re: Notice of Election to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)**

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) is a state-chartered water management district that was formed under California's Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act ("Agency Act").<sup>1</sup> With the adoption of its first Basin Management Plan (BMP) in 1994, PVWMA has been implementing projects and programs designed to reduce overdraft, halt seawater intrusion, and improve and protect water quality within the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin for over 20 years.

The Basin Management Plan, which is a DWR approved AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan, serves as the PVWMA's long-term guide to water resource sustainability in the Pajaro Valley. In 2002 the Basin Management Plan was revised to put extra focus on local water supply alternatives, and in 2014 it was updated again, this time with a strong emphasis both on conservation programs and the use of local water supplies. Under these plans, the Agency has made steady progress towards achieving sustainability in the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin. In 2009, in a novel partnership with the City of Watsonville, the Watsonville Area Recycled Water Facility, was completed. Constructed to produce 4,000 acre-feet per year of disinfected, tertiary treated water, the facility is currently the primary source of irrigation supply to coastal ranches overlying groundwater impacted by seawater intrusion. The Coastal Distribution

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<sup>1</sup> Stats. 1984, ch. 257, § 1 et seq., p. 798 et seq., Deering's Ann. Wat.—Uncod. Acts (2008) Act 760, p. 681,

System is the PVWMA's 20-mile network of pipeline used to convey supplemental water to the coastal growers for irrigation use as an alternative to groundwater and provides a source of in-lieu recharge. Key in the Basin Management Plans is a water conservation goal of 5,000 acre feet per year, and a robust irrigation efficiency program is being funded to help reach that goal.

Pursuant to Water Code section 10723(c)(1)(L), PVWMA is the exclusive local agency within its statutory boundaries to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"). On August 19, 2015, the PVWMA Board of Directors held a public hearing in accordance with Water Code section 10723(b) and subsequently adopted Resolution 2015-25 electing to become a GSA under SGMA.

Pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8, PVWMA hereby notifies the California Department of Water Resources of this election and its intent to continue sustainable groundwater management for the area underlying its statutory boundaries. Water Code section 10723.8 requires PVWMA to provide with this notification: (1) the service area boundaries, the basin the agency is managing, and the other GSAs operating within the basin; (2) a copy of the resolution forming the new agency; (3) a copy of any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities adopted by PVWMA; and (4) a list of interested parties developed pursuant to Water Code section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of PVWMA's sustainability plan.

- Service Area Boundary. Attached as **Exhibit A** is the Service Area Map. The boundaries of the service area that PVWMA intends to manage as a GSA are the same as the boundaries defined in section 201 of the Agency Act. Commonly known as the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin, PVWMA's statutory boundaries overlie portions of DWR 118 Basin Nos. 3-02 (Pajaro Valley Basin) and 3-21 (Santa Cruz Purisima Formation). PVWMA is unaware of any other GSAs operating within these basins.
- Resolution and Governing Documents. Attached as **Exhibit B** is Resolution 2015-25, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Electing to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Board of Directors did not adopt any new bylaws, ordinances, or new authorities.
- List of Interested Parties. Attached as **Exhibit C** is a list of interested parties developed pursuant to Water Code section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of PVWMA's sustainability plan.

Mark Nordberg  
Notice of Election to Become a GSA  
September 17, 2015  
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Pursuant to Water Code section 10723.4, PVWMA will establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding future plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents.

Should you require additional information or a clarification of this notification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (831) 722-9292.

Sincerely,



Mary Bannister  
General Manager

Attachments:

- Exhibit A – Resolution 2015-25
- Exhibit B – Service Area Map
- Exhibit C – List of Interested Parties

**EXHIBIT A**

**RESOLUTION 2015-25**



## **Resolution 2015-25**

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the  
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

### **Electing to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

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**WHEREAS**, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (“PVWMA”) is a state-chartered water management district formed under California’s Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act, Stats. 1984, ch. 257 (“Agency Act”) to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies;

**WHEREAS**, PVWMA’s primary goal is to prevent further increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft and to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and anticipated needs within its boundaries;

**WHEREAS**, Section 201 of the Agency Act defines PVWMA’s statutory boundaries, which overlie a portion of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin;

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) was signed into law and adopted into the California Water Code, commencing with Section 10720;

**WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of SGMA is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and feasible assistance necessary to manage groundwater;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10723(c)(1)(L) establishes PVWMA as the exclusive local agency within its statutory boundaries to comply with the requirements of SGMA;

**WHEREAS**, PVWMA is committed to sustainable management of groundwater resources within the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin;

**WHEREAS**, PVWMA has conducted the public hearing required under Water Code section 10723(b) to consider whether it should elect to become a groundwater sustainability agency under SGMA for that portion of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin underlying its statutory boundaries;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency hereby:

1. Elects that PVWMA become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for that portion of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin underlying its statutory boundaries.

2. Directs the General Manager to provide notice of this election to the Department of Water Resources within 30 days of the date of this Resolution and to otherwise comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, the 19th day of August, 2015, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Imazio, Newell, Persoff, Lynn, Cavanaugh, Faurot

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Zamora

**ABSTAIN:** None

  
Rosemarie Imazio, Chair

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura R. Taay, Board Secretary

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT of the STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
in and for the County of Santa Cruz

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

RECEIVED  
AUG 13 2015  
PVWMA

Ad No.: 2844-13385

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }  
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ } ss

I, **Alanna Anderson**,  
hereby certify that the **Watsonville Register Pajaronian**, a newspaper of general circulation, within the provisions of the government code of the State of California, printed and published in the City of Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, State of California; that I am the principal clerk of the printer of said newspaper; that the

**Legal Notice: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

of which the annexed clipping is a true printed copy was published in said newspaper on the following dates, to wit:

**August 6, 11, 2015**

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, at Watsonville, California, on the

**August 11, 2015**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board of Directors will be held:

--Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm--  
City Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, 4th Floor  
Watsonville, CA 95076

The purpose of this public hearing is to accept public testimony regarding the proposal that Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency act as the groundwater sustainability agency for the portion of the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin within the Agency's statutory boundaries, defined in Section 201 of California's Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act, Stats. 1984, ch. 257.

(Partially obscured text: space)

For more information, contact Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency: (831) 722-9292

August 6, 11, 2015  
2844-13385

Alanna Anderson  
Alanna Anderson, Legal Clerk

"Proof of Publication must be filed with the County Clerk's Office within 30 days of the last publication date, pursuant to Civil Code Section 2466."

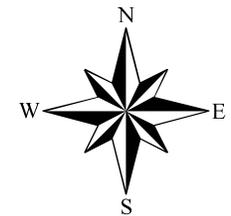
**EXHIBIT B**

**SERVICE AREA MAP**

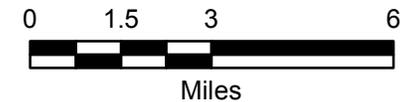
# Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Boundary & Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basins

## Explanation

-  Pajaro River
-  PVWMA Boundary
-  DWR Groundwater Basins



1 inch equals 3 miles



**Pajaro Valley**  
**Water Management Agency**

Prepared by PVWMA on September 17, 2015.

This Document is a graphic representation  
using the best currently available sources.  
The PVWMA assumes no responsibility for any errors.

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

**3-21  
SANTA CRUZ PURISIMA  
FORMATION BASIN**

**3-03  
GILROY-HOLLISTER VAL  
LLAGAS AREA**

**3-01  
SOQUEL VALLEY BASIN**

**3-02  
PAJARO VALLEY BASIN**

**3-04  
SALINAS VALLEY BASIN  
180/400 FOOT AQUIFER**

**3-04  
SALINAS VALLEY BASIN  
LANGLEY AREA**

## EXHIBIT C

### LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES

Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4) requires a list of interested parties developed pursuant to Water Code section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.

PVWMA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, all of whom are voters of, and residents within, the area served by PVWMA. Four directors are directly elected by voters within their division and three directors are separately appointed by Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, and the City of Watsonville. The three appointed directors must derive at least 50% of their income from agriculture. In addition, PVWMA regularly convenes committees of interested stakeholders to study and make recommendations to the Board on PVWMA projects and programs.

For example, PVWMA's 2014 Basin Management Plan Update was the product of a multi-year collaborative effort by a stakeholder committee comprised of 22 representatives from the following groups:

- PVWMA directors and staff
- Local governmental agencies, including Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey, City of Watsonville, Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District, Aromas Water District
- Farm Bureaus from Santa Cruz and Monterey County
- San Andreas Mutual Water Company
- Community Water Dialogue Effort
- Landowner Group
- Neighboring water district
- Conventional and organic, and inland and coastal agricultural representatives
- Rural residential
- Environmental communities.

The 2014 Basin Management Plan Update effort was successful because the 22 representatives on the committee were seated as appointed committee members by the Agency's Board of Directors and had a vote on all recommendations. This approach was also used for a rate setting committee and resulted in a successful rate structure that was approved in 2015 to fund the Basin Management Plan Update projects and programs. This same approach will be used to involve stakeholders in key decisions by PVWMA on GSA activities. It is anticipated that periodic updates to the Basin Management Plan will be needed in an adaptive management approach to solving the basin overdraft.

PVWMA will continue to engage these interests and any other interested persons or entities, including various regulatory agencies and neighboring GSAs, as it implements the BMP and takes steps as a GSA to meet their requirements of SGMA. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights:

(1) Agricultural users:

The Agency is in regular contact with agricultural well users. The metered agricultural production wells, those that pump 10 AF or more per year, receive quarterly bills for

water production that come with newsletters informing them of ongoing activities within the Agency's boundaries. In addition, the Agency funds a robust irrigation efficiency program with a strong outreach component. As noted above, agricultural water users have been participating in water resource planning committees for years.

(2) Domestic Well users:

Like the agricultural well users, domestic well users receive the same quarterly newsletters containing information about ongoing Agency activities. Domestic well users, or rural residents, have served on water resource planning committees alongside agricultural water users, public water systems, municipalities, etc.

(b) Municipal well owners:

The City of Watsonville is the only municipality within the Agency's boundaries. The Agency has collaborated with the City to build a Recycled Water Facility, which provides disinfected, tertiary treated water to agricultural users in the coastal area impacted by seawater intrusion. Agency staff present regularly to City Council and members of the City Council are sent a copy of the Agency's quarterly newsletter. The City's Director of Public Works has served on water resource planning committees alongside agricultural water users, small water systems, etc.

(c) Public water systems:

Several small to mid-size public water systems exist within the Agency's boundaries. Representative from public water systems have recently served on served on water resource planning committees alongside agricultural water users, public water systems, municipalities, etc.

(d) Local land use planning agencies:

The Agency's statutory boundary, which is the same as the proposed GSA boundary, contains portions of three counties: Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito. Agency staff maintain professional relationships with County staff in order to facilitate efficient transfer of information. Quarterly newsletters are distributed to each County's Board of Supervisors and key County staff.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater:

While there are not environmental users of groundwater within the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin, numerous non-profit environmental groups do exist. Agency staff work closely with these groups, inviting representatives to Agency committee meetings, and attending meetings with these groups.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies:

The City of Watsonville is a surface water user. As noted in municipalities, above, the Agency keeps in regular contact with the City on Agency projects and groundwater issues.

(g) The federal government:

The Agency has worked closely with various federal government agencies in the past, including the Bureau of Reclamation, which has provided significant grant funding that was used to construct water supply facilities and infrastructure, and the United States Geological Survey, which the Agency has partnered with for over a decade to conduct water resource investigations and develop hydrologic models.

(h) California Native American tribes:

Staff has working relationships with representatives of Native American Tribes as there are several known cultural sites of interest within the Pajaro Valley. .

- (i) Disadvantaged communities, including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems:

Disadvantaged communities exist in the Pajaro Valley. Staff work with representatives from Community Services Districts to apply for grant funding, and to provide groundwater data when applicable.

- (j) Entities listed in Water Code section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of the groundwater basin:

N/A. The Agency conducts groundwater monitoring and reporting activities for the basin.