



Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Alternative Assessment Summary Pajaro Valley Subbasin

Determination: APPROVED

Submitting Agency:

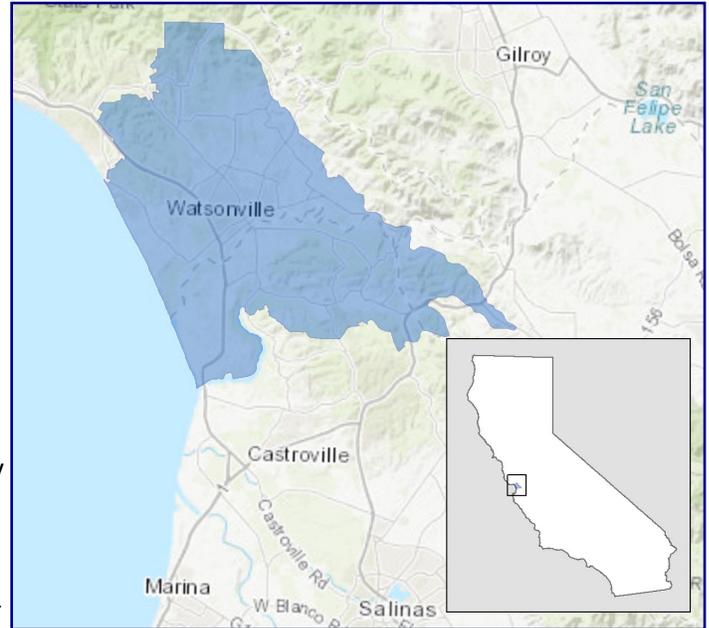
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
(PVWMA)

Alternative Type:

Groundwater Management Plan

Assessment Summary:*

- The alternative prepared by PVWMA satisfied the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by successfully demonstrating that the agency's existing groundwater management plan is likely to lead to sustainable groundwater management for the Pajaro Valley Subbasin within the statutory timelines identified in SGMA.
- Although the basin was designated as critically overdrafted by the Department of Water Resources (Department) in 2015, the groundwater management plan and related documents demonstrated an acceptable understanding of groundwater conditions in the basin and established goals to eliminate existing undesirable results associated with overdraft and seawater intrusion.
- PVWMA demonstrated that their plan to achieve groundwater sustainability is based on proven technology, is reasonable and feasible, and offers solutions to the identified problems with interim milestones to gauge successful implementation.
- PVWMA, which was identified as an exclusive local agency in SGMA and is the exclusive groundwater sustainability agency within its service area in the basin, has sufficient authority to implement the groundwater management plan.
- The Department provided recommendations for PVWMA to address in its first five-year update to the alternative, which is due in January 2022. The recommendations are related to addressing PVWMA's non-jurisdictional portion of the basin, quantifying interconnected surface water, identifying groundwater dependent ecosystems, and clarifying the criteria for groundwater levels and seawater intrusion.



*For more details, refer to the staff report at <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Alternatives>.