



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

97

April 14, 1999

AGENDA: April 20, 1999

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### **REPORT ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO MITIGATE OVERDRAFT IN THE PAJARO VALLEY**

Members of the Board:

On June 16, 1998, your Board considered recommendations relative to a possible declaration of a groundwater emergency in the Pajaro Valley. At that meeting, staff was directed to report back on activities to mitigate overdraft in the Pajaro Valley. The Water Resource Manager has asked Charles McNiesh, recently appointed General Manager of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, to prepare a letter report for your Board. The report provided by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is included as Attachment I.

Your Board should note a December 26, 1996 letter, wherein Board Chairman Symons requested that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency transmit a copy of their Annual Report to your Board in May of each year. A copy of the above letter is included as Attachment 2. The request had been discussed with Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency staff but has never been fulfilled. County staff is coordinating with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency's new General Manager to attempt to have their Annual Reports transmitted to your Board.

As your Board is aware, county water resource staff are appreciative of the cooperation they have historically received from Charles McNiesh and look forward to continued favorable relations with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. County staff does, however, have long-standing concerns related to groundwater management activities in the Pajaro Valley. Many of staff's concerns are contained within the consensus water resource goals, objectives, and strategies brought to your Board in the January 26, 1999 report on Water Resources Management. Others were not specifically addressed in that report but have been discussed at the staff level for some time. The specific long-standing concerns

include : 1) addressing nitrates in groundwater; 2) analyzing the present state of the basin (included diminished streamflow in Corralitos Creek); 3) refining estimates for supplemental water needs; 4) implementing or expanding agricultural water conservation programs; 5) preparing data reports; and 6) updating the 1993 Basin Management Plan to address other contemporary issues. The long-standing concerns of county staff are addressed in the April 7, 1999 letter report prepared for your Board. To summarize the letter report, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency acknowledges that their water management objectives are consistent with the following County goals and objectives:

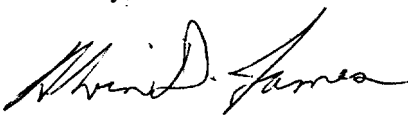
- \* Balance Available Water Supply and Demand
- \* Maintain and Stabilize Stream Baseflows
- \* Stabilize Seawater Intrusion
- \* Protect Water Quality
- \* Increase Water Conservation

To address these issues in the long-term, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency will utilize information already gathered and additional studies to prepare two new documents. The two new documents, A Project Implementation Plan, and A State of the Basin Report, are estimated to be completed early in the year 2000.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report on ongoing activities to mitigate overdraft in the Pajaro Valley, and
2. Direct the County Water Resource Manager to send a letter and address the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board to request that they transmit a copy of their Annual Report to your Board , and
3. Direct the County Water Resource Manager to review the recommendations of the County's Water Resource Management Report with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board and to request additional staff level discussions on the concerns not specifically addressed in that report, and
4. Direct Staff to provide a progress report to your Board on October 18, 1999.

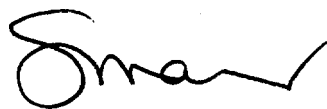
Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES

Planning Director

RECOMMENDED



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO

County Administrative Officer

Blc/WRM99-05

Attachments

cc: **Pajaro** Valley Water Management Agency  
Environmental Health Services