



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ  
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS  
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT  
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS  
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 5/18/99

May 4, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: STUDY SESSION WITH THE PAJARO VALLEY  
WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Dear Members of the Board:

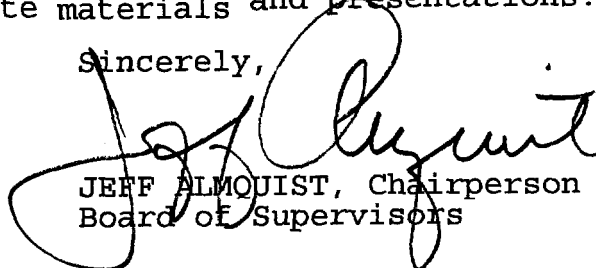
Attached is a letter dated April 27, 1999, from Charlie McNiesh, General Manager of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), requesting that a study session be held between the Board of Supervisors and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency regarding groundwater conditions in the Pajaro Valley.

As Board members will recall, in response to the report on Water Resources Management the Board considered on April 20, 1999, we are scheduled to receive a report on June 15, 1999, regarding environmental review guidelines related to water wells. With Mr. McNiesh present, Board members expressed a number of concerns about the information in the report prepared by the PVWMA. In the interim, I believe that a joint study session with the PVWMA Board and staff, including a presentation by the Agency on their efforts to date to address groundwater overdraft problems, would be helpful in providing an opportunity for dialogue among members of our Board, County staff, members of the Agency Board of Directors and Agency staff. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board schedule a study session with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency for May 25, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. and direct the

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
May 4, 1999  
Page 2

County Administrative Office to coordinate with Agency staff on the preparation of appropriate materials and presentations.

Sincerely,



JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted  
Attachment

cc: Charlie McNiesh, General Manager, Pajaro Valley Water  
Management Agency  
County Administrative Officer  
Planning Director  
Bruce Laclergue, Planning

1459A6



**PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

36 BRENNAN STREET • WATSONVILLE, CA 95076  
TEL: (83 1) 722-9292 • FAX: (83 1) 722-3 139  
email: info@pvwma.dst.ca.us • http://www.pvwma.dst.ca.us

April 27, 1999

Mr. Jeff Almquist, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

**Re: Pajaro Valley Groundwater Conditions**

Dear Mr. Almquist:

At your Board of Supervisors meeting on April 20, 1999, several Board members stated concerns about the continuing groundwater problems in the Pajaro Valley and expressed a perception that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency has been slow in addressing these problems. The candor of your Board's comments was useful in helping us understand your concerns and expectations. I assure you that we share the same basic interests. The critical tenor of your Board's comments surprised us, however, since we have been working closely and productively with County staff over the past year to reach agreement on priorities and schedules.

In any event, it seems fair to say that there exist some misunderstandings between your agency and ours about the water situation in the Pajaro Valley. Because this is an absolutely vital matter to the whole area, we would like to propose an in-depth study session on this topic involving our two Boards. The purpose would be to provide your Board with detailed background on the actions that this agency has already taken, as well as those that we are planning to undertake. In addition, such a session would provide a forum for frank discussion of alternative actions. We believe that this interchange would benefit both bodies.

We are completely flexible as to arrangements. The meeting could involve Board committees or, perhaps more usefully, full Boards. We would be pleased to work with County staff to provide a suggested agenda. In any case, we suggest that the date be in late May or early June before your scheduled reconsideration of Pajaro Valley groundwater issues on June 15.

Mr. Jeff Almquist  
April 27, 1999  
Page 2

We remain of the opinion that a study session, or another forum with similar purposes, will go far to clear up any misunderstandings or poor communication that may exist between us, as well as to provide us with helpful input. Please advise us soon if you concur.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Charles McNiesh  
General Manager

cc. Susan Mauriello, CAO  
Alvin James, Planning Director  
Diane Evans, Environmental Health Services