



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

May 11, 2000

AGENDA: May 23, 2000

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

PROGRESS REPORT ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO MITIGATE OVERDRAFT IN THE PAJARO VALLEY

Members of the Board:

On February 15, 2000, your Board considered recommendations relative to ongoing activities to mitigate overdraft in the Pajaro Valley. At the conclusion of discussion, your Board accepted the staff recommendation to report back on this date on the progress of the development of the State of the Basin report, and the Basin Management Plan update. Your Board also directed staff to comment on Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency's (PVWMA) recent voluntary questionnaire on on-farm agricultural conservation planning. This report addresses those matters, and briefly covers other matters of importance to your Board.

State of the Basin Report and the Basin Management Plan Update

All of the matters addressed in this report are moving forward as scheduled with the exception of the State of the Basin Report. PVWMA reviewed an administrative draft of the report in March and returned it to their consultant with direction to include additional material and analysis. It has since been reworked by the consultant and returned in administrative draft form to the PVWMA on May 8, 2000. At this time, the report is still undergoing internal agency review. Once released in its public draft form, the report will be comprised of two components; a "layperson" version, and a more detailed technical report which includes historical information, details of analyses performed and data tables.

A draft copy of the Basin Management Plan (BMP) update is scheduled for presentation to the PVWMA Board of Directors on May 17, 2000. A public review draft has not yet been released so staff is not familiar with specific contents of the plan. It is expected that the BMP update will summarize the state of knowledge on the issues which confront water managers in the Pajaro Valley. The issues include overdraft, seawater intrusion, other groundwater management considerations, and development and utilization of the

groundwater model to address these management issues. The BMP update will address options for alternative solutions and will ultimately identify a preferred course of action for the Agency to pursue as the principle means of addressing these issues. Staff understands the importance of bringing the information contained in the above two reports to your Board and will do so once the reports are released for public review.

On-Farm Agricultural Water Conservation Plans

Another matter previously cited as being an important concern to your Board is the preparation of an ordinance, by the PVWMA, requiring the mandatory filing of on-farm agricultural conservation plans. Your Board may recall that Monterey County has such an ordinance to document conservation activity in the Salinas Valley. Your Board urged the PVWMA to consider developing their own ordinance. The PVWMA Board initially requested voluntary compliance with agricultural conservation reporting requirements. The initial response to the questionnaire was low, so the filing deadline was extended. The PVWMA Board considered this issue at their May 3, 2000 meeting.

Faced with a voluntary response level that was less than 50%, when measured by either the number of submittals or acreage represented, the PVWMA Board decided that the preliminary analysis of the response was inadequate for planning purposes. As a result, they voted to bring back an ordinance for consideration at their May 17, 2000 Board meeting. The May 17 version of the draft ordinance will also include revisions to the penalty clause, and clarification that it is the growers' responsibility to provide the requested information (rather than the landowners). In addition, the Questionnaire will be altered to include the following three new questions:

- 1) What new conservation measures were implemented in the past year?
- 2) What new conservation measures are anticipated to be implemented in the next year? and
- 3) How many dollars were spent on conservation measures last year?

These three questions are also included in Monterey County's agricultural conservation questionnaire. Following discussion on the revised questionnaire and draft ordinance, it is expected that a public hearing will be scheduled in June 2000. A copy of draft Ordinance 2000-03, An Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Mandating Completion of the Water Conservation Practices Questionnaire is included as Attachment 1.

Harkins Slough Local Recharge Project

Another matter of concern to your Board, the Harkins Slough Local Recharge Project, was also discussed at the May 3, 2000, meeting of the PVWMA Board. In a staff update on the local recharge project, it was reported that water rights for the Harkins Slough package would be "in hand" at the end of May. Requests for bidding on the project is being sent out in two phases. The first bid, to construct the diversion and recharge facilities, has been opened and an awarding of a contract of that phase of the project is imminent. Bids for the second phase, construction of the coastal distribution package, are on schedule to be sent out this month with bid opening anticipated to be later in June.

Other Conservation Activity

Other conservation activities by the PVWMA are worth noting for your Board. The Agency has appropriated funds to sponsor four agricultural demonstration projects. So far, three proposals have been received. PVWMA's agricultural conservation steering committee has agreed to fund at least one of the proposals. The selected proposal involves growing roses in a greenhouse operation which will utilize an experimental soil medium and a water recycling irrigation system. Thirty new irrigation evaluations are being planned through the mobile lab program. Grants are being pursued to promote awareness and use of irrigation scheduling technology.

Lastly, it should be brought to your Board's attention that the City of Watsonville and the PVWMA are filing jointly for grant funding available through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau has an existing federal budget appropriation of \$400,000 for completion of a feasibility level study of recycled water implementation. The federal budget appropriation has been established in the name of the City of Watsonville. An April 27, 2000, PVWMA memorandum on this matter is included for your information as Attachment 2.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

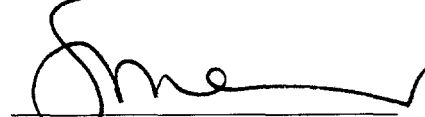
- 1) Accept and file this progress report on ongoing activities to mitigate overdraft in the Pajaro Valley; and
- 2) Direct staff to provide a comprehensive report back on or before October 10, 2000, on the PVWMA State of the Basin Report, the Basin Management Plan update, and Ordinance 2000-03, An Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Mandating Completion of the Water Conservation Practices Questionnaire.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Blc/WRM00-05

Attachments: 1) PVWMA draft Ordinance 2000-03
2) PVWMA memorandum on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant funds for a recycled water project

cc: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
City of Watsonville
County of San Benito
County of Monterey

Ordinance 2000-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT
AGENCY MANDATING COMPLETION OF THE WATER
CONSERVATION PRACTICES QUESTIONNAIRE

FINDINGS

1. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (Agency) was formed, among other reasons, to provide integrated management of the ground and surface water resources within the Pajaro Basin. As the sole local agency responsible for the integrated management of water resources for the Pajaro Basin, the Agency bears responsibility for the management and augmentation of water supplies for domestic, agricultural, municipal and industrial purposes.
2. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act (Act) provides that conservation and economically efficient management of water resources are necessary to meet the needs of agriculture, industry and urban communities and further provides that water conservation programs appropriately include the ability of a water management agency to recognize existing beneficial uses.
3. The Agency recognizes the importance of collecting information from its agricultural water users relative to their water conservation measures, so that the Agency can effectively carry out its powers and purposes of managing groundwater resources.
4. In this year and/or subsequent years, the Agency proposes to distribute the *Agricultural Water Conservation Practices Questionnaire* (Questionnaire) in substantially the same form as that attached as Exhibit A to this Ordinance and incorporated herein, to its agricultural water users in order to gather the information it needs to effectively carry out its powers and purposes.
5. The Agency acknowledges that there is a split of opinion amongst its agricultural water users as to whether response to the Questionnaire should be done on a mandatory or a voluntary basis, and enacted Resolution No. 2000-03 as a means to encourage voluntary responses to the Questionnaire.
6. The Agency received a response rate of _____ percent (___%) to the Questionnaire distributed to all agricultural water users within Agency boundaries on _____, 2000.
7. Due to the low response rate, which is inadequate for the Agency's purposes, the Agency is acting pursuant to the authority granted in the Agency's Act, Section 124-102 and 124-501, and in accordance with Finding #3 in Resolution No. 2000-03 which provides for the Agency to reconsider a re-distribution of the Questionnaire after imposing a requirement that the Questionnaire information be provided on a mandatory basis.
8. The Agency intends to maintain the confidentiality of such responses to the extent permitted by law.

NOW THEREFORE be it ordained as follows:

SECTION ONE:

A. Collection of Information.

1. Obtaining and utilizing the information requested in the Questionnaire are necessary for meeting the long-term goals of the Agency.
2. The Questionnaire shall be distributed to its agricultural water users with a deadline for a mandatory response.

- B. Enforcement. If any agricultural water user who has been requested to complete a Questionnaire fails to return a completed Questionnaire to the Agency within the time stated in the Questionnaire, the Agency shall be entitled to take any and all of the following actions:

To be completed pursuant to direction from the PVWMA Board of Directors

SECTION TWO: PUBLICATION AND APPLICATION

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be read in conjunction with and complement all other Agency ordinances and resolutions, and shall apply to all parcels within the boundaries of the Agency.

SECTION THREE: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its adoption.

SECTION FOUR: SEVERABILITY

If any subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, or of any other provisions of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency ordinances and resolutions. It is the Agency's express intent that each remaining provision of this Ordinance would have been adopted irrespective of the fact that one or more subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid or unenforceable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, the ____ day of _____ 2000, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

0486

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Brad Bennett, Chair

Attest:

Barbara Jordan, Secretary

DATE: April 27, 2000
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager
RE: **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM 5C:** Direct **staff to** pursue US bureau of Reclamation Title XVI grant funds for recycled water project, including development of joint project and cost sharing agreement **with** City of **Watsonville.**

BACKGROUND

The Agency has completed numerous studies and evaluations of water supply options. In addition, the City of Watsonville has completed evaluations of recycled water development through **its** wastewater treatment facilities. Use of recycled water for **agricultural irrigation** continues to be an attractive local supply option. The City of Watsonville owns and operates the local **wastewater** treatment facility that would be used to provide recycled water supplies. Therefore, any recycled water project would require a cooperative agreement between **the** City of **Watsonville** and the Agency.

In addition, federal grant funding is available through the US Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program. This program could provide up to 25 percent grant funding of a recycled water project, up **to** a maximum grant of \$20 million. The Bureau has an existing federal budget appropriation of \$400,000 for completion of a feasibility level study of recycled water implementation. The federal budget appropriation has been established in the name of the City of Watsonville.

Staff level discussions between the City of Watsonville, the Bureau of Reclamation, **and** the Agency have indicated a desire by all parties **to** pursue completion of a feasibility level study. It is envisioned that **such** a study would be jointly funded by **all** three parties. Further, it is recognized **that** the majority of the information required by the Bureau of Reclamation in a feasibility level study **has** already been developed. However, additional information is required, including completion of NEPA compliance documents, prior to the Bureau of Reclamation being able to **consider** and approve any grant funds for project implementation.

FISCAL, IMPACT:

None at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board **direct** staff to pursue Title XVI grant funding and develop a cooperative agreement between the City of Watsonville and the Agency.