



PVWATERCOMMITMENT@YAHOO.COM

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### COMMUNITY WATER DIALOGUE

Founded in July 2010, the Community Water Dialogue is a group of local stakeholders who have gathered to address the issue of groundwater overdraft through local solutions. This group believes that we must simplify the issues first in order to make progress and are seeking concerned stakeholders who share the following:

1. A commitment to protect the Pajaro Valley as an important agriculture resource
2. A recognition that the solution will not be an importation pipeline
3. A willingness to pursue diverse strategies which entail costs and sacrifices in order to bring our aquifer into balance

The CWD holds quarterly discussion meetings and incorporates the efforts from multiple working groups, including: land management and irrigation, recharge, communications, money and metrics and big projects.

### DIALOGUE TO ACTION

Want to be a part of bringing dialogue to action? Get involved in an Action Team! Contact an action team chair to learn more:

### LAND MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION BEST PRACTICES:

Kevin Healy (Kevin.Healy@berry.net)

### BIG PROJECTS:

Chuck Allen (chuckallenpginc@gmail.com)

### MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE:

Emily Paddock (Emily.Paddock@driscolls.com)

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Lisa Lurie (llurie@rcdsantacruz.org)

### CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN THE PAJARO VALLEY

Groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion are two major threats to the sustainability of the groundwater resources in the Pajaro Valley. In the past 4 years, the Pajaro Valley community has seen great change in the conversations and actions around water supply for agriculture. We have seen improved communication between community members about the shared sacrifices it takes to balance the aquifer. We have seen the CWD become a place of common ground to discuss the water supply issues. We have seen changes in the local direction of resource support from partners, like NRCS, RCD and PVWMA, to focus on water supply needs. And the Pajaro Valley has gained state and national attention from agencies like USDA, CDFA and the State Board as a place where local solutions are working to address water supply issues.

Since 2010 the Pajaro Valley had some years with average to slightly above average rainfall, but more recently, the Valley has experience dry years, with 2013 being a critically dry year. In 2008, water use in the valley was about 62,100 AF and rainfall for that calendar year was 16.3 inches. In 2013, when rainfall for the calendar year was 3.2 inches, total water use was 61,600, less than what was used in 2008. Conservation is happening, but more is needed to stop sea water intrusion. See how you can be involved in the local efforts to address the water supply issues in the Pajaro Valley in the "Dialogue to Action" box below.

### LAND MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION ACTION TEAM

The RCD and Hortau are working together on a Equipment Loaner Program for the Wireless Irrigation Network in the Pajaro Valley. The intent of the Project WIN Equipment Loaner Program is to allow growers a trial period to test the wireless irrigation monitoring technology with minimal costs. Each participant will have the opportunity to use loaner equipment for three months to test this technology in their fields. The loaner equipment includes one monitoring station and two probes. For more information contact: Lisa Lurie with the RCD at 831-464-2950 or by email llurie@rcdsantacruz.org.

### RECHARGE ACTION TEAM

UCSC, CSUMB, and RCD partners continued monitoring of inflow and infiltration at the Bokariza field site during the 2014 water year (began 10/1/13). This year we deployed various instrumentation, including staff plates and pressure gauges, temperature probes, sediment measurement instruments, flow meter, time lapse cameras and data logging system. We plan to retrieve instruments and samples from the field in late April and early May 2014. As we all know, it was another relatively dry year, but hopefully the small number of storms will provide enough useful data and samples so that we can extrapolate results to more normal (and even wet) conditions, yielding a better sense of long-term benefits and maintenance requirements for the basin.

Last year we visited a couple of potential new field sites, and we learned recently that some funding to support new installations should become available as part of the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning processes. In addition, funding was secured for a Santa Cruz County assessment of managed recharge suitability, including GIS work and runoff analyses. This work will be done jointly by UCSC and RCD staff and students, project to begin in Summer 2014. Initial GIS methods will be similar to those used in the study of managed recharge suitability in the Pajaro Valley, which many CWD members heard about over the last several years. That work was just accepted for publication in the journal Groundwater. You can download a preprint of that study here: [http://websites.pmc.ucsc.edu/~afisher/CVpubs/pubs/Russo2014\\_GW\\_PV-MAR.pdf](http://websites.pmc.ucsc.edu/~afisher/CVpubs/pubs/Russo2014_GW_PV-MAR.pdf)

### BIG PROJECTS ACTION TEAM | COLLEGE LAKE HYDROLOGY STUDY

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, together with Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health, is leading a collaborative effort to complete a hydrologic model and develop a set of management measures for College Lake to balance the needs of water supply, flood management, agricultural production, the environment and other community visions. This project has been ongoing for about a year and half, completing data collection over the winter and working on the development of a hydrologic model for the College Lake watershed. The technical team is currently providing technical input to answer specific questions the engineer consultants need answered in order to better calibrate the model and alternative evaluations. The team anticipates a stakeholder meeting occurring in early summer to present the findings of the model, alternative hydrologic evaluations and gather feedback from the community on management measures for College Lake. For more information contact: Stacie Ruffoni with the RCD at 831-464-2950 or by email sruffoni@rcdsantacruz.org.

### BIG PROJECTS ACTION TEAM | PVWMA BMP

PVWMA staff and stakeholders, including members of the CWD, recently worked to update the Basin Management Plan with a suite of projects and programs that balance the basin and stop seawater intrusion. Key components of the plan include: conservation (5,000 AFY), optimizing the use of existing supplies (3,000 AFY), and developing new supplies (4,100 AFY). Projects will be implemented in phases. If basin monitoring shows continued overdraft and/or seawater intrusion following the completion of each phase, additional projects identified in the BMP Update will be considered for implementation. Currently PVWMA formed an Ad Hoc Funding Committee in June 2013 to develop a recommended rate structure that supports the implementation of the updated Basin Management Plan. All committee meetings are open to the public, so interested stakeholders of the CWD are encouraged to attend. For more information contact: Mary Bannister or Brian Lockwood with PVWMA at 831-722-9292, or visit the Agency's website (pvwater.org).