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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER AGENCY AWARDED FOUR MILLION DOLLAR GRANT

Watsonville, CA – In early May the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) was informed by the US Bureau of Reclamation that it was being awarded a grant to help repay the costs of building the Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility. The PVWMA grant application was among those receiving the highest ratings and is now being awarded \$4,000,000.

“I am pleased that the agency continues to identify and successfully pursue grant opportunities” observed PVWMA General Manager Mary Bannister. She added “Securing these funds allows us to continue tackling the thorny issues of salt water intrusion while lessening the burden on residents of the Pajaro Valley.”

PVWMA is one of only eight projects being awarded funding from the Bureau’s Title XVI WaterSMART grant program. PVWMA’s grant made up 20% of the total \$20 million awarded this year. The Department of Interior established WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) in February 2010 to facilitate the work of Interior's bureaus in pursuing a sustainable water supply for the nation. "Strong partnerships are crucial to creating a sustainable water and energy supply," said Department of Interior Secretary Salazar."

"Providing sufficient water for agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreational and environmental needs is fundamental to the health and economies of communities across the western United States," said Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor.

The PVWMA is a public agency whose mission is to protect and preserve the water resources within the agency’s jurisdiction, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley.

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