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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PVWMA Responds to Grand Jury Report

Watsonville, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, and its Board of Directors, has been engaged, energetic and creative during the past five years in furthering the mission of the agency. This critical mission is the preservation of the Pajaro Valley’s water resources, the agricultural economy that relies on protection of the groundwater basin, and the hundreds of families who rely on the jobs a strong Ag economy creates.

Even in the face of serious financial stress the board guided the agency and made it possible to achieve some remarkable successes:

1. Completion of the Recycled Water Facility which is capable of producing 4,000 acre feet of “New” irrigation water supplies per year from wastewater that would otherwise be discharged into Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
2. Delivery of over 18,000 acre feet of supplemental water supply to coastal growers
3. Capturing over 7,000 acre feet of flood water and recharging it into the Harkins Slough Project recharge basin
4. Easing the financial burden on local residents by bringing in over \$48 million dollars in grants to fund these important projects while maintaining reasonable rates for the agency’s rate payers.
5. The creation of an Ad Hoc Basin Management Plan Committee of engaged local citizens who drafted the most comprehensive plan to halt seawater intrusion and preserve water resources in the agency’s history

The release of the 2012-2013 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report has taken the agency to task primarily for deficiencies related to auditor’s findings in recent years. The agency agrees, there were deficiencies in the past. These deficiencies have been addressed and rectified and the resolution reported to the board of directors and the Grand Jury earlier this year.

“I am surprised that the Grand Jury, while knowing that most of what they recommended has already been implemented, still went ahead to report out that the board wasn’t paying proper attention” said Rosemarie Imazio, Board Chair. Board vice chair Dave Cavanaugh added that “The board will take the guidance offered by the Grand Jury to heart and what hasn’t already been corrected will be addressed.”

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