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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Silver Lining The Recycled Water Facility Shines in a Low Rainfall Year

Watsonville, CA – Maybe the only silver lining to the too few rain clouds over the past few years is the Recycled Water Facility. The RWF, a drought proof joint project of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and the City of Watsonville, has been producing water for delivery to Pajaro Valley farmers along the Monterey Bay coast. PVWMA operators have been delivering record amounts of water throughout the summer.

“There have been many days when we deliver every drop of water the facility produces. Not only does this keep the farms along the coast in production, it also means over 2,000 acre feet of water does not have to be pumped out of our aquifer over the course of a year” said Jesus “Chuy” Martinez, Senior Water Systems Operator. “Reducing the overdraft has a very positive effect on slowing seawater intrusion into the underground water supply here in the valley” Martinez added.

The additional benefit of this high tech facility is that the treated water, which would have otherwise flowed into the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, was used instead to irrigate crops. The Recycled Water Facility is one of the ways the PVWMA fulfills its mission to protect and preserve the water resources within the agency’s jurisdiction, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley.

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