



Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Goals and Objectives

Updated October 2019

Water Supply Goal: Protect and improve regional water supply reliability, protect groundwater resources from overdraft, reduce dependence on imported water, and protect watershed communities from drought now and in a changed climate.

Objectives:

1. Meet 100% of M&I and agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in wet to dry years including the first year of a drought
2. Meet 85% M&I and 75% agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in second and subsequent years of a drought
3. Identify and address water supply needs of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed
4. Implement water conservation programs to reduce M&I and agricultural water uses consistent with SB 606 and AB 1668
5. Maximize the use of recycled water during the irrigation season and expand other uses of recycled water
6. Optimize the use of groundwater and aquifer storage
7. Maximize conjunctive use opportunities including interagency conjunctive use.
8. Optimize use of existing import surface water entitlements from the San Felipe Division
9. Maximize the beneficial use of existing local water supplies while protecting existing surface water rights.

Water Quality Goal: Protect and improve water quality for beneficial uses now and in a changed climate consistent with regional community interests and the RWQCB basin plan objectives through planning and implementation in cooperation with local and state agencies and regional stakeholders.

Objectives:

1. Meet or exceed all applicable groundwater, surface water, wastewater, and recycled water quality regulatory standards
2. Identify and address the drinking water quality of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed.
3. Protect groundwater resources from contamination including salts, seawater intrusion, and nutrients.

4. Address impacts from surface water runoff through implementation of Best Management Practices or other surface water management strategies
5. Meet or exceed delivered water quality targets established by recycled water users.

Flood Management Goal: Ensure flood management strategies are developed and implemented through a collaborative and watershed-wide approach and are designed to maximize opportunities for comprehensive management of water resources and adapt to climate change.

Objectives:

1. Implement flood management strategies throughout the watershed that provide multiple benefits
2. Reach consensus on the Pajaro River Risk Reduction Project necessary to protect existing urban areas and infrastructure from flooding and erosion from the 100-year event and to maximize opportunities to protect agricultural land uses
3. Work with stakeholders to preserve existing flood attenuation by implementing land management and conservation strategies throughout the watershed
4. Develop approaches for adaptive management to minimize maintenance requirements and protect quality and availability of water while preserving ecologic and stream functions, and enhancing when appropriate
5. Provide community benefits beyond flood protection such as public access, open space, recreation, agriculture preservation and economic development

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Goal: Preserve the environmental wealth and well-being of the Pajaro River watershed now and under a changed climate by identifying opportunities to sustain, restore and enhance natural resources of streams, watersheds, wetlands, and the Monterey Bay when developing and implementing water management strategies.

Objectives:

1. Address opportunities to enhance the local environment and protect and/or restore natural resources, in cooperation with landowners, when developing water management strategies
2. Improve biological and cultural resources, including riparian habitats, habitats supporting sensitive plant or animal species and archaeological/historic sites when implementing strategies and projects
3. Address opportunities to protect, enhance, or restore habitat to support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary marine life in conjunction with water management strategies
4. Address opportunities for open spaces, trails, parks along creeks and other recreational projects in the watershed that can be incorporated with water management strategies, consistent with public use and property rights