

# **Pajaro Valley Water Resources Management**

## **Salinas Valley Basin GSA Castroville Workshop**

**April 12, 2024**

**Brian Lockwood, PG, CHg  
General Manager**



# Presentation Overview

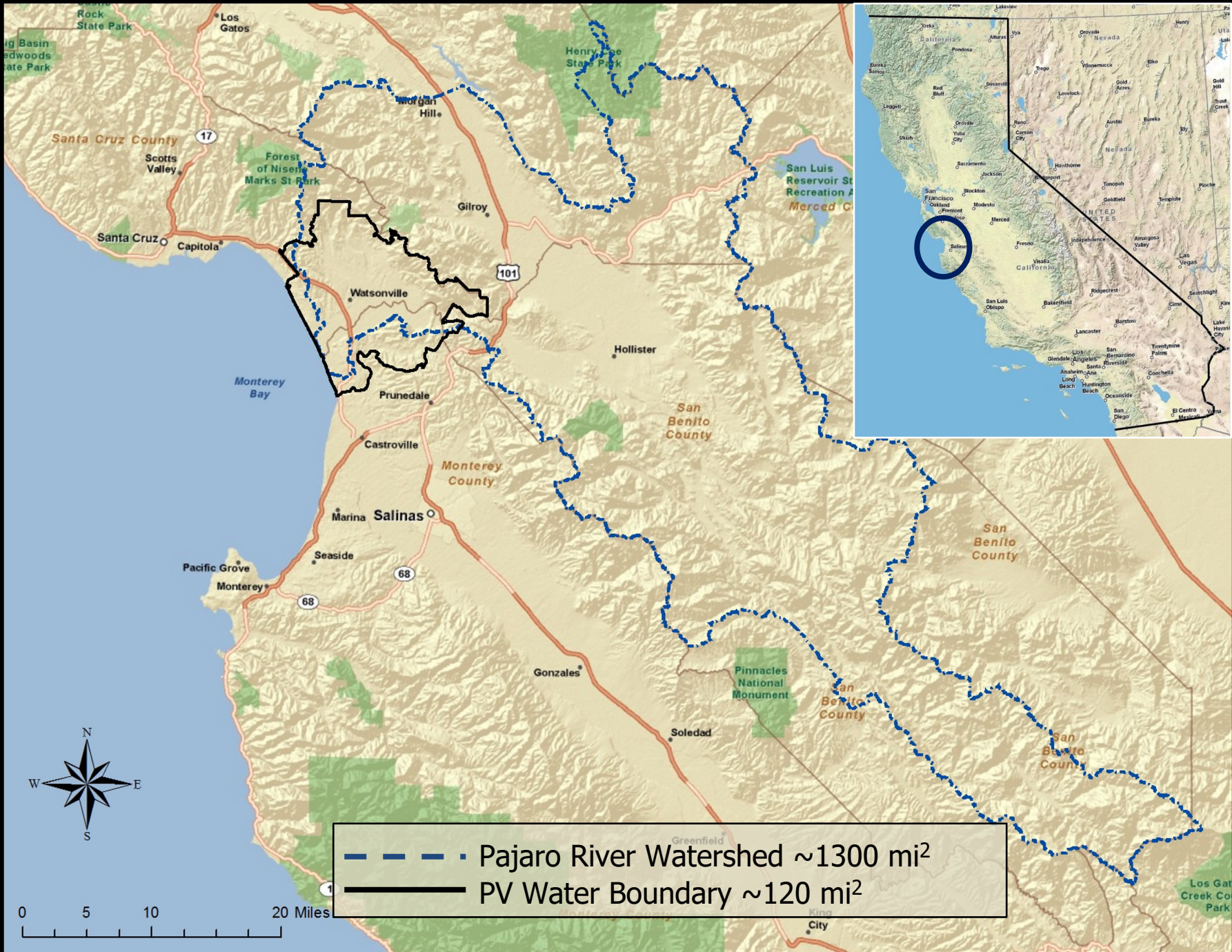
- Acknowledgements
- Background
- State of the Basin
- Water Resources Management Activities



# Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

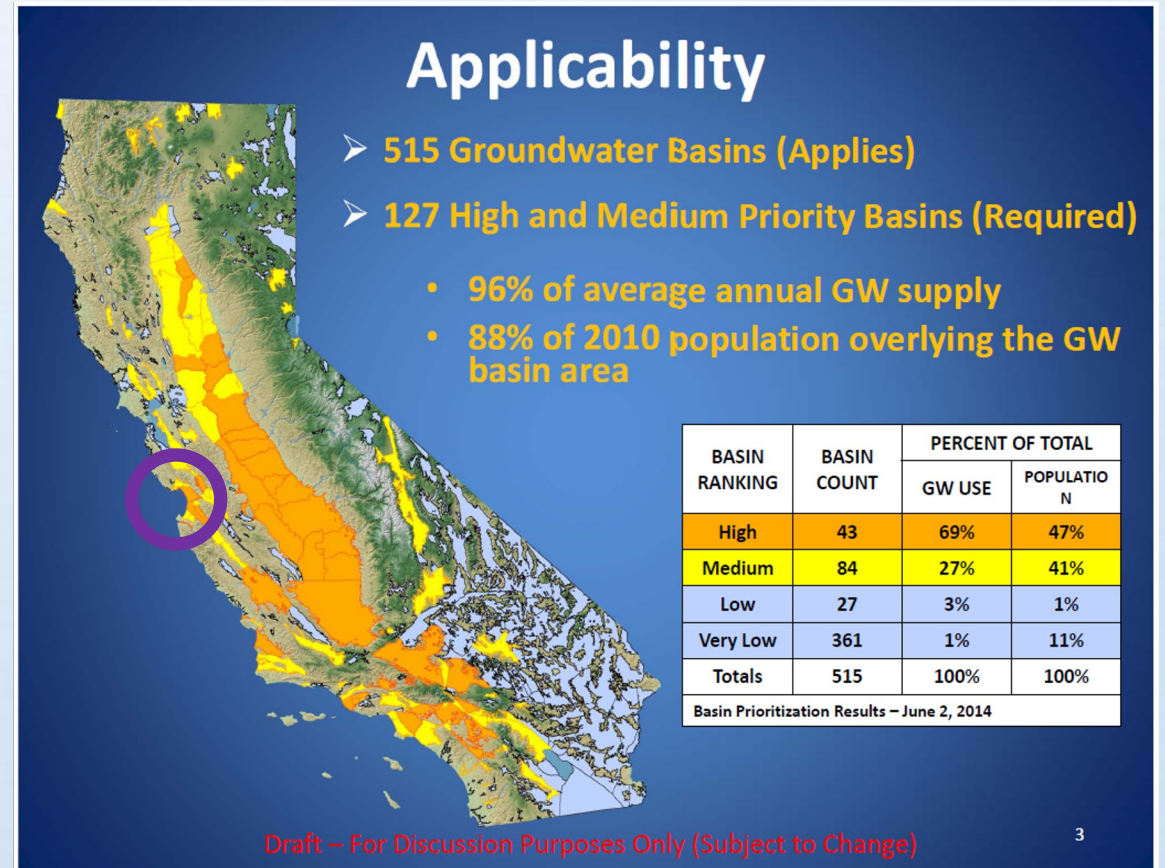
- Special District formed by the CA State Legislature in 1984
- Goals: Achieve Sustainable Groundwater Resources, Maintain Agriculture
- Multi-jurisdictional: City of Watsonville, parts of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties
- Basin Management Planning, Well Metering, Hydrologic Modeling, Supplemental Water, Conservation





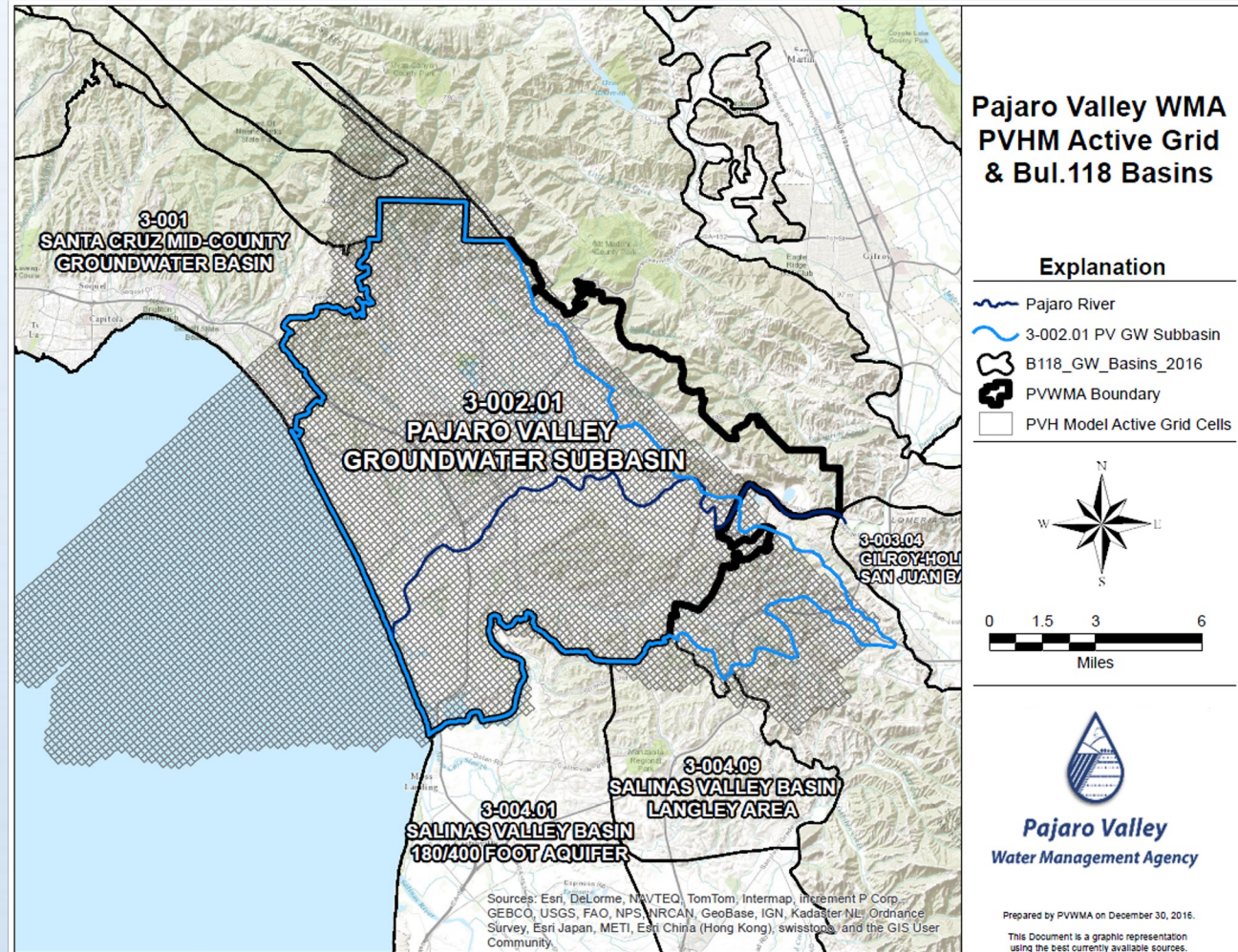
# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

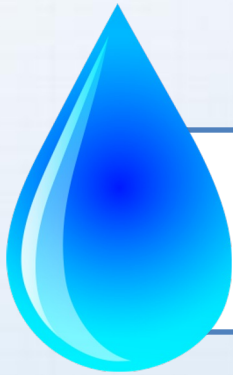
- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA - September 2014) requires that high priority, critically overdrafted groundwater basins such as the Pajaro Valley Basin achieve sustainable groundwater resources by 2040.
- *If not, the State Water Resources Control Board has the authority to impose pumping restrictions to achieve sustainability.*



# Pajaro Valley Water & SGMA

- PV Water est. 30 years before SGMA
- Basin Management Plans (aka Plan to achieve Groundwater Sustainability) in 1993, 1999, 2002, 2014
- SGMA Adopted, Fall 2014
- Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Fall 2015
- Basin Boundary Modification, Spring 2016
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan - Alternative Submittal, Winter 2016, Annual Reports
- Alternative to GSP Approved, July 2019
- First 5-Year Plan Update, Dec. 2021





## State of the Basin

# Ag-Economy

- >28,000 Irrig. Acres
- Est. Crop Value ~ \$1 Billion

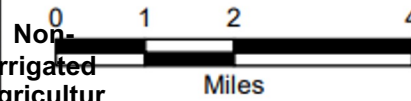
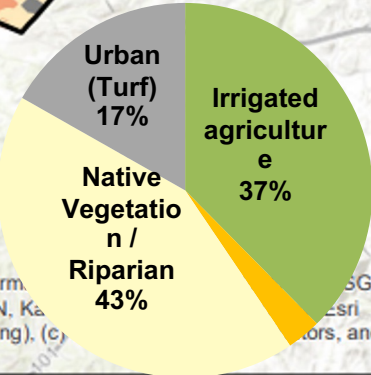
## Pajaro Valley Land Use Summer 2022

### Explanation

- San Andreas Fault Trace
- Pajaro River
- Waterbody
- PV Water Boundary

### Land Use Classifications

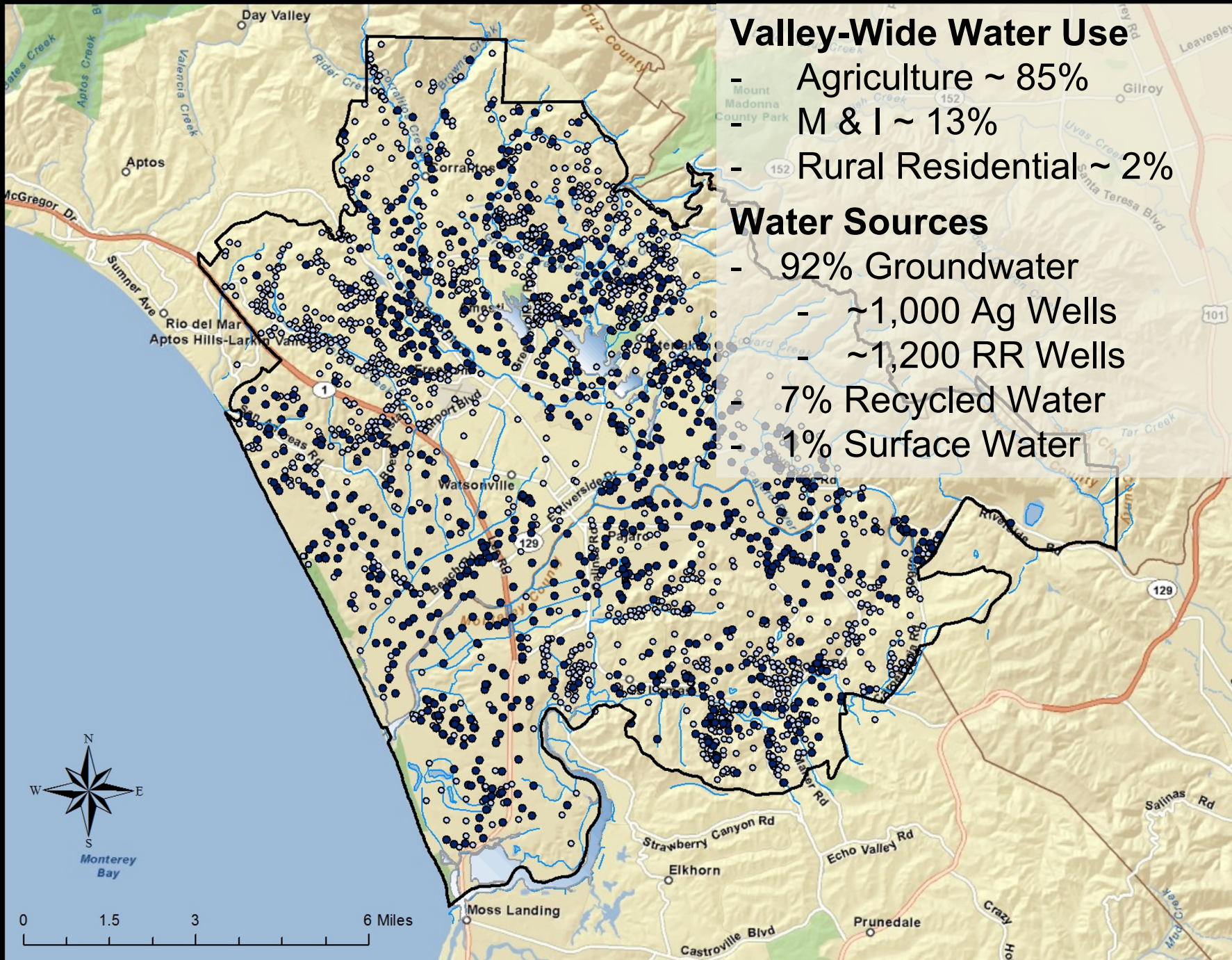
- Native Vegetation / Riparian
- Turf (Urban)
- Fallow
- Vegetable Row Crops
- Strawberries
- Caneberries
- Vines
- Orchards
- Other

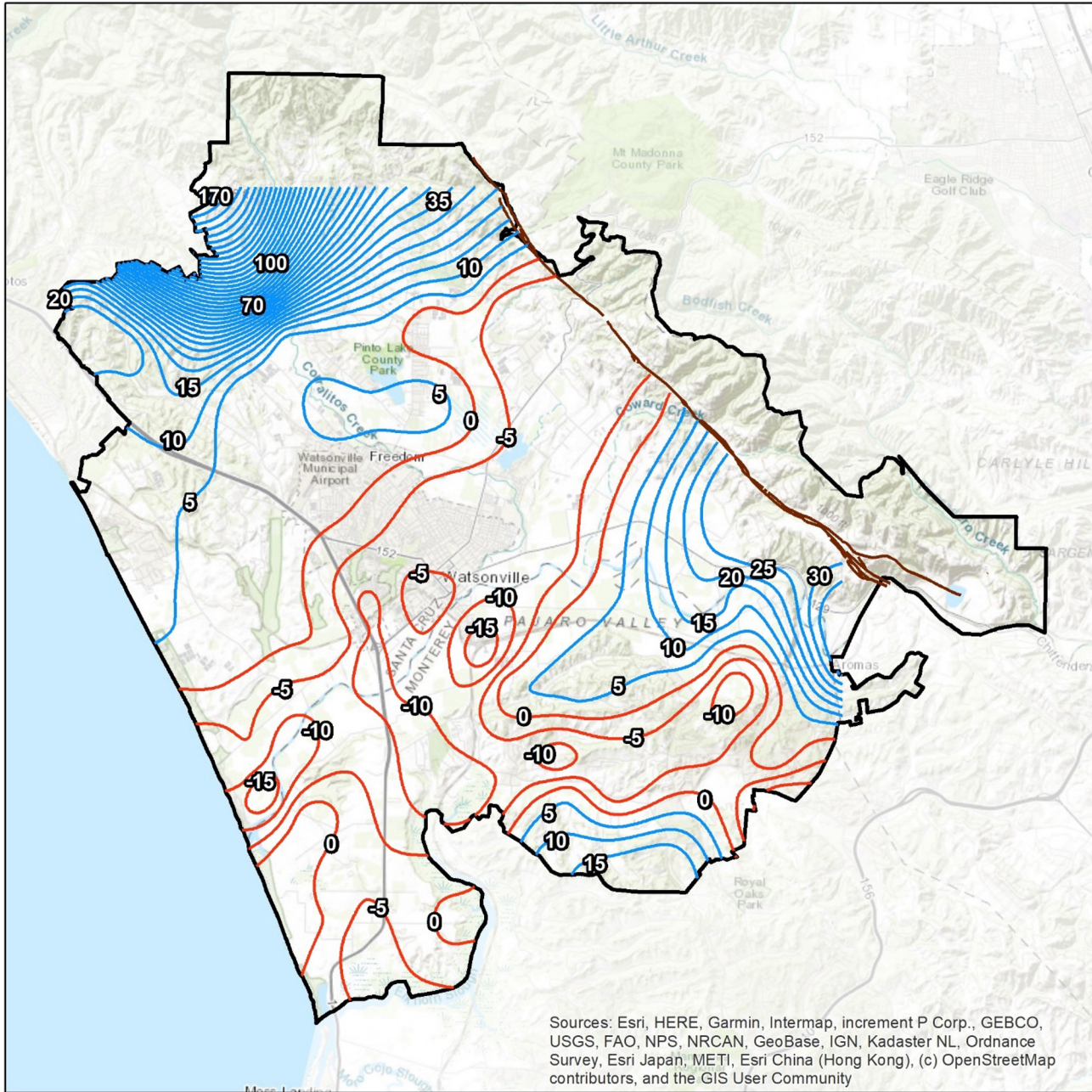


Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, Swire, GeoBasis, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadarna, Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swire, and the GIS User Community

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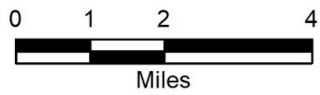


# Pajaro Valley Basin Groundwater Elevation Fall 2022

## Explanation

### Groundwater Contours (ft NAVD88)

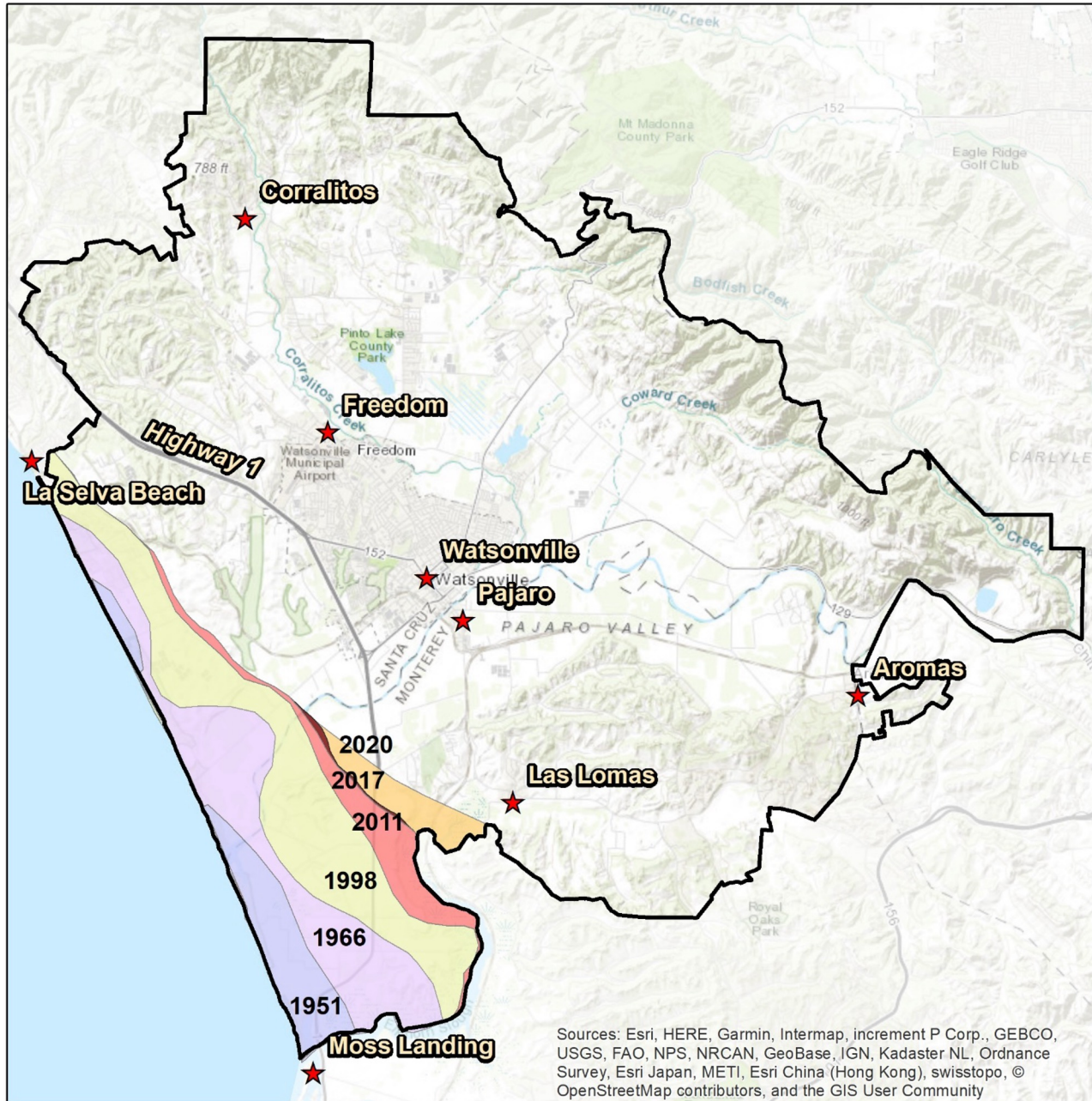
- Above Mean Sea Level
- Below Mean Sea Level
- San Andreas Fault
- PV Water Boundary



**Pajaro Valley  
Water Management Agency**

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

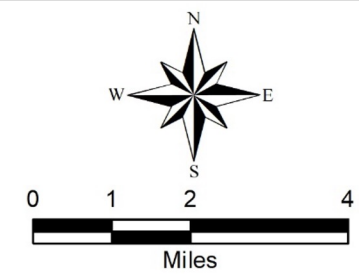
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# Seawater Intrusion within the Pajaro Valley

## Explanation

- ★ Cities & Towns
  - ⬢ PV Water Boundary
  - 1951 Extent of SWI as of 1951\*
  - 1966 Extent of SWI as of 1966\*
  - 1998 Extent of SWI as of 1998\*
  - 2011 Extent of SWI as of 2011\*
  - 2017 Extent of SWI as of 2017\*
  - 2020\*\*\* Extent of SWI as of 2020\*\*\*
- \*Chloride contours are set to concentrations of 100 mg/L
- \*\*\*Chloride contour is set to concentration of 250 mg/L

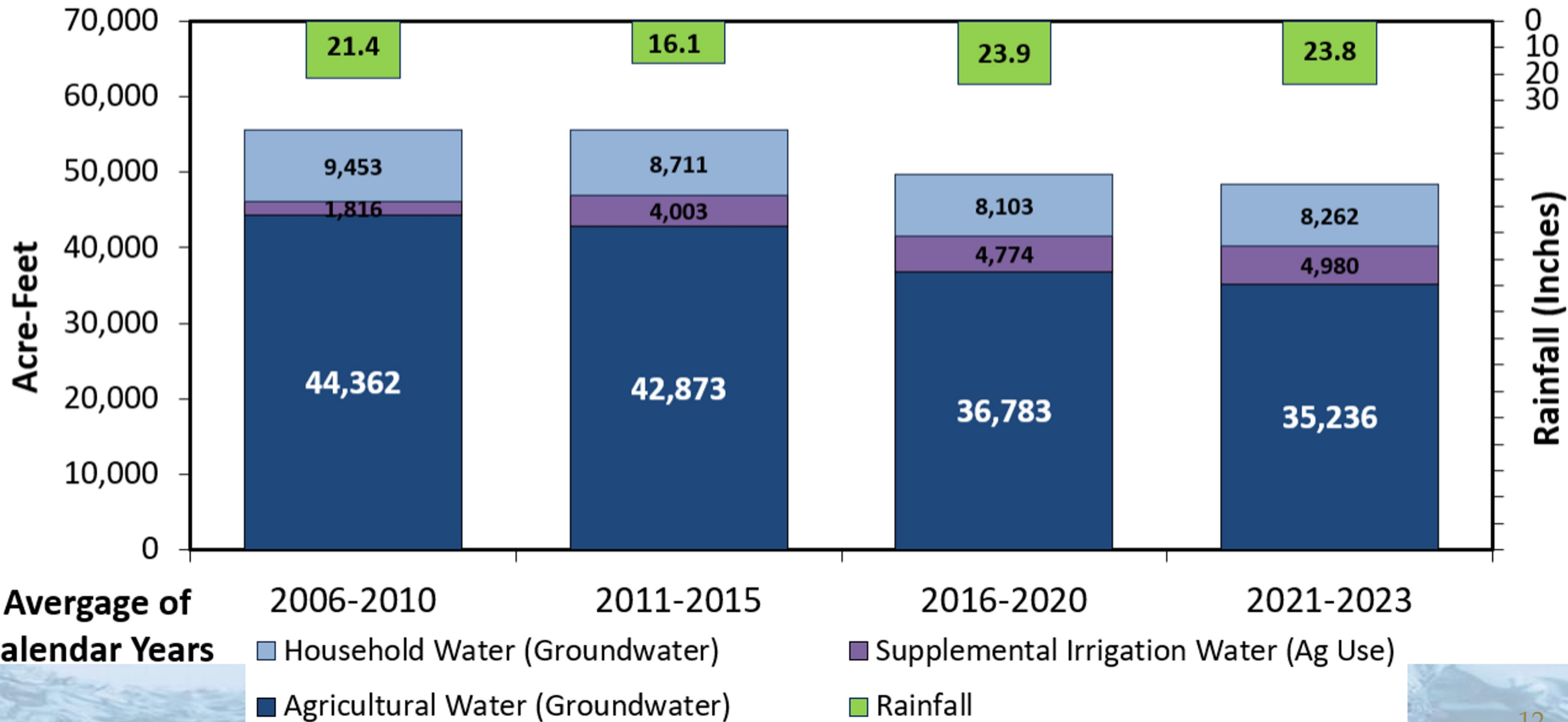


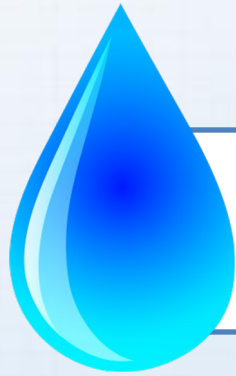
**Pajaro Valley**  
Water Management Agency

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# Water Use and Precipitation Trends Pajaro Valley 2006 - 2023



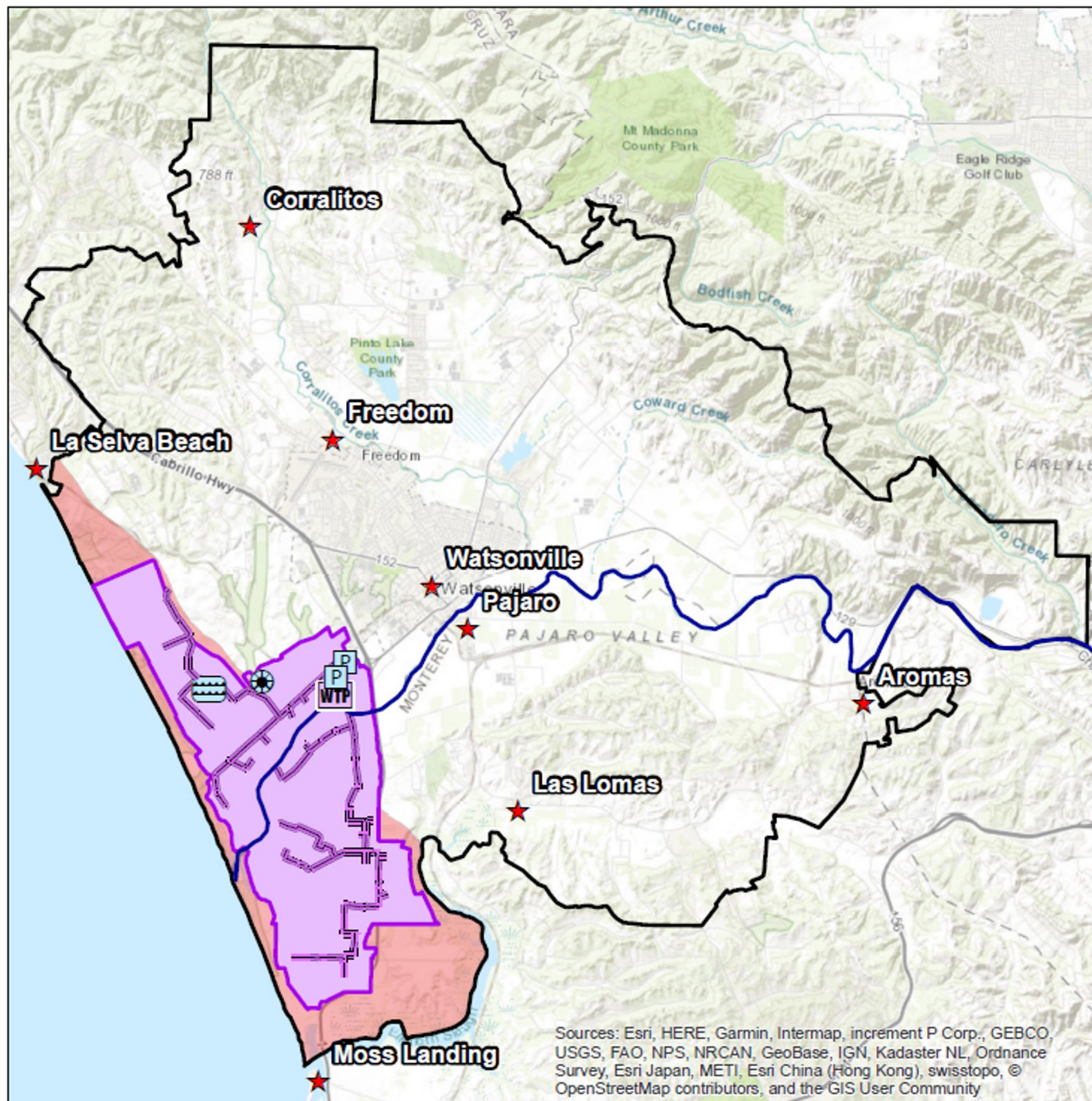


## **Water Resources Management Activities**

# Existing Water Supply Facilities to Reduce Overdraft & Seawater Intrusion

- **Harkins Slough Facility**
  - Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery
  - Stream flow diversion
  - 10,000 AF recharged since 2002
- **Recycled Water Facility**
  - 4,000 AFY irrigation season capacity since 2009
  - Drought tolerant supply
  - Reduces discharge of secondary effluent to marine sanctuary
- **Coastal Distribution System**
  - Over 23 miles of water conveyance pipeline
- **Blend Supplies**

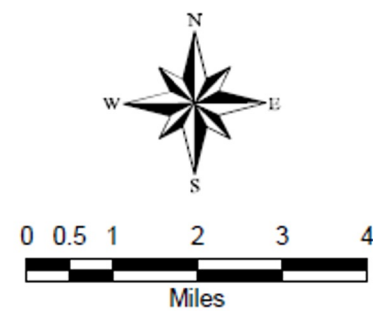




## Water Supply Facilities & Seawater Intrusion

### Explanation

- Blend Wells
- Harkins Slough Diversion
- Recharge Basin
- Recycled Water Facility
- Coastal Distribution System
- Pajaro River
- Delivered Water Zone
- PV Water Boundary
- Seawater Intrusion\*  
\*Chloride >100 mg/L in 2017



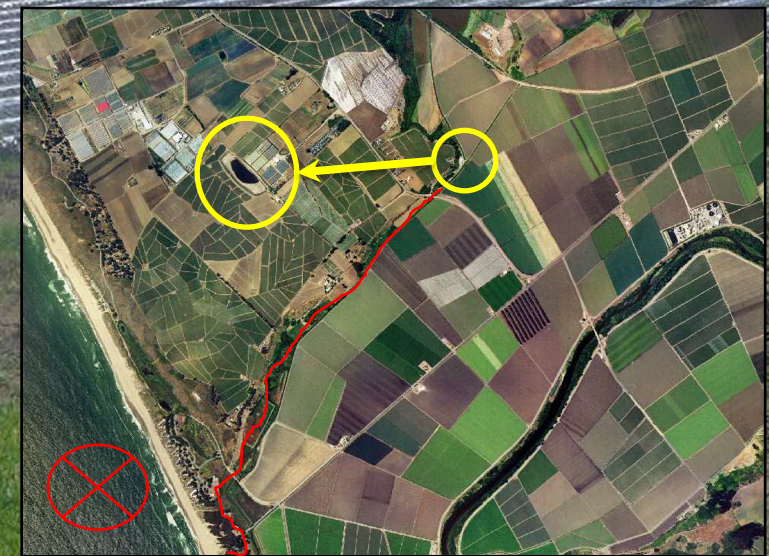
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



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Water Management Agency

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# Harkins Slough Facility Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery

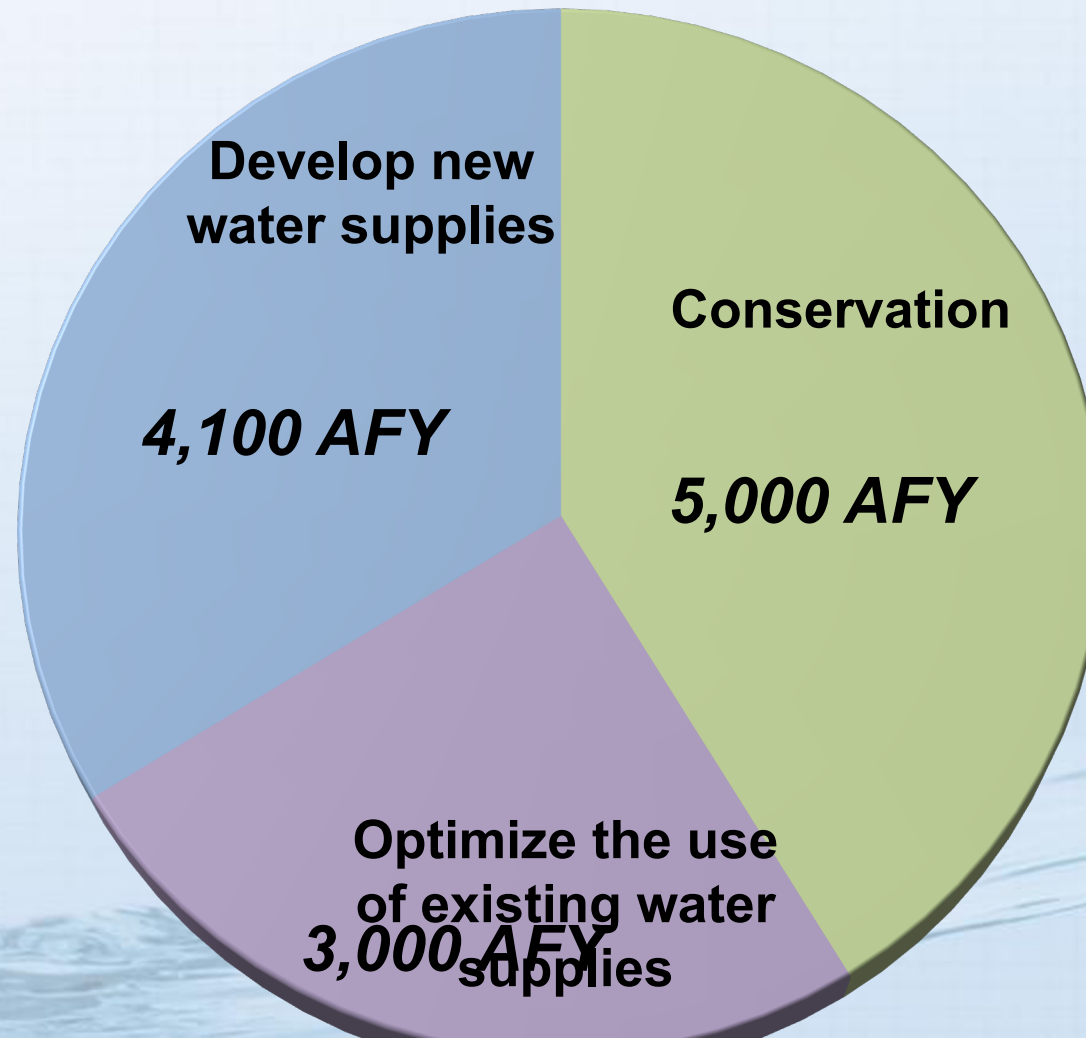




# Recycled Water Facility



# Basin Management Plan Update 2014 contains three primary components to achieve 12,100 ac-ft/yr



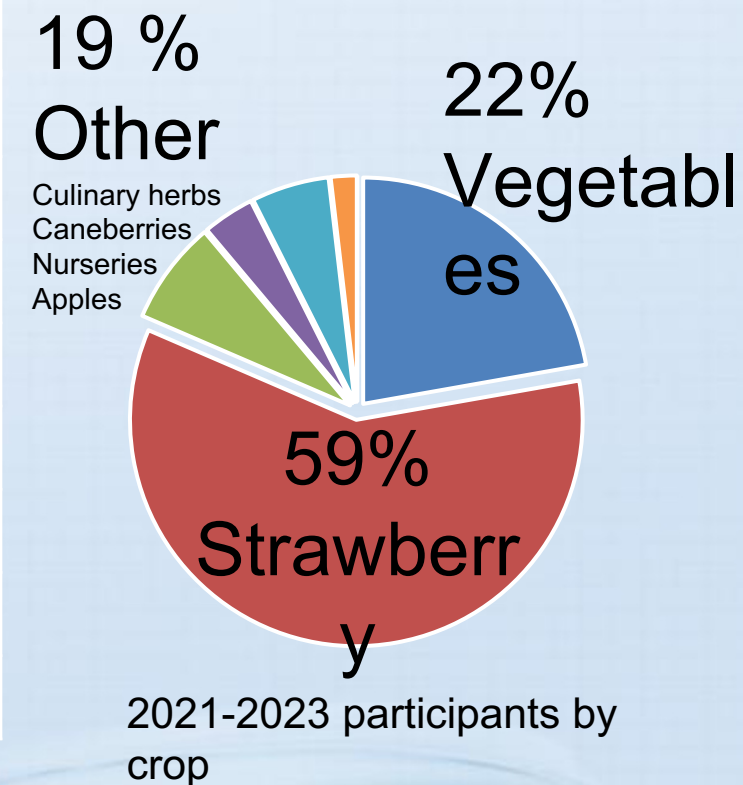
# BMP Agricultural Water Conservation Program

- Irrigation Efficiency Technical Assistance
  - Outreach & Education
  - Financial Assistance
  - Monitoring & Evaluation
- \*Participation is voluntary*



# Program Participation Is Increasing through Time

Program Participation	2019-2020	2021-2023
No. Farm Operations (growers)	19	<b>38</b>
No. Ranches (monitoring sites)	26	<b>52</b>
Total Acres	1,008	<b>1,494</b>
Percentage of ranches <40ac	58%	<b>76%</b>
No. Rebate Requests processed	4	<b>27</b>
Total \$\$ rebate requested	\$16,875	<b>\$108,330</b>
Drip irrigation participants (%)	73%	<b>72%</b>
Sprinkler irrigation participants (%)	27%	<b>22%</b>



*\*Program participants remain anonymous until they elect to receive a rebate.*

# 2020-2023 Grower Rebate Program

## Implementation of new practices

Efficient sprinkler heads



Sprinkler check valves



Pressure regulators



Flowmeters & telemetry



**A total \$125,205** in grower rebate requests processed since 2020

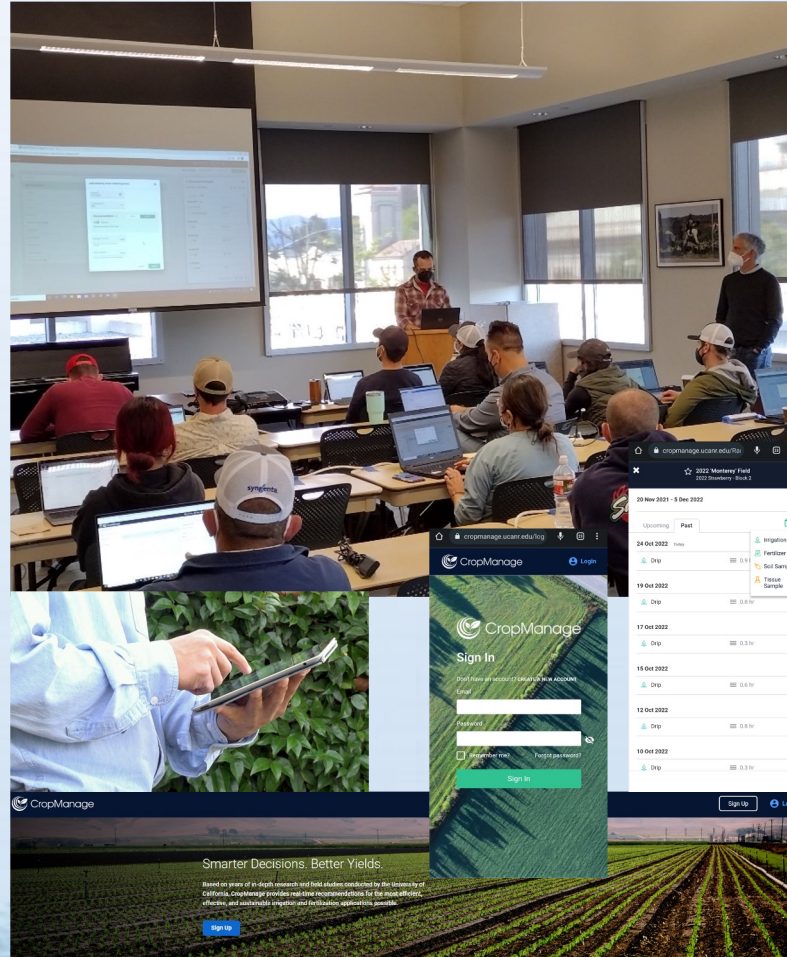
**Rebates have been used for:** windfighter sprinklers, new sprinkler heads and raisers, aluminum pipe joints and gaskets, pressure regulators, check valves, flush valves, flowmeters and telemetry, drip irrigation trials for vegetables, nurseries and orchard operations, PC drip tape and drip irrigation supplies, VFDs, VFD booster pump for storage tanks, soil tensiometers, and glued PVC sprinkler system for use under high tunnels.

# Outreach and Education

## Irrigator trainings in Spanish



## CropManage workshops



## Newsletter articles

### News & Information from RCD

Written by Dan Hermsstad, Agriculture Program Specialist  
Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

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#### Irrigation Efficiency

Optimizing your irrigation efficiency is central to assuring you are making use of every drop of water that is pumped from the ground. But what is meant when people say irrigation efficiency?

Irrigation efficiency can most easily be described as the percentage of water that is pumped from the ground that is applied and used by a crop. If your flowmeter shows that you pumped 20,000 gallons of water at the well and you measured 20,000 gallons of water applied to your crop then you would have an irrigation efficiency of 100%. This never happens of course. There are several ways in which water can be lost. Some examples include leaking pipes, evaporation, water draining below the root zone and open valves to "burn" pressure.

Another measure of your efficiency is the distribution uniformity (DU). This is a measure of how evenly the water is being applied to a field. Even though you may have very high efficiency, it is not desirable to have all the water going to one or two plants and leaving all other plants dry. A high distribution uniformity means that every plant is getting the same amount of water. Drip systems commonly have DUs in the 90% range while sprinkler systems typically have DUs in the 70% range. So drip systems, in addition to saving water, can also create a more even canopy and crop stand.

The RCD performs irrigation system evaluations to determine the efficiency and distribution uniformity of your system. Using a systematic set of measurements we can identify areas where the water you pump from the ground is not reaching your crop and tell you how uniformly it is getting applied to your crop. If you have fields where you are uncertain about the irrigation system in place we can help. You can reach the RCD's Irrigation Specialist at 831-706-8188 or [dhermsstad@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:dhermsstad@rcdsantacruz.org) to schedule an irrigation evaluation. ■

#### Vegetable Land for Lease

### Conlan Ranch Castroville, CA 100 acres all or part

**Flexible Terms**  
(831) 234-8343

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BANK

We switched all our banking to Santa Cruz County Bank, which was smooth and easy. They listen and truly understand agriculture and the needs of our business.

Dale South, President  
South West Farm Inc  
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BETWEEN THE FURROWS JULY 2022

# Leverage experience and technical expertise from our UCCE partners



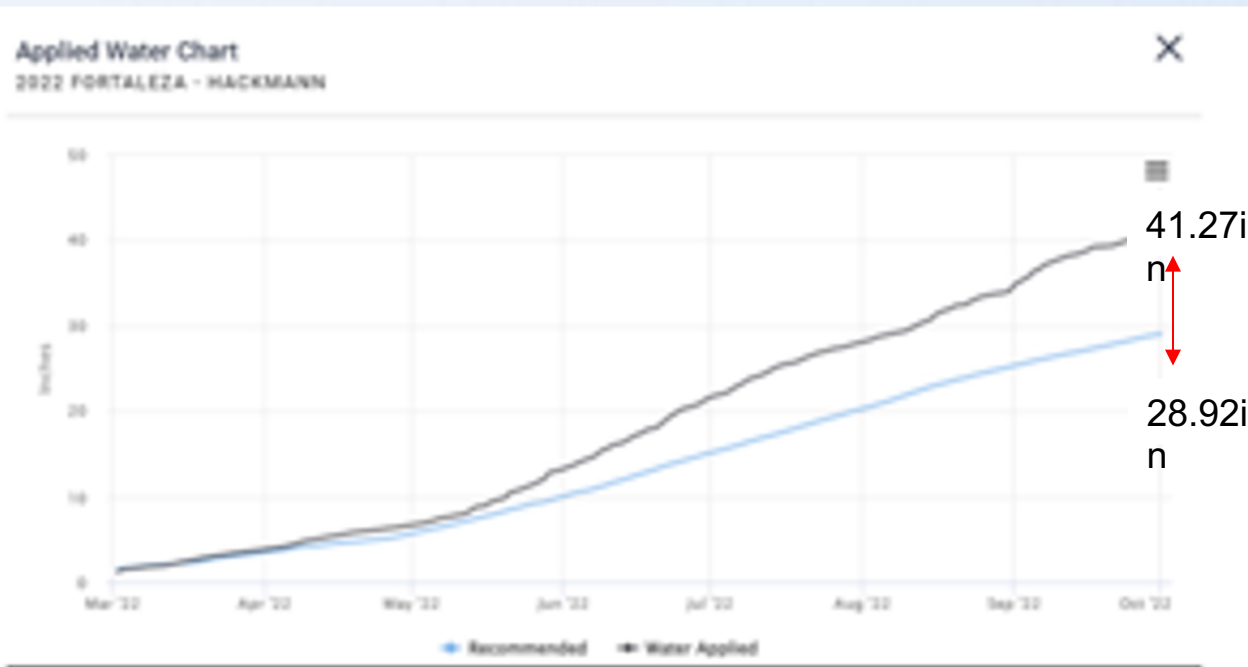
# One Example: Individual participant's performance and change over 2 seasons

Example of grower response and improvement

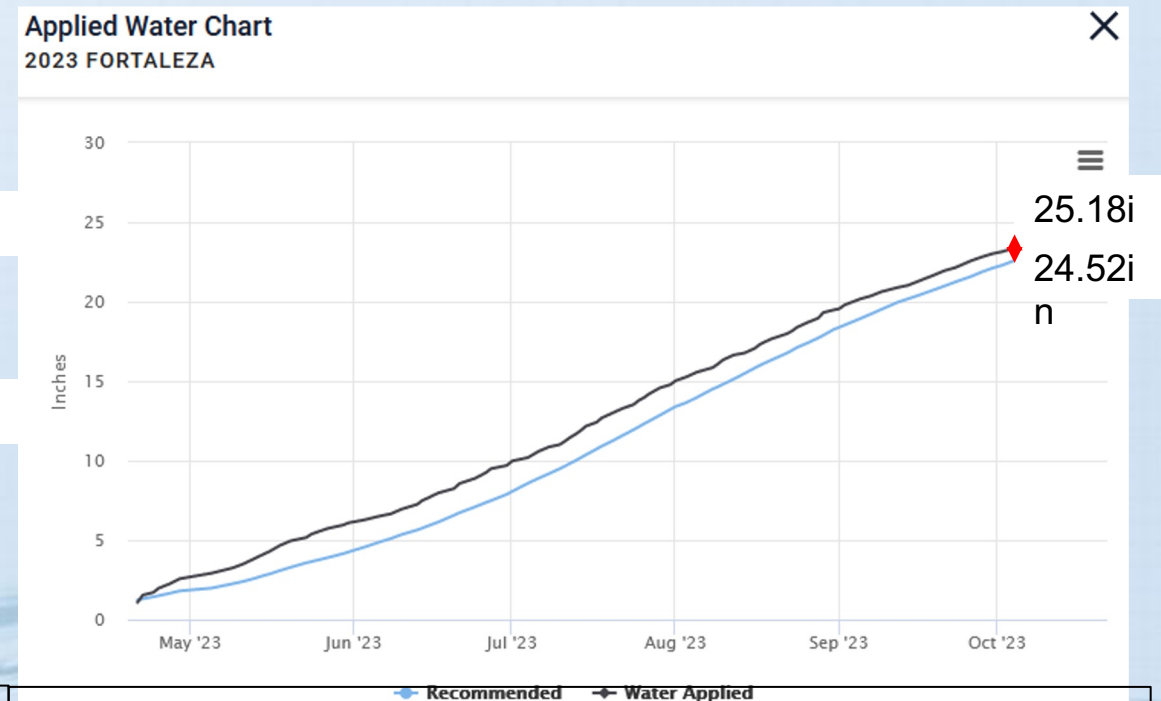
## Same ranch and crop, two different years

(Strawberry, Drip)

### 2022



### 2023



Applied Vs. Recommended Ratio = 143%

Applied Vs. Recommended = 103%



# Recycled Water Facility Optimization

- Grant Funded Projects
  - DWR, SWRCB, BoR
  - ~\$10 million in total
- Phase 1: Storage (1.5 MG Tank) and Pump Station Improvements (~2016)
- Phase 2: Disk Filter Upgrade (~2020)



# Coastal Distribution System F-Pipeline Expansion Project

- DWR Proposition 84 Grant Funded Project: \$3.73 million
- Constructed summer 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic shelter-in-place
- Pipeline: 9,900 lineal feet of pipe ranging in diameter from 10 to 30 inches
- Turnouts: 6 turnouts to reach as much as 700 irrigated acres

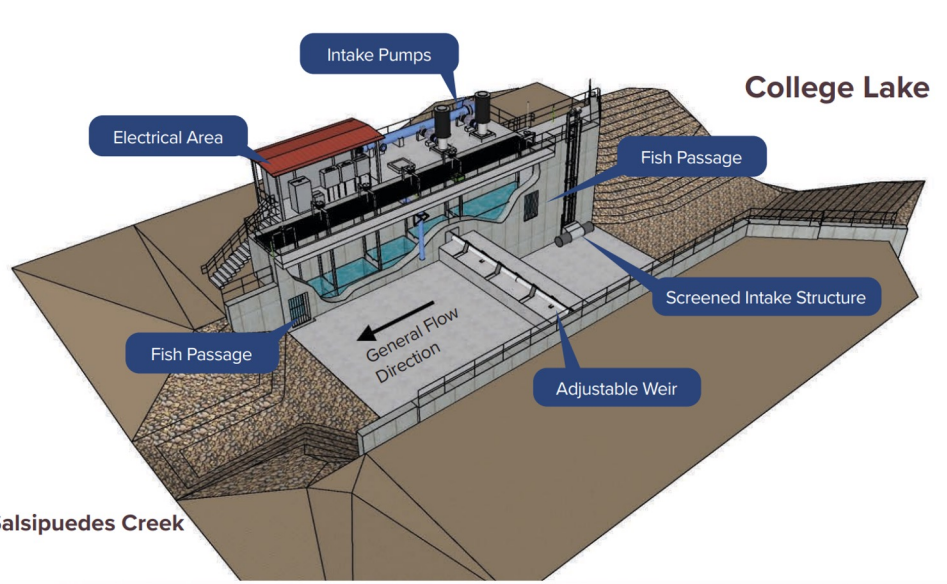
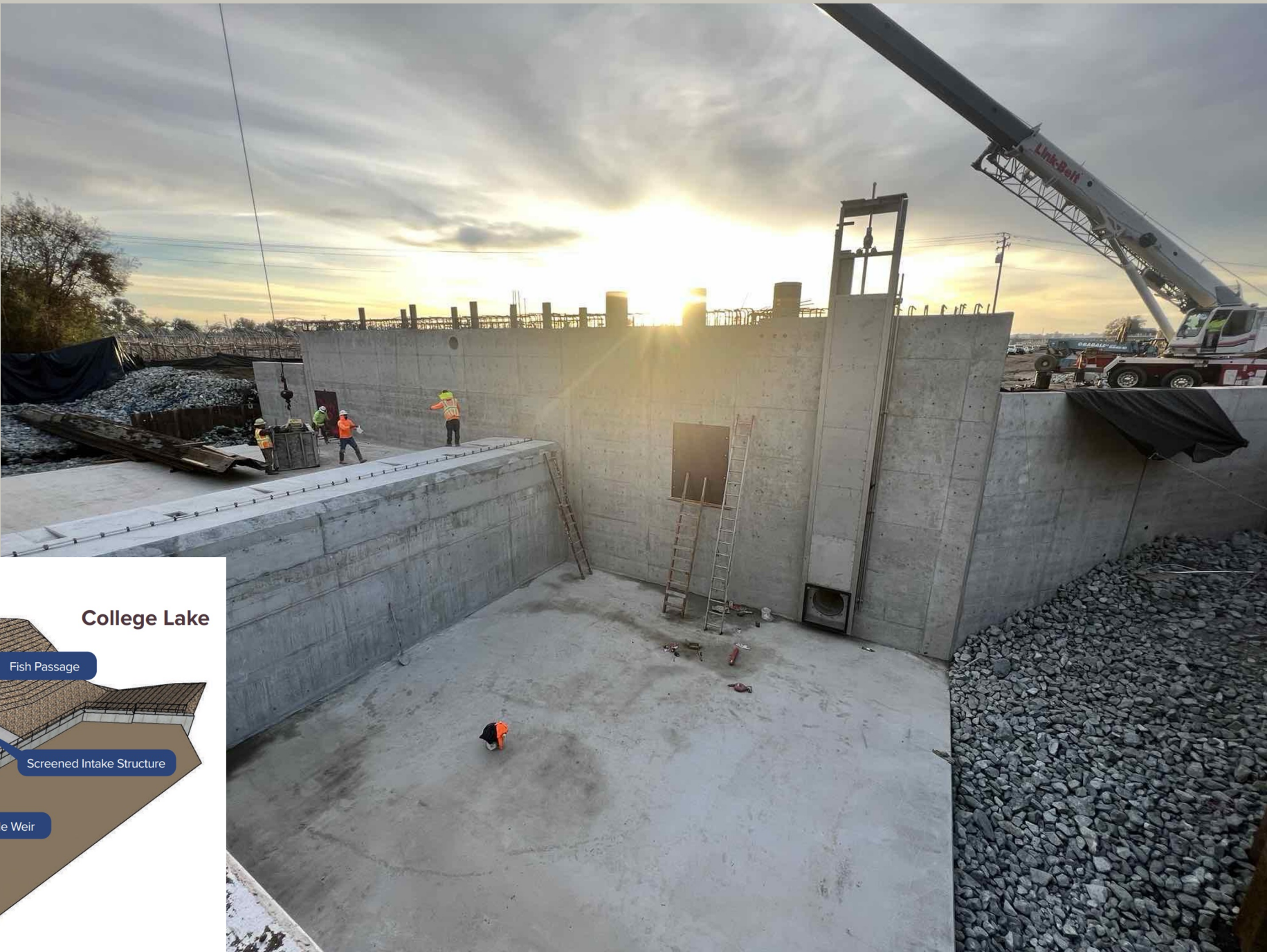


# College Lake Integrated Resources Management Project

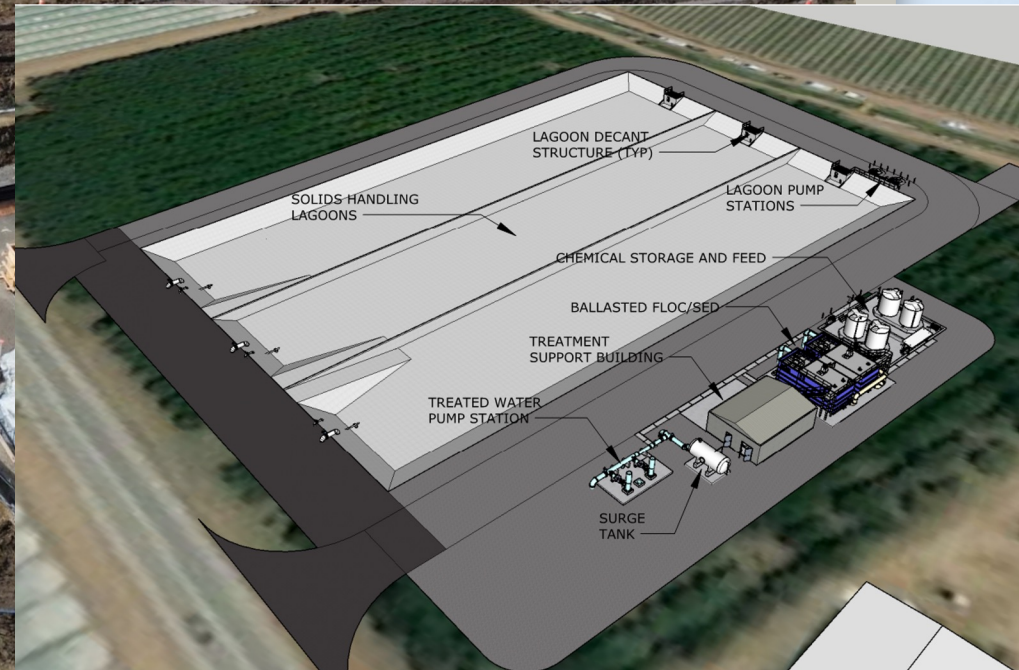
- Water Supply
  - Est. Average Yield: 1,800 to 2,300 AFY
  - Maximum Yield: 3,000 AFY
  - Maximum Flow: 6,000 GPM
- Construction
  - Two Years (2023-2025)
  - College Lake Project Facilities:
    - Weir
    - Fish Passage Structure
    - Water Treatment Plant
    - Pipeline to Coastal Distribution System



# Weir & Intake Facility December 2024



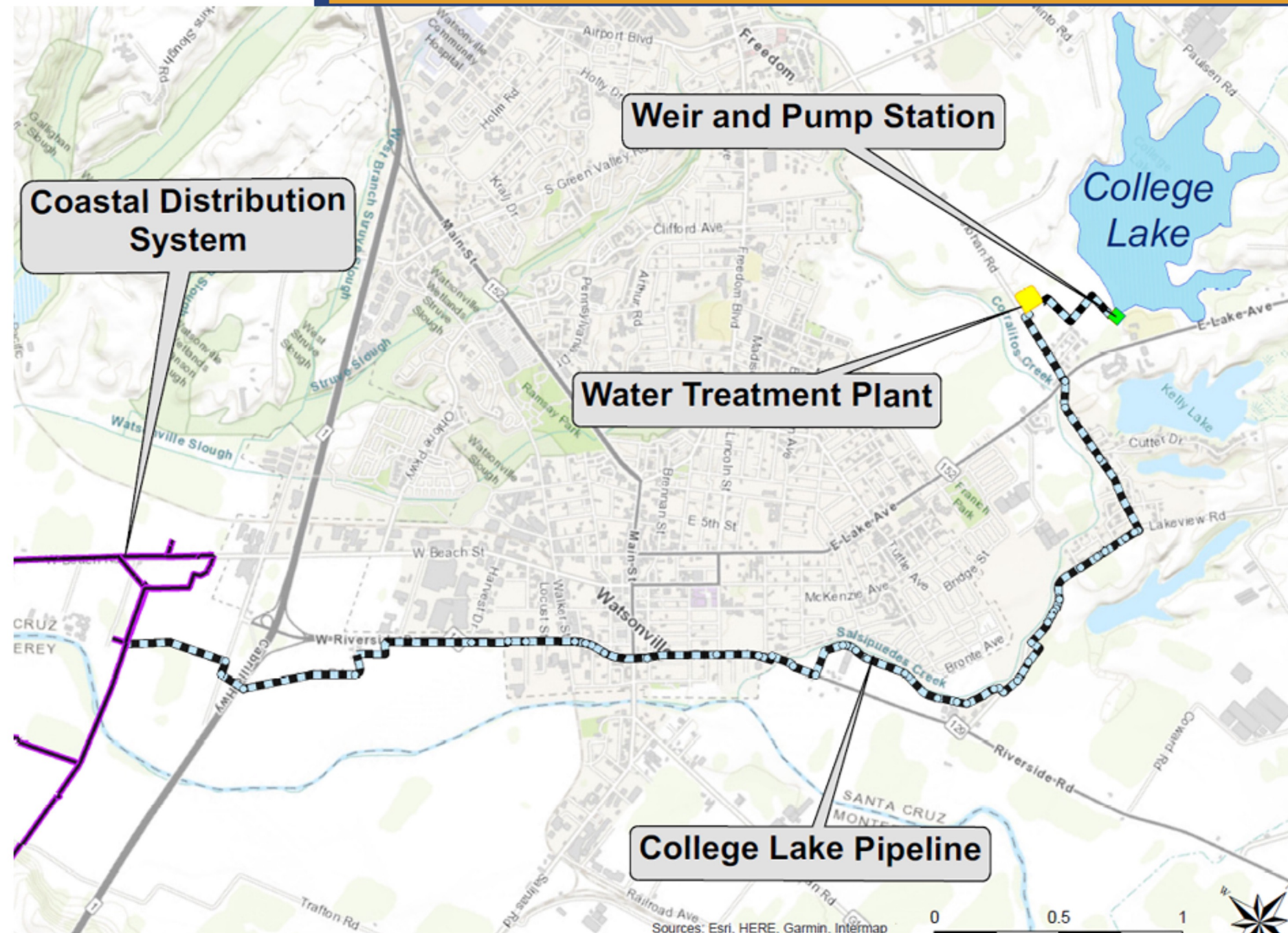
# Water Treatment Plant, February 20, 2024



# Pipeline Route - 6 miles

Traffic management during construction on the following roads:

- Holohan Rd
- East Lake Ave
- College Rd
- Lakeview Rd
- Riverside Rd/  
HWY129
- All intersections of  
the above roadways



# Pipeline Construction



**Holohan Road, June 2023**



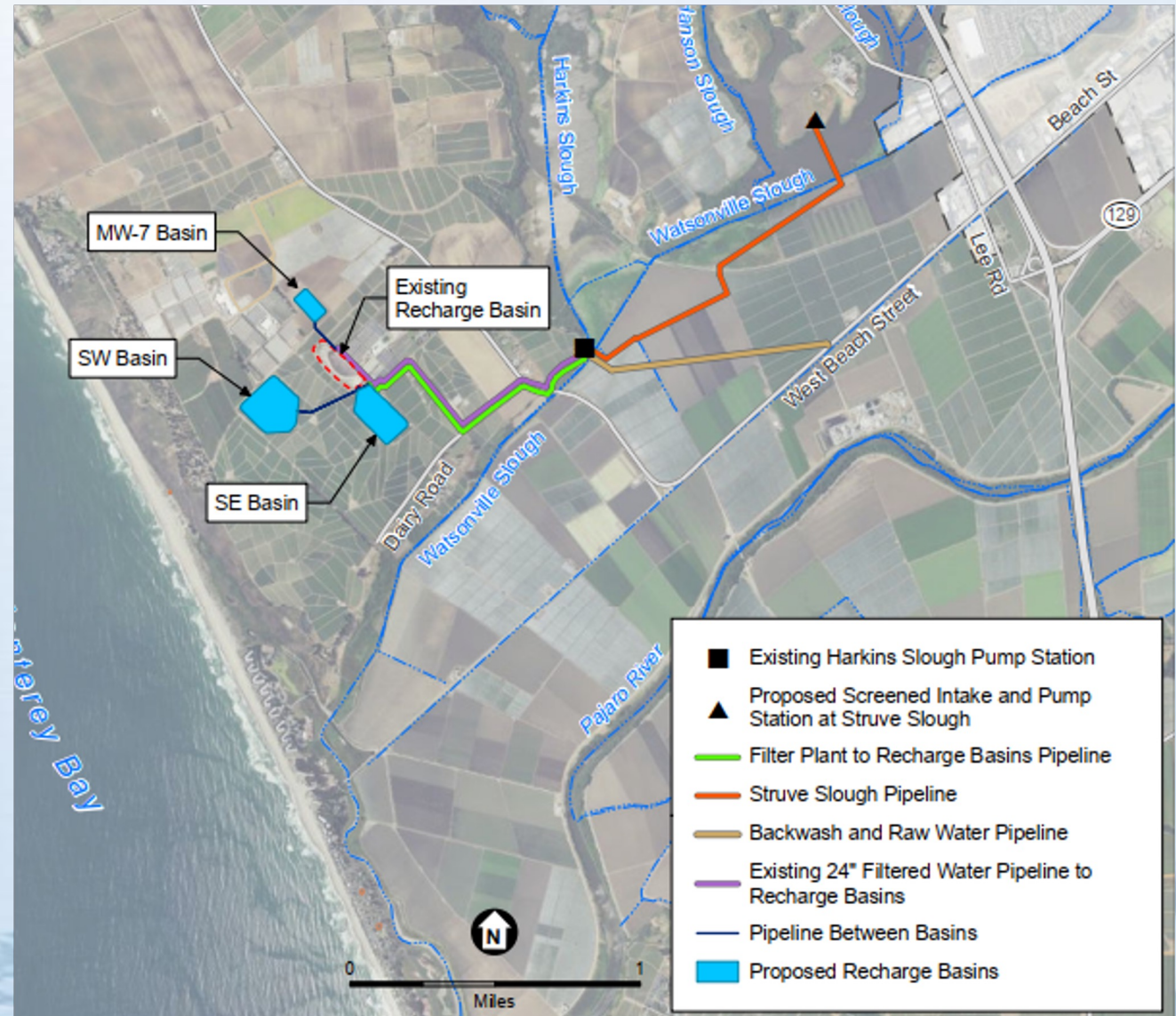
**Holohan Road, July 2023**



**Lakeview Road, Aug. 2023**

# Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge and Recovery Projects

- Harkins Slough Facilities Upgrade Project
- Struve Slough Project
- Goals:
  - Diversion, recharge & recovery of up to 4,000 AFY





# Thank you.

Comments / Questions?

Email: [Lockwood@pvwater.org](mailto:Lockwood@pvwater.org)

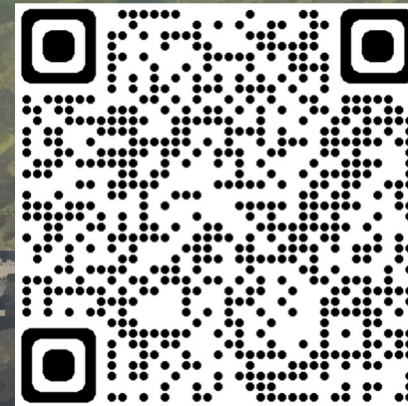
Website: [www.pvwater.org](http://www.pvwater.org)



College Lake Guide



College Lake Webpage





# Rates to Fund Management Actions

User Class	Cost of Service Rate Effective Dec. 1, 2023 (Per Acre-Foot)	Cost of Service Rate Effective Dec. 1, 2024 (Per Acre-Foot)
Augmentation Charges:		
Metered Users - Outside Delivered Water Zone	\$302	\$323
Metered Users - Inside Delivered Water Zone	\$420	\$452
Unmetered Users (Rural Residential)*	\$142	\$152
Delivered Water Charge	\$454	\$477

*\*Rural residents are billed for an estimated 0.5 af/year water use.*

Source: <https://www.pvwater.org/rates>

- Established by Ordinances 2021-01 & 2021-02, modified by 2022-01
- 2021 Cost of Service Rate Study:

[https://www.pvwater.org/images/2021-Cost-of-Service-Rate-Study-Final\\_Feb.2021\\_Final.pdf](https://www.pvwater.org/images/2021-Cost-of-Service-Rate-Study-Final_Feb.2021_Final.pdf)