

## 12 Statewide Priorities

This section meets the following IRWMP Standard from the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines.

**L. State Priorities** – Identify statewide or State agency priorities that will be met or contributed to by implementation of the Plan, proposal, or specific projects. Describe how the Plan, proposal, or specific projects were developed pursuant to Statewide Priorities.

Statewide priorities address recognized water supply, water quality, and environmental issues for California. As defined in Section F of the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines (dated November 2004), the statewide priorities are as follows:

1. Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues;
2. Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development;
3. Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Watershed Management Initiative Chapter, plans and policies;
4. Implementation of the SWRCB Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan;
5. Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives;
6. Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force of state species recovery plan;
7. Address environmental justice concerns; and,
8. Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Consideration of all statewide priorities, along with regional issues and priorities was integral to the development of the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP mission, goals, objectives, and project strategies. The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP assists in meeting all eight statewide priorities. The discussion in this section demonstrates how the integrated, multi-beneficial programs of the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP support statewide water resources management recommendations. The projects that assist in meeting these recommendations are also included in the following discussion.

### 12.1 Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues

Implementation of the IRWMP will result in a reduction in current and future conflicts over groundwater rights and CVP use among water users in the Pajaro River Watershed, as well as conflicts between water supply and environmental interests. Potential conflicts are being resolved through the IRWMP process by the implementation of projects and by bringing agencies and stakeholders together in a common forum to discuss conflicts and identify potential alternatives that are acceptable to all concerned parties.

#### 12.1.1 Potential Conflicts

Major water use related conflicts in the Pajaro River watershed are related to groundwater supply and use, groundwater quality and seawater intrusion, imported CVP water needs, and flood protection project implementation. Additional discussion on water related conflict is also found in Section 3 – IRWMP Objectives.

### 12.1.2 Groundwater conflicts

In the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin, potential conflicts over groundwater exist due to the overdraft condition of the aquifer, which has led to seawater intrusion and a decline in groundwater quality. As groundwater pumping provides the majority of supply in this area and urban and agricultural demands are expected to increase by 9,000 AFY by 2040, the potential for conflict over the increasingly limited resource will only increase with time. The potential for conflict is exacerbated by the fact that the impacts of the over-drafted groundwater basin and seawater intrusion are experienced mainly by the coastal users. Since inland users are mostly insulated from the effects of overdraft and seawater intrusion, this had led to conflicting perspectives and priorities on the issue.

The **Coastal Distribution System** in conjunction with the **Import Pipeline** project will address the problem of overdraft by eliminating coastal pumping. Groundwater pumping model simulations conducted using the PVIGSM showed that elimination of coastal pumping reductions would double the groundwater basin yield, generating a significantly higher increase in the groundwater basin yield than basin-wide reductions. This helped to resolve a potential point of conflict over where pumping reductions should be instituted and the stakeholders achieved consensus on moving forward with these two projects.

### 12.1.3 Imported Water Conflicts

Another potential conflict is related to the use of CVP imported water. SBCWD, SCVWD and PVWMA are CVP water contractors. Since the long-term average availability of CVP water is less than the amounts contracted for (83% of M&I entitlements and 55% of agricultural entitlements), there is not enough water to meet all contractor's full allocations during periods of low availability. This creates potential conflicts among CVP water users within the region, as well as conflicts with other CVP water users throughout the state. While both SBCWD and SCVWD have existing CVP connections, PVWMA is planning to construct an import pipeline for delivery of CVP supplies, which will create increased demands on the CVP water system and create additional potential conflicts over CVP water use.

Projects that reduce the demand for imported water through creating local supply or through conservation will directly reduce conflicts over imported water. These include many of the projects in the Conjunctive Water Supply Management and Water Supply/Salt Management Programs such as the **Aromas Water District Wellhead Treatment** project, **Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility**, the **Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement** project, the **North San Benito County Regional Recycled Water Project**, and the **Sunnyslope Recycled Water Project**. The **SBCWD and SCVWD Groundwater Recharge with CVP and Local Resources** projects will allow for storage of water during wet years, so that it may be used during dryer years, when the potential for conflict is highest. Facilitating water transfers is another method that can help reduce conflict over imported water. **CVP Water Transfers within the San Felipe Division** will allow for resolution of short term conflicts by allowing agencies to maintain more flexibility in the timing of delivery. **Non-CVP Water Transfers and Banking Agreements** may help agencies make up for short term deficits in imported water by taking advantage of local surpluses available from other agencies. All of these projects will reduce the potential conflict stemming by matching the increasing demand with new local supply or through improved imported water timing and/or storage.

### 12.1.4 Water Usage Conflicts

Water agencies, environmental organizations and other stakeholders often have different sets of water management related missions and goals which can present another source of potential conflict within the watershed. For example, environmental issues such as maintenance of fish habitat and adequate flows for

steelhead migration can be at odds with diversions of water for supply. Another conflict stems from the fact that the public recreation and open space needs of cities, stakeholders groups and conservancies are not the primary focus of agencies that are conducting water supply, water quality and flood management planning. The local use of water can also conflict with interests outside the watershed, for example, use of CVP water can affect the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecological system, setting up further potential for conflict between CVP water users and organizations with concerns over riparian habitat in the Delta.

To resolve these conflicts, the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP process has brought stakeholders representing diverse interests together and areas where competing interests exist have been identified. Based on this, stakeholders are working together to propose projects that will help resolve conflicts or are modifying existing projects, where possible, to achieve additional objectives in order to gain broader acceptance. Projects that can address the public access, recreation and habitat needs espoused by many stakeholders are being coordinated with water supply, water quality and flood protection related projects and being incorporated into water management programs, where appropriate. The **Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement Project** resolves a conflict between fish habitat and water supply by ensuring that the surface water intake for the City of Watsonville on Corralitos Creek will not interfere with the migration of steelhead. The **Stream and Watershed Protection Program** and **Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement** are being implemented by SCVWD in the Agricultural Water Quality Program. These projects will improve habitat and preserve open space while simultaneously improving agricultural water quality.

### 12.1.5 Flood Management Conflicts

Flooding along the Pajaro River is a point of conflict in the watershed. A major barrier delaying the implementation of flood protection projects has been conflict between local residents, project sponsors and regulatory agencies that permit new flood control projects about the appropriate flood protection methodology to be implemented.

Conflict over flood management in the watershed has been addressed by creating a forum where input from all stakeholders can be heard and consensus can be achieved on projects that will provide an effective and acceptable solution to flood management. The **Pajaro River Watershed Study** was initiated in support of this process and is a comprehensive study of the entire watershed to identify actions and projects necessary to reduce flooding on the Lower Pajaro River. By examining the entire watershed, stakeholders are reassured that the most appropriate and efficient solutions are identified, which will help reduce conflict. It demonstrated that flood management requires coordination throughout the watershed and identified the **Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project**, which is being implemented in the upper watershed as a critical project for reducing flooding in the Lower Pajaro River. Perhaps the most substantial barrier to flood protection agreement has been the conflict between local residents of the Pajaro Valley, project sponsors and the State and federal regulatory agencies that permit new flood control projects. The approach taken in the **Levee Reconstruction Project** of building community consensus through the APV Task Force meetings and creating a multi-objective project aims to reduce this conflict.

Potential conflict over the costs, construction, and impacts of flood control facilities is being reduced by including projects that can address flood control while offering other benefits such as water quality, habitat, open space and recreational needs. The Pajaro River Flood Protection Program contains a significant number of projects related to open space acquisition, trail creation and habitat restoration. The **Pajaro River Parkway** will identify public access and recreational opportunities that can be achieved in conjunction with implementation of the **Levee Reconstruction Project**. Many goals of **Open Space Authority Acquisitions**, such as preservation of wetlands and riparian corridors will also help maintain

the proportion of undeveloped areas within the watershed, which will reduce peak flows during flood events. The **Restoration of the Upper Pajaro River Floodplain** will develop a plan for restoration of a wildlife corridor that will also preserve undeveloped land valuable for flood attenuation. **Vegetative Buffer Strips** can offer water quality and flood attenuation benefits. All of these multi-use projects will ensure that projects undertaken for flood management will have a net positive impact.

### 12.1.6 IRWMP Conflict Resolution

The Conjunctive Water Supply Management, Water Supply/Salt Management and Pajaro River Flood Protection Programs will address the statewide priority that calls for reducing conflict between water users. It will accomplish this by implementing projects at a regional level to ensure that all agencies and stakeholders have access to a reliable supply of water for domestic use and for meeting environmental habitat needs. Flood management related conflicts are addressed through development of mutually accepted projects that can offer multiple benefits beyond flood control.

The IRWMP stakeholder process has already helped to resolve conflict by bringing together parties with differing needs and perspectives and providing a forum for conflict resolution. This will help to foster understanding and discussion, build consensus, and identify mutually beneficial strategies as the IRWMP process continues in the future. The end goal is to mitigate conflict to the extent practicable while optimizing the potential for implementing integrated strategies with multiple benefits.

## 12.2 Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development

Working to meet TMDLs established for the Pajaro River watershed is a specific IRWMP objective listed under the IRWMP water quality goal. Pollutants of concern in the Pajaro River watershed, as listed on the 2002 California Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments, are chloride, mercury, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, sediment, and fecal coliform (See Table 2-5). To date, two TMDLs have been developed in the Pajaro River watershed and approved by the Central Coast RWQCB in December 2005. These include a Sediment TMDL for the Pajaro River that includes its tributaries: the San Benito River, Llagas Creek, and Rider Creek, and a Nitrate TMDL for Pajaro River and Llagas Creek. A fecal coliform TMDL is currently in progress for the Pajaro River. These TMDLs are addressed by the IRWMP through the Agricultural Water Quality Program, which contains multi-benefit projects that address TMDL requirements while also providing environmental enhancement and open space benefits.

### 12.2.1 Agricultural Pollutant Sources

For both of the Pajaro River Nitrate and Sediment TMDLs, agriculture land use is listed as a major source of the pollutants causing impairments. The Pajaro River Nitrate TMDL source analysis identifies irrigation runoff carrying nitrogen compounds from fertilizers and manure as a major pollutant source and the Pajaro River Sediment TMDL similarly identifies agricultural runoff from cropland, orchards, and pastures as contributors to sediment loading. Sedimentation occurs when eroded soils are washed into rivers, streams and creeks. This erosion is enhanced in the Lower Pajaro area, where crops are often planted and roads located adjacent to streams and drainage ditches that carry runoff to Pajaro river and its tributariLoss of riparian vegetation is another consequence of agriculture that has led to destabilization of stream banks and increased erosion. Agriculture is also a source of fecal coliform and pesticides, both of which will be addressed in future TMDLs.

## 12.2.2 TMDL Implementation

The Agricultural Water Quality Program will directly assist in implementing the Pajaro River Watershed TMDLs by addressing nonpoint source agricultural water quality through a number of projects. The **Regional Mobile Lab** will encourage the implementation of agricultural irrigation and fertilization practices throughout the watershed that will assist in attaining TMDL objectives by reducing both runoff and the amounts of pollutants that are present in the runoff. The **Conditional Agriculture Waiver Program** is designed to ensure that agricultural dischargers can meet Central Coast RWQCB requirements for runoff management by providing training, education and assistance in developing water quality plans. The **Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program** will streamline the permitting process for BMPs which directly support TMDL implementation. **Vegetative Buffer Strips** is a specific example of a BMP that will capture and treat runoff. The **Stream and Watershed Protection Program** is an environmental land preservation program in Santa Clara County that may allow SCVWD to acquire land adjacent to tributaries that are included in the TMDLs to serve as buffers from the effects of land use and to protect banks from erosion. Tick Creek is a tributary to the Pajaro River which is surrounded by agricultural and pasture land use. The **Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement Project** will create a buffer through the planting of riparian habitat vegetation along 2,000 feet of the creek to protect the creek from agricultural runoff and streambank erosion.

Some projects contained in the Pajaro River Flood Protection Program will also contribute towards implementation of the Sediment TMDL. The *Sediment Transport Characteristics of Reach Four of the Pajaro River Flood Plan*, completed in June of 2005, presented model results that indicate that benches remove sediment more effectively than the same channel without benches. The **Levee Reconstruction Project** will create benches that will remove 322,000 cubic yards of sediment and will promote sediment deposition onto the benches instead of on the channel bottom. This is an effective way to remove sediment from the water column and is preferable to letting the sediment settle to the bottom of the channel. Once on the benches, the sediment can be removed from the river system and potentially be put to beneficial uses. The **Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project** will also help meet requirements of the Sediment TMDL. Sediment reduction benefits are achieved through maintenance of the floodplain. During high flow events the river jumps its banks and floods the surrounding agricultural fields. In the over banks, the high roughness coefficient and shallow flow path cause the velocity to decrease significantly. This causes less turbulence and allows more time for the suspended sediments to fall out of suspension. When the flood waters recede they do so slowly enough not to re-suspend the sediments. Should the natural Soap Lake floodplain be destroyed, much of the floodplain benefit for sediment deposition would also be eliminated.

The Agricultural Water Quality Program includes a number of projects that will directly address TMDL requirements in the watershed. As TMDL implementation is in the early phases, it is expected that these projects will lead the way for water quality protection and will serve to guide future projects that will ultimately become part of this IRWMP. Projects associated with the Flood Protection Program will offer sediment management opportunities which will also assist in TMDL implementation through reduction of sediment loads.

## 12.3 Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Watershed Management Initiative Chapter, plans and policies

The priorities of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are found in the RWQCB's Water Management Initiative Chapter (WMI), which is updated periodically. The WMI Chapter is used by the RWQCB as a funding planning tool; funding priorities for each of the region's

targeted watersheds and the region as a whole are established in the WMI Chapter. The 2004 update of the WMI lists seven categories of activities and associated priorities for the RWQCB:

- 1) Agriculture: Addressing water quality impacts of irrigated agriculture;
- 2) TMDLs: Developing and implementing TMDLs throughout the region;
- 3) Urban Runoff: Addressing urban runoff that causes beach closures and implementing Phase II of the NPDES Stormwater Program;
- 4) Point Source Regulation: Streamlining point-source permit writing, renewals, and several existing Waste Discharge Requirements and performing inspections;
- 5) Basin Planning: Developing riparian corridor policies and reviewing and developing water quality objectives;
- 6) Monitoring: Maintaining the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and integrating data from the agricultural cooperative monitoring program; and
- 7) Clean Up: Overseeing clean-up of perchlorate, MTBE, military bases, hazardous waste, and underground storage tanks

The WMI provides a list of specific targeted projects and activities that support some of these priorities for Region 3 and for the Pajaro River Watershed as shown in Table 12-1.

**Table 12-1: RWQCB WMI Targeted Projects and Activities**

| Watershed              | Targeted Projects and Activities   |
|------------------------|--|
| Region-wide            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects that support implementation of the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands (“agricultural waiver”), including               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Projects that support implementation of the Cooperative Monitoring Program</li> <li>b. Projects that support development and implementation of farm water quality management plans for irrigated operations to address irrigation management, nutrient management, pesticide management and erosion control</li> <li>c. Projects that implement and test the effectiveness of management practices</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Projects that implement approved or developed TMDLs</li> <li>3. Projects that support development of scheduled TMDLs</li> </ol> |
| Pajaro River Watershed | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects supporting agricultural waiver implementation</li> <li>2. Riparian and wetland protection and restoration</li> </ol>  |

The Pajaro River Watershed is also one of eight priority watersheds identified by the Central Coast Region which serves to amplify the importance of implementing the WMI. The priority watersheds were selected since they are experiencing significant water quality problems and also have a high level of existing local efforts and commitments to addressing the problems. The Pajaro River Watershed is one of the eight targeted watersheds for the Central Coast region. Water quality issues facing the Pajaro River watershed were identified in the WMI as erosion and sedimentation, pesticides, nutrients, heavy metals, pathogens, streambed flow alterations, endangered habitat, and riparian vegetation removal.

The integrated water management strategies of this IRWMP will help meet RWQCB priorities #1, #2, #5, #6 and #7 through implementation of projects that fall under the categories that are listed in Table 12-1. These projects are discussed by RWQCB priority below.

### 12.3.1 Addressing water quality impacts of irrigated agriculture

As discussed previously, in the Central Coast region many of the observed impacts on water quality are due to agricultural irrigation. Accordingly, the RWQCB has placed high priority on addressing agricultural water quality impacts and has created conditional agricultural waiver requirements that regulate waste discharges on agricultural lands that affect water quality in the Pajaro River watershed. The **Conditional Agricultural Waiver** program will ensure that these requirements are met through the region and provides education, training and the development of a water quality plan that will provide crop owners and farmers with the tools necessary to reduce nutrient, sediment and pesticide pollutant discharges into water bodies. Education is an important component of the program, as well as demonstration projects and assisting in implementation. The **Regional Mobile Lab** and the **Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program** provides assistance to growers that will allow them to meet the conditions of the conditional agricultural waiver requirement. The **Stream and Watershed Protection Program** and the **Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement** also serve to address water quality impacts of agricultural irrigation by taking land adjacent to streams out of service and providing buffers to current land use. Acquisition of land to help create riparian corridors through **Open Space Authority Acquisitions** will closely support riparian corridor policies.

### 12.3.2 Developing and implementing TMDLs throughout the Region

In the Pajaro River Watershed, the implementation of TMDLs related to nutrient, sediment and pesticides is almost always linked to addressing agricultural water quality impacts because of the prevalence of agricultural land use in the watershed. As discussed in Section 12.2.2, the Agricultural Water Quality Program will assist in implementation of a number of TMDLs in the watershed, consistent with the high priority that is given to TMDL implementation by the RWQCB.

### 12.3.3 Developing riparian corridor policies

There are a number of IRWMP projects that will contribute to enhancing riparian habitat and will contribute to the RWQCB priority of establishing policies for riparian corridor improvement. The **Groundwater Study and Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River** will provide a better understanding of habitat restoration alternatives in conjunction with surface and groundwater supply considerations. This will inform the RWQCB's development of appropriate riparian corridor policies. The **Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement** project will protect steelhead in Corralitos Creek. The **Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project** will also support riparian corridor improvement by preserving a large area of natural habitat.

### 12.3.4 Maintaining the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and integrating data from the agricultural cooperative monitoring program

All projects implemented within the IRWMP will have a monitoring plan that will be used to measure project performance. Monitoring data from the projects will be generated throughout the watershed and this data can be coordinate with the agricultural cooperative monitoring program and utilized by the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) to develop a clearer picture of water quality and track the effectiveness of water quality improvement activities.

### 12.3.5 Overseeing clean-up of perchlorate, MTBE, military bases, hazardous waste, and underground storage tanks

Long term implementation of the IRWMP will address many groundwater pollutant issues in the Pajaro Valley and the Gilroy-Hollister Valley Groundwater Basins, which have water quality issues stemming from MTBE and perchlorate contamination. Projects for treatment of groundwater pollutant plumes and for oversight of leaky underground storage tanks have been proposed for long-term implementation of the IRWMP.

## 12.4 Implementation of the SWRCB Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan

The SWRCB specific priorities focus on implementation of its NPS Program Plan. NPS pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in California and the nation. In order to address NPS pollution in California, the SWRCB, in conjunction with the nine RWQCBs and the California Coastal Commission (CCC), developed the *Plan for California’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program* (NPS Program Plan). The vision of the NPS Program Plan, which addresses both surface water and groundwater quality, is “to reduce and prevent NPS pollution so that the waters of California support a diversity of biological, educational, recreational, and other beneficial uses.”

The Pajaro River and several of its tributaries are among the CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Implementation of the IRWMP and its associated water management strategies will support the NPS Program Plan goal of managing NPS pollution for watersheds that contain water bodies on the CWA Section 303(d) list by addressing NPS pollution issues at the watershed and local levels.

The NPS Program Plan identifies a number of management measures (MMs). These MMs provide goals for the management of NPS pollution to which various management practices are applied. Table 12-2 presents the MMs and various water management strategies that will assist in meeting the SWRCB NPS Pollution Plan.

**Table 12-2: Coincidence of the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP with the NPS Program Plan**

| Management Measure  | IRWMP Project   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Agriculture MM 1A, Erosion and Sediment Control</b> - MM 1A addresses NPS problems associated with soil erosion and sedimentation. Where erosion and sedimentation from agricultural lands affects coastal waters, landowners shall design and install a combination of practices to remove solids and associated pollutants in runoff during all but the larger storms. Alternatively, landowners may apply the erosion component of a Conservation Management System (CMS) as defined in the USDA Field Office Technical Guide.</p> | <p><b>Conditional Agricultural Waivers</b> – This program promotes education and motivation for farmers to implement on-farm BMPs that aid in reducing erosion and improving sediment control, among other benefits.</p> <p><b>Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program</b> – This program will facilitate the implementation of BMPs on agricultural land that will target the reduction of nutrient, sediment, and pesticide loading to surface waters.</p> <p><b>Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement</b> - This project is designed to minimize erosion on agricultural lands adjacent to Tick Creek through vegetation buffers.</p> |

| Management Measure   | IRWMP Project  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Agriculture MM 1F, Irrigation Water Management</b> – MM 1F promotes effective irrigation while reducing pollutant delivery to surface and ground waters. Pursuant to this measure, irrigation water would be applied uniformly based on an accurate measurement of crop water needs and the volume of irrigation water applied, considering limitations raised by such issues as water rights, pollutant concentrations, water delivery restrictions, salt control, wetland, water supply and frost/freezing temperature management. Additional precautions would apply when chemicals are applied through irrigation.</p>   | <p><b>Regional Mobile Lab</b> – The Regional Mobile Lab is an educational and technical assistance program that will provide farmers with the necessary tools and site specific data to achieve an irrigation schedule that is optimal for their land and crops.</p> <p><b>Conditional Agricultural Waivers</b> – SBCWD and PVWMA are educating and assisting farmers to implement on-farm practices that aid in water use efficiency, among other benefits.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Water Conservation</b> - Irrigation water management is closely tied to water conservation and will be assisted by measures such as CIMIS data dissemination, soil moisture monitoring and irrigation equipment improvement.</p> |
| <p><b>Agriculture MM 1G, Education/Outreach</b> - MM 1G aims to implement pollution prevention and education programs to reduce NPS pollutants generated from the following activities where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that cause erosion and loss of sediment on agricultural land and land that is converted from other land uses to agricultural land;</li> <li>• Activities that cause discharge from confined animal facilities to surface waters;</li> <li>• Activities that cause excess delivery of nutrients and/or leaching of nutrients;</li> <li>• Activities that cause contamination of surface water and ground water from pesticides;</li> <li>• Grazing activities that cause physical disturbance to sensitive areas and the discharge of sediment, animal waste, nutrients,</li> <li>• and chemicals to surface waters;</li> <li>• Irrigation activities that cause NPS pollution of surface waters.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Regional Mobile Lab</b> – The Regional Mobile Lab is an educational and technical assistance program that will educate farmers on practices they can implement that will reduce agricultural runoff in the form of sediments, pesticides and nutrients.</p> <p><b>Conditional Agricultural Waivers</b> – SBCWD and PVWMA are educating and assisting farmers to implement on-farm practices that aid in water quality protection practices, among other benefits.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Water Conservation</b> – This project contains a significant educational component and water conservation ultimately reduces the amount of runoff that occurs.</p>  |

| Management Measure  | IRWMP Project   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Urban Areas MM 3.3A, Runoff from Existing Development</b> – MM 3.3A is designed to develop and implement watershed management programs to reduce runoff pollutant concentrations and volumes from existing development. These programs include: 1) identification of priority local and/or regional watershed pollutant reduction opportunities (e.g., improve existing urban runoff control structures); 2) schedule for implementing appropriate controls; 3) means to limit destruction of natural conveyance systems; and 4) preservation, enhancement, or establishment of buffers along surface water bodies and their tributaries.</p>   | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project</b> – This project provides a surface water quality benefit by minimizing sediment deposition in the Pajaro River channel and sediment transported downstream.</p>  |
| <p><b>Hydromodification MM 5.3A, Eroding Streambanks and Shoreline</b> – MM 5.3A addresses the stabilization of eroding streambank and shorelines in areas where streambank and shoreline erosion creates a polluted runoff problem. Bioengineering methods such as marsh creation and vegetative bank stabilization are preferred. Streambank and shoreline features that have the potential to reduce polluted runoff shall be protected from impacts, including erosion and sedimentation resulting from uses of uplands or adjacent surface waters. This MM does not imply that all shoreline and streambank erosion must be controlled; the measure applies to eroding shorelines and that constitutes an NPS problem in surface waters.</p> | <p><b>Levee Reconstruction Project</b> – The bench excavation portion of this project will restore the channelized stream to a more naturally functioning ecosystem with the creation of a two-year (bankfull) floodplain and vegetated over banks. These modifications will enhance the natural geomorphic processes within the channel, aiding in the reduction of erosion problems that lead to NPS issues.</p> <p><b>Stream and Watershed Protection Program</b> – This program initiates the first step in addressing streambank erosion through acquisition of the land adjacent to streams in Santa Clara County.</p> <p><b>Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement</b> – This project will help to prevent the effects of hydromodification as it creates a 2,000 foot long vegetation buffer that will protect Tick Creek from the effects of agricultural land use and pasturing that surround the creek.</p> |

| <b>Management Measure</b>   | <b>IRWMP Project</b>   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Wetlands, Riparian Areas and Vegetated Treatment Systems MM 6A, Protection of Wetlands/Riparian Areas</b> – MM 6A is intended to protect the existing water quality improvement functions of wetlands and riparian areas as a component of NPS programs.</p>  | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project -</b><br/>The proposed project would prevent future encroachment near the riparian corridor.</p> <p><b>Stream and Watershed Protection Program –</b><br/>By acquiring land adjacent to streams, this program will protect riparian areas from the effects of anthropogenic activities that can lead to erosion and discharge of polluted runoff.</p> <p><b>Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement –</b> This project will protect and enhance the water quality improvement function along Tick Creek by creation of a stand of riparian vegetation along 2,000 lineal feet of the creek.</p> |
| <p><b>Wetlands, Riparian Areas and Vegetated Treatment Systems MM 6B, Restoration of Wetlands/Riparian Areas</b> – MM 6B refers to the recovery of a range of functions that existed previously by reestablishing hydrology, vegetation, and structure characteristics. Damaged or destroyed wetland and riparian areas should be restored where restoration of such systems will significantly abate polluted runoff.</p>  | <p><b>Groundwater Study and Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River -</b> The groundwater study will synthesize data from existing studies and expert opinion on groundwater and other hydrological attributes that are required to develop a watershed-wide habitat restoration plan for the upper Pajaro River and tributaries, including riparian, wetland, grasslands, and sustainable farming zones.</p>  |
| <p><b>Wetlands, Riparian Areas and Vegetated Treatment Systems MM 6C, Vegetated Treatment Systems</b> – MM 6C promotes the installation of vegetated treatment systems (e.g., artificial or constructed wetlands) in areas where these systems will serve a polluted runoff-abatement function. Vegetated filter strips and engineered wetlands remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater, and prevent pollutants from entering adjacent water bodies. Removal typically occurs through filtration, deposition, infiltration, absorption, adsorption, decomposition and volatilization.</p> | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project -</b><br/>Protection of the floodplain will promote opportunities for creation and enhancement of wetlands, particularly at the confluence of the creeks found there, including the Pajaro River and the Carnadero Creek; Pajaro River and Llagas Creek and San Felipe Lake and Tequisquita Slough.</p> <p><b>Vegetative Buffer Strips –</b> This program will identify sites throughout the watershed that are suitable for the installation of vegetative buffer strips that will remove sediment, nutrients, bacteria and other pollutants of concern.</p>                          |

| Management Measure   | IRWMP Project  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Wetlands, Riparian Areas and Vegetated Treatment Systems MM 6D, Education/Outreach</b> – MM 6D promotes the establishment of programs to develop and disseminate scientific information on wetlands and riparian areas and to develop greater public and agency staff understanding of natural hydrologic systems—including their functions and values, how they are lost, and the choices associated with their protection and restoration.</p> | <p><b>Groundwater Study and Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River</b> - The groundwater study will synthesize data from existing studies and expert opinion on groundwater and other hydrological attributes that are required to develop a watershed-wide habitat restoration plan for the upper Pajaro River and tributaries, including riparian, wetland, grasslands, and sustainable farming zones.</p> <p>The biological assessment will identify habitat requirements for sensitive species and identify the current and potential extent of suitable aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats, determining known and potential distributions of sensitive species, assessing suitability of soils and groundwater levels in areas where restoration projects are being considered, and identifying limiting factors for habitat restoration</p> |

## 12.5 CALFED Priorities

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. To carry out this mission CALFED developed four primary objectives: 1) restore the ecosystem, 2) provide water supply reliability, 3) improve water quality, and 4) stabilize Delta levees.

Three objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability, and water quality, are addressed through the water management strategies of this IRWMP, as shown in Table 12-3. Only one CALFED Bay-Delta Program objective that is not addressed through the IRWMP pertains to Delta levee system integrity because this objective is not applicable to the Pajaro Watershed.

Reducing the overall demand of water conveyed through the Delta will benefit all four primary objectives. Since a large proportion of CVP water is transported through the Delta, the most significant contribution of the Pajaro River watershed towards achieving CALFED priorities will be from reducing dependence on CVP imported water.

The CALFED objectives are supported by 11 major program elements:

- Water Management
- Storage
- Conveyance
- Water use Efficiency
- Water Transfers
- Environmental Water Account
- Drinking Water Quality
- Watershed Management
- Levee System Integrity
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Science

The IRWMP will employ a number of these CALFED program elements within its programs and projects including water management, storage, water use efficiency, water transfers, drinking water quality, watershed management, ecosystem restoration and science. CALFED program elements employed by the IRWMP are also shown in Table 12-3.

**Table 12-3: Coincidence of the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP with CALFED Bay-Delta Program Objectives**

| CALFED Primary Objectives   | IRWMP Project   | CALFED Program Elements employed by IRWMP  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Water Supply Reliability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist local partners in developing 500,000 to 1 million acre-feet of groundwater storage.</li> <li>• Pursue planning and other actions at state and federal level to expand surface storage capacity by up to 3.5 million acre-feet.</li> <li>• Optimize water conveyance facilities in the Delta and in other locations to maximize flexibility, protect water quality and fish species, and increase water supply reliability.</li> <li>• Invest in local projects that boost water use efficiency through annual water conservation and recycling competitive grants/loan program.</li> <li>• Streamline water transfer approval process and develop an effective water transfer market that protects water rights, the environment and local economies.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Agricultural Water Conservation</b> – Conservation efforts in agricultural areas throughout the watershed increase water use efficiency and improve water supply reliability.</p> <p><b>Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility</b> – This project establishes a new water supply for the watershed using recycled water.</p> <p><b>Coastal Distribution System</b> – The CDS optimizes water conveyance throughout the Pajaro Valley, maximizing supply flexibility and increasing water supply reliability.</p> <p><b>Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement</b> – This project improves fish passage around the Corralitos Creek diversion facility, ensuring that water can continue to be withdrawn from Corralitos Creek.</p> <p><b>Groundwater Study and Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River</b> – This project will enhance water supply reliability by optimizing water conveyance facilities to protect species while increasing water supply reliability.</p> <p><b>Import Pipeline</b> – This project will optimize water conveyance throughout the Pajaro River watershed. Elements envisioned as part of this project include development of groundwater storage, creation of new sources of water through desalination and water recycling and optimization of CVP import water use through water transfers.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Water Management</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Water Use Efficiency</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Drinking Water Quality</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Watershed Management</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Ecosystem Restoration</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Science</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Ecosystem Restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement aggressive measures to</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement</b> – This project will update the Corralitos Creek facility’s surface water</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Water Management</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Watershed</b></li> </ul>  |

| <b>CALFED Primary Objectives</b>   | <b>IRWMP Project</b>   | <b>CALFED Program Elements employed by IRWMP</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>improve Delta water quality and water quality science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore habitat in the Delta and its tributary watersheds.</li> <li>• Improve fish passage through modification or removal of dams, improved bypasses and ladders.</li> </ul> | <p>intake and fish ladder to improve fish passage.</p> <p><b>Tick Creek Riparian Enhancement</b> – This project will improve riparian habitat through the planting of riparian vegetation along Tick Creek.</p> <p><b>Groundwater Study and Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River</b> - The groundwater study will synthesize data from existing studies and expert opinion on groundwater and other hydrological attributes that are required to develop a watershed-wide habitat restoration plan for the upper Pajaro River and tributaries, including riparian, wetland, grasslands, and sustainable farming zones. This may lead to improved fish passage within the San Felipe system.</p> | <p><b>Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ecosystem Restoration</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Science</b></li> </ul>                         |
| <p><b>Water Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement source control and drainage management programs.</li> <li>• Invest in treatment technology.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Import Pipeline Project</b> – This project is envisioned to contain several elements to improve water quality. Various treatment technologies are being considered such as desalination of groundwater, advanced treatment of recycled water and blending of water. A brine disposal option for the import pipeline is also being considered in conjunction with these treatment technologies.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Water Management</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Water Use Efficiency</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Drinking Water Quality</b></li> </ul> |

## **12.6 Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force of state species recovery plan;**

The DWR's mission is to manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments. To meet these objectives DWR has a number of task forces – the Flood Management Task Force, the Desalination Task Force, and the Water Recycling Task Force – that focus on various aspects of water resource management. Each task force provides recommendations for adoption by the State and local agencies. The connection between the water management strategies in this IRWMP and each of the task force's recommendations are summarized below in Table 12-4, Table 12-5, and Table 12-6.

### **12.6.1 Floodplain Management Task Force**

In 2002, the State of California Floodplain Management Task Force recommended floodplain management strategies that are designed to reduce flood losses and maximize the benefits of floodplains. The Task Force defined floodplain management as including “actions to the floodplain to reduce losses to human resources within the floodplain and/or protect benefits to natural resources associated with floodplains and flooding.” Some sample actions as stated by the Task Force to support floodplain management include the following activities:

1. Minimizing impacts of flows;
2. Maintaining or restoring natural floodplain processes;
3. Removing obstacles within the floodplain voluntarily or with just compensation;
4. Keeping obstacles out of the floodplain;
5. Educating and planning for emergency preparedness; and,
6. Ensuring that operations of floodwater management systems are not compromised by activities that interfere with, or are damaged by, design floods of these systems.

The recommendations of this Task Force revolved around the following three themes: 1) Better understanding of, and reducing risks from, reasonably foreseeable flooding, 2) Multi-objective management approach for floodplains, and 3) Local assistance, funding, and legislation. Table 12-4 below describes Pajaro River watershed projects that assist in meeting Floodplain Management Task Forces recommendations.

**Table 12-4: Coincidence of the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP with Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations**

| Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations   | IRWMP Project  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Multi-Objective Management</b> - Promote a MOM approach to flood management projects. State and local agencies should approach flood management as part of multi-objective watershed management.</p> <p>Where feasible, these projects should provide adequate protection for natural, recreational, residential, business, economic, agricultural, and cultural resources and protect water quality and supply.</p> | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project</b> – In addition to providing flood protection benefits for the Lower Pajaro River, this project provides benefits of surface water quality, groundwater recharge, open space preservation, riparian corridor protection, agricultural preservation and creation and enhancement of wetlands.</p> <p><b>Vegetative Buffer Strips</b> – This project will be implemented across the watershed as suitable sites are identified. As the main objective of this BMP is to capture and detain, as well as treat runoff, it can also contribute to flood attenuation when properly situated.</p> <p><b>Pajaro River Parkway</b> – This project will examine the feasibility of incorporating a recreational element to the Lower Pajaro River Levee Reconstruction Project.</p> <p><b>San Benito River Parkway</b> – This project will expand recreational opportunities along the San Benito River in conjunction with a mine restoration project that will assist in flood management.</p> |

| <b>Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations</b>   | <b>IRWMP Project</b>   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Flood Management Approach for Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Conservation</b> – While providing for public safety and flood damage reduction, flood management programs and projects should maximize opportunities for agricultural conservation and ecosystem protection and restoration, where feasible. When land is being considered for use in a flood management project or program, the following should be addressed equitably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve productive agricultural land and natural habitat;</li> <li>• Promote the recovery and stability of agriculture;</li> <li>• Promote the recovery and stability of native species populations, and overall biotic community diversity;</li> <li>• Provide for natural, dynamic hydrologic, and geomorphic processes;</li> <li>• Increase and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of native habitat;</li> <li>• Eliminate or mitigate negative redirected impacts to neighboring landowners; and</li> <li>• Evaluate and address economic impacts to local communities and regions.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project</b> – In addition to providing flood protection benefits for the Lower Pajaro River, this project provides benefits of surface water quality, groundwater recharge, open space preservation, riparian corridor protection, agricultural preservation and creation and enhancement of wetlands in the Upper Pajaro River watershed.</p> <p><b>Open Space Authority Acquisitions</b> – This project focuses on acquisitions that are intended to preserve agricultural use, open space and riparian habitat. Easements or purchases being considered on flood plain areas will be coordinated to ensure that opportunities for flood management can be maximized.</p> <p><b>Restoration of the Upper Pajaro River Floodplain</b> – Opportunities for flood management that can be incorporated into the habitat restoration plan developed by this project will be identified and integrated into the plan, where possible. The project considers habitat restoration in the floodplain between the Mount Hamilton Range and the Santa Cruz Mountains.</p> |
| <p><b>Nonstructural Approaches, Restoration and Conservation of Agriculture and Natural Lands</b> – In planning new or upgraded floodwater management programs and projects, including structural projects, local and State agencies should, where appropriate, encourage nonstructural approaches and the conservation of the beneficial uses and functions of floodplains. It is recognized that some structural approaches provide needed flood protection and opportunities for agricultural conservation and ecosystem protection and restoration.</p>   | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project</b> – This project is a nonstructural approach which is being implemented with the Levee Reconstruction Project to provide 100-year flood protection for communities along the Lower Pajaro River.</p>   |
| <p><b>Protection of Floodplain Groundwater Recharge Areas</b> – Permitting agencies should consider the impacts of land-use decisions on the capacity of the floodplain to recharge groundwater.</p>  | <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project -</b> Flooding of the Soap Lake floodplain will continue to provide percolation into the groundwater and recharging of the aquifer.</p>  |

| <p><b>Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations</b></p>   | <p><b>IRWMP Project</b></p>   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Tools for Protection of Flood-Compatible Land Uses</b> – The State should identify, develop, and support a variety of tools for the protection of flood-compatible land uses. These tools should be developed in consultation with, and be made available to, private landowners, local governments, and non-governmental organizations. Examples of such tools can include: Easement/fee acquisition programs, management payments, land exchanges/bank, incentives for placing new development outside of the floodplain, safe harbor policy, adjacent landowner protections, stewardship incentive payments, voluntary agriculture wildlife habitats, habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation programs, and special area management plans.</p> | <p><b>Open Space Authority Acquisitions</b> – The acquisition goals of the Open Space Authority (Authority) include valley floor preservation that can include wetlands, riparian corridors and agricultural preservation. Acquisitions are accomplished through fee purchases or conservation easements and are done by the Authority or by local agencies with assistance from the Authority.</p>   |
| <p><b>Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships</b> – The State should encourage multi-jurisdictional partnerships when floodplain management projects are planned and implemented. Jurisdiction-based projects provide localized solutions, when a greater benefit might be achieved if the project adopted a watershed-wide approach. Communities and jurisdictions should work together to develop, implement, and monitor watershed-wide floodplain management programs.</p>   | <p><b>Levee Reconstruction Project</b> – This project is a multi-jurisdictional project. The Local Governance subtask to this project will aim to formalize this partnership with the creation of a cross-jurisdictional governing body that can oversee the project.</p> <p><b>Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project</b> – This project exemplifies the watershed-wide approach to floodplain management. The project was developed through a four-county (eight-agency) collaborative approach. Conservation easements for the Soap Lake which lies in the Upper Pajaro River watershed are being acquired in order to provide flood protection in the Lower Pajaro River watershed.</p> <p><b>San Juan Basin Surface Drainage</b> – This project is a partnership between SBCWD, San Benito County and CALTRANS that will allow planned work along a major highway to be performed in a manner that also enhances drainage and reduces local flooding.</p> |

| Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations   | IRWMP Project   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Proactive and Adaptive Management of Floodplains</b> – State and local agencies should manage floodplains proactively and adaptively by periodically adjusting to current environmental, economic, hydraulic, and biological conditions and in response to new scientific information and knowledge. If new or additional flood management projects alter the size of a floodplain, cities and counties should evaluate all of their objectives for the area removed from or added to that floodplain.</p> | <p><b>Groundwater Study &amp; Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River</b> – This study will provide information about the habitat requirements for sensitive biological species in the Upper Pajaro River watershed, which will help guide future habitat restoration opportunities that can be linked to efforts for flood management.</p> |
| <p><b>New and Existing Funding Sources</b> – State and local governments should increase and leverage federal programs, as appropriate, and encourage local, State, federal, public, nongovernmental, and other private cost sharing to achieve equitable and fair financing of multi-objective floodplain management actions and planning.</p>  | <p><b>Levee Reconstruction Project</b> – This project involves working with stakeholders to identify local cost sharing for flood management implementation as a match to the USACE federal funding.</p>  |

### 12.6.2 Desalination Task Force

A primary finding of the State of California Water Desalination Task Force is that “economically and environmentally acceptable desalination should be considered as part of a balanced water portfolio to help meet California’s existing and future water supply and environmental needs” (Department of Water Resources, *Water Desalination Findings and Recommendations*, October 2003). This Task Force also determined that significant value can be gained from desalination, and can also provide numerous benefits, which are listed below.

- 1) Providing a supplemental water supply to meet present year and projected demands;
- 2) Replacing water lost from other sources and relieving drought conditions;
- 3) Aiding in water supply reliability, and providing a high quality potable water supply;
- 4) Reducing groundwater overdraft and restoring use of polluted groundwater; and,
- 5) Replacing water that can otherwise be used for river and stream ecosystem restoration.

Additionally, the Task Force outlined forty-one (41) key findings related to the evaluation of desalination for a region, which include brackish groundwater findings, seawater and estuarine findings, planning and permitting findings, and other general desalination findings. Major recommendations were made based on the aforementioned findings. The recommendations for desalination are related to energy and the environment, planning and permitting, funding, and other general conclusions. Table 12-5 below describes Pajaro River watershed projects that assist in meeting Desalination Task Forces recommendations.

**Table 12-5: Coincidence of the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP with Desalination Task Force Recommendations**

| <b>Desalination Task Force Recommendations</b>  | <b>IRWMP Project</b>  |
|---|---|
| <p>Include desalination, where economically and environmentally appropriate, as an element of a balanced water supply portfolio, which also includes conservation and water recycling to maximum extent practicable.</p>  | <p><b>SBCWD Groundwater Demineralization</b> – This involves the desalination of high TDS groundwater for potable and agricultural uses and as part of a larger plan for salt management to allow for continued use of the groundwater resources in the basin.</p> <p><b>SSCWD Groundwater Desalination</b> – SSCWD is considering groundwater desalination as part of its water supply portfolio in addition to treated CVP water.</p> |
| <p>Results from monitoring at desalination projects should be reported widely for the broadest public benefits. Encourage opportunities to share information on operational data. Create a database and repository for storing and disseminating information.</p> | <p><b>SBCWD Groundwater Demineralization</b> – Monitoring results from this project will be incorporated into the data management structure of the IRWMP and will be disseminated to the public and other interested parties.</p>   |
| <p>Compare reasonable estimates of benefits, costs and environmental impacts for desalination with those for other water supply alternatives realistically available for that area.</p>   | <p><b>SBCWD Groundwater Demineralization</b> – Groundwater desalination, which this project represents, is being considered as a toolbox element within the context of a Groundwater Management Plan, which is a comprehensive examination of all water supply options available in the San Benito Portion of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin.</p>   |
| <p>Where feasible and appropriate, utilize wastewater outfalls for blending/discharging desalination brine/concentrate.</p>   | <p><b>Import Pipeline</b> – A long term component being considered for this project could involve utilization of a portion of the import pipeline capacity for brine transport or the construction of a dedicated parallel brine line that would allow for delivery of brine concentrate from inland desalination operations to the coast to be possibly discharged at the Watsonville WWTP outfall.</p>                                |

| Desalination Task Force Recommendations  | IRWMP Project   |
|--|---|
| <p>Evaluate all new water supply strategies including desalination based upon adopted community General Plans, Urban Water Management Plans, Local Coastal Plans, and other approved plans that integrated regional planning, growth and water supply/demand projections. Environmental reviews should ensure that growth related impacts of desalination projects are properly evaluated.</p> | <p><b>SBCWD Groundwater Demineralization</b> – Groundwater desalination, which this project represents, is being considered as a toolbox element within the context of a Groundwater Management Plan, which is a comprehensive examination of water supply options available in the San Benito Portion of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin and is linked to local plans.</p> <p><b>SSCWD Groundwater Desalination</b> – The recommendation to consider groundwater desalination, was determined through the SSCWD Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan, which is a long term plan that takes into account the needs of the community.</p> <p><b>Hollister Groundwater Softening</b> – This project is contained in the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan.</p> |

### 12.6.3 Recycled Water Task Force

The State of California Recycled Water Task Force focus is on the following recycled water components:

- 1) Plumbing code and cross connection;
- 2) Public information, education, and outreach;
- 3) Funding and CALFED coordination;
- 4) Regulations and permitting;
- 5) Science and health, and indirect potable reuse; and,
- 6) Economics.

Several white papers have been produced by this Task Force to address the above topics in recycled water for California water users. Table 12-6 below describes Pajaro River watershed projects that assist in meeting Recycled Water Task Forces recommendations.

**Table 12-6: Coincidence of the Pajaro Watershed IRWMP with Recycled Water Task Force Recommendations**

| Recycled Water Task Force Recommendations  | IRWMP Project   |
|--|---|
| <p>Federal cost sharing legislation to support development of projects should be pursued</p>   | <p><b>Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility and Coastal Distribution System</b> – Both of these projects have secured Title XVI funding.</p>                |
| <p>Public participation should be incorporated in all phases of project planning in order to justify water recycling on fundamental needs or community</p> | <p><b>Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility</b> – Public participation was an integral part of the project planning. The Water Quality &amp; Operations</p> |

| Recycled Water Task Force Recommendations   | IRWMP Project  |
|---|--|
| desire.   | Committee, which is a group made up of farmers, local land owners and other interested members of the public, coordinated with PVWMA throughout the planning phase. PVWMA hosted strategic public outreach meeting during development of the project, and the PVWMA’s bimonthly board meetings are open to the public.   |
| Local agencies should adopt well defined local recycled water ordinances.   | <p><b>Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility</b> – A recycled water use ordinance will be developed prior to project start-up.</p> <p><b>Import Pipeline</b> - This project could incorporate the adoption of local recycled water ordinances. One of the objectives of the IRWMP is to target recycled water use to make up 5% of total water use by 2010 and 10% of total water use by 2020.</p>  |
| Within the current legal restrictions, local agencies should consider publicity campaigns to educate consumers regarding the impacts of self-regenerative water softeners and promote the use of off-site regeneration by service companies. They should also consider financial incentives to upgrade older inefficient appliances to the current standards. | <p><b>Water Softener Rebate</b> – This is a direct incentive program offered by SBCWD and SCVWD that will provide partial reimbursements for customers that install more efficient water softeners.</p> <p><b>Salinity Education Program</b> – Through this program, customers learn about the contribution of water softeners to the high TDS problems in the groundwater basins and are directed to programs such as water softener rebates.</p> |

## 12.7 Environmental Justice

Statewide priorities for Environmental Justice include ensuring that disadvantaged communities have access to the decision making process and that these populations do not suffer disproportionately from negative health effects and environmental degradation. The IRWMP ensures environmental justice occurs and will implement projects that attempt to improve access to a reliable water supply and protection from flood in the disadvantaged community of Watsonville. See Section 14.5 for a detailed discussion on Environmental Justice.

## 12.8 Acknowledgement of All Statewide Priorities

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP is consistent with all eight of the Statewide Priorities. The four water management programs contain projects that will substantially address these priorities, while also meeting the identified needs, goals and objectives of the stakeholders in the watershed. The multi-beneficial strategies and integrated programs actively developed by the Partners and many stakeholders in the Pajaro River region demonstrate the breadth and depth of understanding of the issues facing this watershed and the matters of the State.

The Conjunctive Water Supply Management Program and the Water Supply/Salt Management Programs will reduce conflict throughout the watershed by ensuring that ample, reliable supplies of high quality are

available to meet future demands. These programs will also implement recommendations of the Recycled Water and Desalination Task Forces through projects that maximize local supplies through these two strategies. Projects within the water supply programs also meet CALFED Bay-Delta Program Objectives through projects that increase water supply reliability.

The Agricultural Water Quality Program will squarely address three of the statewide priorities related to water quality: implementation of TMDLs, implementation of the RWQCB WMI, and implementation of the SWRCB NPS Plan. Addressing the impacts of irrigated agriculture on water quality is a high priority for the watershed. The projects within this program are focused on decentralized efforts to eliminate the effects of nutrients, sediment, pesticides, bacteria and other pollutants throughout the watershed. Education, training and natural treatment BMPs are main components of the program, which is consistent with TMDL implementation plan recommendations, WMI targeted projects and activities and NPS management measures.

The Pajaro River Flood Protection Program is structured to take advantage of multi-objective, non-structural type solutions that are emphasized by the Floodplain Management Task Force. It has been developed to maximize opportunities for habitat restoration, open space and recreation benefits in conjunction with offering flood management benefits. Many of the projects within the program involve joint efforts by multiple agencies and stakeholders coordinating across jurisdictions to develop the most effective and acceptable solutions possible. The Pajaro River Flood Protection Program will not only aid in maintaining the natural floodplain hydrologic, hydraulic, and geomorphic characteristics and sediment issues of the river, but will also ensure that flood prevention measures, such as those outlined by the Floodplain Management Task Force, are implemented to protect life, agricultural industries, resources, and disadvantaged and low income communities downstream. The integrated flood protection strategies will further the Floodplain Management Task Force's efforts to minimize impacts of flows and maintain and restore floodplain processes.

The Water Supply/Salt Management Program will address many of the Desalination Task Force recommendations through its groundwater demineralization projects. Groundwater is an important water supply component in the upper watershed and groundwater demineralization has been assessed in context of all other water supply options and found to be an essential strategy for maintaining a balanced and reliable water portfolio. The program also contains recycled water projects, a water softener rebate and salinity education programs that will meet many of the Recycled Water Task Force recommendations, including the recommendation to reduce the impacts of self-regenerating water softeners.

As demonstrated throughout the breadth and depth of this IRWMP, the goals of the Statewide Priorities can be realized and achieved within the Pajaro River watershed. The innovative strategies and implementation programs developed by Pajaro River Partners and stakeholders will meet, with a significant degree of certainty, the Priorities set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources. Through implementation projects, these priorities can be achieved for the waters of the State. It is with a high degree of certainty that implementation of the integrated Pajaro River watershed strategies will demonstrate and attain the Priority results desired for the waters of the State of California.