

## 15 Agency Coordination

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

**O. Agency Coordination** – Identify State or federal agencies involved with strategies, actions, and projects. Identify areas where a State agency or other agencies may be able to assist in communication or cooperation, or implementation of Plan components or processes, or where State or federal regulatory decisions are required for implementation.

In order to adequately plan and implement the integrated water management strategies recommended herein, it is vital to the success of this IRWMP effort that the appropriate federal, state, and local regulatory and jurisdictional agencies be actively involved. Traditionally, participation of these agencies occurred on a project-specific basis, depending on the requirements and needs of each effort. In the integrated planning process, however the role of these agencies was identified proactively and the potential involvement of each agency during IRWMP implementation was determined. The first form of involvement is to help coordinate and/or communicate the IRWMP to other stakeholders within the region. Another form of involvement is to assist in implementation of the IRWMP through facilitation or active project involvement. The final form of involvement is through granting of necessary regulatory approvals. In many cases, a given agency can be involved in IRWMP implementation in all of these ways. This section describes the state, federal and local agencies active in the Pajaro River Watershed and identifies opportunities for their involvement and assistance in IRWMP implementation through coordination, communication, project implementation, and regulatory approval.

### 15.1 State and Federal and Local Agencies in the Pajaro River Watershed

As discussed in the Stakeholder Involvement section (Section 14), state and federal agencies and local land use planning agencies, (namely County and City planning, public works, and flood control departments) have been engaged through a variety of stakeholder activities. These activities have included stakeholder meetings, workshops, Board presentations, and personal communications (via email and telephone).

Table 15-1 identifies agencies that will be central to implementing the IRWMP. At the State and Federal level, the table focuses mainly on agencies with regulatory jurisdiction; however select non-regulatory agencies that were formed from State and Federal legislation have also been identified. At the local level, the table identifies those agencies that take part in land-use planning and decision-making activities. The table describes the jurisdictional authority or interest of each agency as well as coordination efforts that have been either completed or planned. Coordination and involvement of these agencies with the IRWMP effort will continue throughout implementation.

**Table 15-1: Federal, State and Local Agencies**

Agency	Jurisdiction/Interest	Completed or Planned Coordination/Interaction
<b>Federal</b>		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Protection, preservation, and enhancement of waters of the U.S.	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study and federal sponsor of the Levee Reconstruction Project.
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	Protection, preservation, and enhancement of fisheries, endangered species and habitat	Participation through APV stakeholder process and permitting coordination through the Levee Reconstruction Project, PVWMA Revised Basin Management Plan (BMP), Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement Project, South County Resources Management Plan (SCRMP), Santa Clara Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Protection, preservation, and enhancement of fisheries, endangered species and habitat	Participation through APV stakeholder process and permitting coordination through the Levee Reconstruction Project, BMP, SCRMP, HCP and NCCP.
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner.	Permitting coordination through BMP and funding coordination through Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facilities and Coastal Distribution System; CVP water transfers within the San Felipe Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Responsible for protecting human health and the environment. Develops and enforces regulations, provides funding assistance, performs environmental research and education. Manages Superfund program and cleanup of contaminated sites.	Administering federal grant funded work for perchlorate cleanup that impacts water supply, Main Avenue and Coyote-Madrone Pipeline Repair.
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	Resource protection, research, education, and public use of the Federally protected 276 miles of marine area offshore of California's central coast, stretching from Marin to Cambria	Invitation to participate in IRWMP process and coordination through permitting of near-term water supply projects.
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Manage natural resource conservation programs that provide environmental, societal, financial and technical benefits. Provide assistance to private landowners and managers. (Non-regulatory agency)	Participation through technical support provided to the RCDs.

Agency	Jurisdiction/Interest	Completed or Planned Coordination/Interaction
<b>State</b>		
SWRCB	Preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations	Meetings and planned collaboration on SWAMP and GAMA, permitting and financing coordination through BMP and permitting coordination through Corralitos Creek Fisheries Enhancement Project; Regional Mobile Lab; grant funding of South County Recycled Water Program expansion
DWR	Manages 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. Operates and maintains the State Water Project, including the California Aqueduct, provides dam safety and flood control services, assists local water districts in water management and conservation activities, promotes recreational opportunities, and plans for future statewide water needs.	Coordination through Pajaro River Levee Reconstruction Project, BMP Proposition 13 grant, and Proposition 50 Planning and Implementation Grants
Central Coast RWQCB	Protection and management of surface water and groundwater.	Workshop participation. Planned coordination on the Farm and Rangeland Water Quality Management Program. Oversight on perchlorate cleanup.
California Coastal Commission	Protection, preservation, and management of the California Coast and resources.	Participation through APV stakeholder process and permitting coordination through Levee Reconstruction Project and BMP.
California Department of Fish and Game	Protection, preservation, and enhancement of endangered species and habitat.	Participation through APV stakeholder process and permitting coordination through Levee Reconstruction Project and BMP, HCP and NCCP
Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)	Interest in water management including water quality, wildlife habitat restoration, soil erosion control, and conservation education. (Non-regulatory agencies representing Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties)	Workshop participation and overall participant in IRWMP process.
<b>Local</b>		
City of Gilroy	Land use planning, provides water and sewer service to Gilroy residents.	Invitation to participate in IRWMP process. Coordination through the Cities partnership with SCWRA. Involvement in the South County Recycled Water Master Plan, HCP and NCCP.
City of Hollister	Land use planning, provides water, sewer and wastewater services to Hollister residents.	Invitation to participate in IRWMP process. Coordination through the Cities partnership with SCWRA. Involvement in the Hollister Groundwater Softening project, Cienega Valley, the Hollister Area Urban Area and Wastewater Master Plan, HCP and NCCP.

Agency	Jurisdiction/Interest	Completed or Planned Coordination/Interaction
City of Morgan Hill	Land use planning, provides water service to Morgan Hill residents.	Invitation to participate in IRWMP process. Coordination through the Cities partnership with SCWRA. Involvement in the South County Recycled Water Master Plan, HCP and NCCP.
City of San Juan Batista	Provides water and wastewater services.	Invitation to participate in IRWMP process. Coordination through the Water Resources Association of San Benito County. Involvement through the San Juan Batista Surface Water Treatment Plant.
City of Watsonville	Provides water, wastewater collection and treatment and recycled water services to the residents of Watsonville.	Active participant in the IRWMP process. Lead agency for the Corralitos Surface Fisheries Enhancement, Recycled Water Treatment Facility and Pajaro River Parkway projects.
Santa Cruz County	Land use planning	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study, Steering Committee participation, project proponent, permitting coordination through PVWMA BMP, and future Monterey Bay Area IRWMP participation.
Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Flood control and water conservation for a portion of Santa Cruz County	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study, Steering Committee participation, project proponent, and future Monterey Bay Area IRWMP participation.
San Benito County	Land Use Planning	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study and Steering Committee participation.
San Benito County Water District	Water conservation and flood control for San Benito County	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study and Steering Committee participation.
Monterey County	Land Use Planning	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study, Steering Committee Participation, permitting coordination through PVWMA BMP, and future Monterey Bay Area IRWMP participation.
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Manages, protects, and enhances the quantity and quality of water and provides specified flood control services	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study, Steering Committee participation, permitting coordination through PVWMA BMP, and future Monterey Bay Area IRWMP participation.
Santa Clara County	Land Use Planning	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study and permitting coordination through BMP, South County Water Supply Plan.
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Forum for local cities and counties to work together to solve local challenges	Collaboration through Pajaro River Watershed Study, Steering Committee participation, and future Monterey Bay Area IRWMP participation.

## 15.2 Communication, Coordination and Project Implementation Assistance

State and federal agencies can actively assist in communication and coordination of IRWMP efforts that fall under areas of their jurisdictional authority. The involvement of state and federal agencies is also critical in facilitating IRWMP implementation, which can be done through endorsement of projects, participating in regional working groups and through direct project funding and implementation. This section discusses the participation of active state and federal agencies in the Region and describes how their future involvement will assist in implementation of the IRWMP.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USACE has been heavily involved over the last 40 years in developing flood protection strategies for the Lower Pajaro River. The **Levee Reconstruction Project** is the culmination of the planning that was conducted and the project is now being implemented as part of the IRWMP. USACE coordinated this project with the **Pajaro River Watershed Study**, which focused on developing floodplain management strategies for the Upper Pajaro River. Because flood control projects in the Upper and Lower Pajaro are linked, the continued cooperation of USACE is essential for success of the Pajaro River Flood Protection Program. Additionally, USACE has conducted public meetings on the project. Continuing these public forums will be critical to provide ongoing communication about the project itself and to convey the additional benefits that are gained from implementation of the project within the context of integrated regional planning. Also, USACE funding of 65% of the project costs is critical for the implementation of the Levee Reconstruction Project. FEMA is another federal agency for which coordination is necessary as it defines the floodplain for the Pajaro River Watershed.

### NOAA National Fisheries Marine Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The participation of the NOAA National Fisheries Marine Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the watershed is necessary because these agencies are responsible for protecting fisheries and marine life, which can suffer from the unintended negative effects of water management projects. Coordination with these agencies is important for the **Levee Construction Project, Corralitos Creek Fisheries Enhancement Project, Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facilities Project, Import Pipeline, Coastal Distribution System, Non-CVP water transfers and banking agreement, Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program, Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project, Lower Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project** and the **Pajaro River and San Benito River Parkway** projects.

### U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

USBR is responsible for managing the CVP system and allocation and fulfillment of CVP contracts. Coordination with the Mid-Pacific Region of USBR will be vital for any projects in the watershed related to imported water such as the **Import Pipeline, PVWMA CVP Entitlement, Coastal Distribution System, and Cienega Valley**. USBR will play a key role in the **CVP water transfers within the San Felipe Division**, and will be important in communicating with the agencies involved in explaining the transfers agreements and maintaining proper accounting so that a fair, transparent and efficient market based system can be achieved. The USBR is also involved in the **Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility** and **Coastal Distribution System** through its Title XVI funding.

### Central Coast Basin RWQCB

The Central Coast Basin RWQCB is responsible for communicating the requirements for the conditional agricultural waivers to growers and for explaining the water quality benefits of meeting the waiver

requirements to the public. As the RWQCB is the primary regulatory agency for water quality, the stakeholders will rely on it to sanction the solutions, partnerships and methods in the IRWMP that are proposed for addressing issues such as NPS pollution and TMDL compliance. This will include most of the projects within the Agricultural Water Quality Program such as the **Regional Mobile Lab, Farm and Range Water Quality Management Program, Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program** and **San Benito and South Santa Clara Permit Coordination Program**.

#### Resource Conservation Districts

The four RCDs are special districts created under state law. In the Pajaro River Watershed, they have been active in dealing with issues in the areas of water quality, wildlife habitat restoration, soil erosion control and conservation. RCDs have developed working relationships with a diverse array of stakeholders in the Region (including other state and federal agencies), and thus have served as an important resource for stakeholder coordination and communication. An example is the SCCRCD, which has relationships with:

- Farm Bureau
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Water Resources
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Coastal Conservancy
- California Department of Fish and Game
- The Nature Conservancy
- Santa Cruz Land Trust
- Bureau of Land Management
- California State University at Monterey Bay
- Local community colleges
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- UCCE Farm Advisors

Because of these relationships, the RCDs can serve as a center of coordination for these other agencies on IRWMP issues related to resource conservation. The RCDs can also assist in implementation of the IRWMP through projects and are the lead agencies on the **Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program** and the **San Benito and South Santa Clara Permit Coordination Program** and are partner agencies on the **Regional Mobile Lab**. These projects require high levels of landowner and agricultural grower support which can be effectively coordinated through the RCDs.

#### Other State and Federal Agencies

State and Federal agencies can also assist in implementation by providing funding opportunities. This includes the funding for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 and Proposition 84 funds earmarked for integrated regional water management planning but also includes more focused programs such as ones for recycled water, desalination and stormwater treatment. SWRCB, DWR, USEPA and USBR are the federal and state agencies that provide the most significant funding opportunities for the Pajaro River Watershed (see Section 11) and close coordination should be maintained with these agencies to identify future funds for implementation.

The State and Federal agencies in the Pajaro River Watershed that can assist in the implementation of this IRWMP have been identified. Proactive coordination with the appropriate agencies will ensure that

projects receive endorsement and support and can prevent issues from arising later that can block implementation. The implementation plan for the IRWMP described in Section 7 includes provisions for the continued coordination of state and federal agencies as well as specifying specific opportunities for gaining the involvement of these agencies for improving coordination and communication and project implementation.

### 15.3 Regulatory Support

Regulatory and jurisdictional agency involvement is vital to the eventual implementation of the water management programs, projects and integrated water management strategies identified in this plan. Many of the projects will require some level of regulatory approval or oversight and will fall under the purview of one or more of the agencies listed in this section. The on-going IRWMP effort will continue to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate at all steps of the process with the appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies in their regulatory roles where necessary. Participation by these agencies at an early stage will streamline the regulatory process, and ensure that the implementation of projects will not be unnecessarily delayed.

There are a number of IRWMP projects that illustrate the advantages of such participation:

- **Corralitos Creek Surface Fisheries Enhancement**, which is subject to NOAA National Marine Fisheries oversight, has obtained a scientific assessment from that agency which will guide the implementation of the project so that the project can meet the requirements for constructing proper fish diversion structures.
- The USACE is both an active participant in the **Levee Reconstruction Project** as well as an approving agency for the project through its jurisdiction over projects that impact waters of the United States, which includes the Pajaro River. Its participation will greatly facilitate federal approval.
- The **Santa Cruz Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program** is an excellent example of an effort to streamline the regulatory process at a watershed level. It was designed to address the fact that implementing certain habitat restoration projects such as streambank restoration can often require going through as many as eight different environmental regulation processes administered by a variety of agencies, which presents an ironic obstacle. The program provides landowners and agricultural growers access to a single coordinated process of regulatory approval for permitting restoration related BMPs.
- The **San Benito and South Santa Clara Permit Coordination** project is a similar project for the upper watershed.
- Regulatory coordination with DHS will be necessary for projects that involve drinking water standards or adherence to Title 22 reclaimed water standards such as **Aromas Water District Wellhead Treatment, Watsonville Recycled Water Treatment Facility, North San Benito County Regional Recycled Water** and the **Sunnyslope Recycled Water Project**.

Several actions can be taken to streamline regulatory and permitting processes for the IRWMP components. These may include preliminary consultations with individual regulatory agencies and joint workshops between the appropriate regulatory representatives and Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP stakeholders. Such coordination would facilitate the permitting and regulatory decision process by identifying action items to be addressed by stakeholders. Such involvement by federal, state, and local agencies will assist the IRWMP effort to be more efficient during overall program implementation.

Table 15-2 lists the range of potential permits and approvals that will be needed, are in the process of being obtained, or have been obtained from the appropriate regulatory and jurisdictional agencies for Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP implementation projects. Several of the project teams are already working with the appropriate regulatory agencies and working through the permitting and/or approval

process. Depending on the specific action required, certain permits and approvals will be pursued by each implementing party/stakeholder for their respective projects; for success, this process will necessitate clear communication, collaboration, and close coordination with the regulatory agencies.

**Table 15-2: Potential permits and/or approvals needed for IRWMP strategies implementation.\***

Agency/Organization	Permit or Approval	Action Requiring Permit/Consultation
<b>Federal</b>		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 Permit	Impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Acquire additional CVP supplies, compliance with National Environmental Policy Act	CVP water deliveries, Connection to Santa Clara Conduit, CVP water transfers; O&M
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service	Consultation and Coordination under Endangered Species Act	Construction in wetland and upland areas where federally listed species may be present, operations of some facilities
<b>State</b>		
California Coastal Commission	Coastal Development Permits	Projects within local Coastal Commission jurisdiction
California Department of Fish and Game	1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement	Alteration of streambeds during construction
California Department of Health Services	Title 22 Report Approval	Recycled Water treatment and delivery, Wellhead treatment; Desalination
California OSHA Mining and Tunneling Unit	Mining and Tunneling Permit	Trenches or excavations deeper than 5 feet
Caltrans	Encroachment Permits	Construction under California State Highways
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	401 Certification or Waiver Low Threat Discharge Permit Comments on Title 22 Report	Potential for water quality impairment from sediment discharge to waterways during construction, dewatering and disposal at construction sites, consultation with DHS on Title 22 Report, water recycling, desalination
State Water Resources Control Board	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP); Change in Place of Use; water rights permitting.	Construction and grading of areas greater than 1 acre, authorization for use of CVP water in the PVWMA service area, and authorization to divert Harkins Slough and Corralitos Creek surface waters.

Agency/Organization	Permit or Approval	Action Requiring Permit/Consultation
<b>Local</b>		
Cities of Gilroy, Hollister, Morgan Hill, San Juan Batista and Watsonville; Monterey County, San Benito County, Santa Clara County, and Santa Cruz County	Development Permit	Construction projects within City and County limits
County Flood Control and/or Public Works	Encroachment Permit Approval	Construction affecting levees and drainage ditches
County Health Services, SCVWD (for Santa Clara County)	Well Drilling Permit, Grading Permit, Development and Coastal Development Permits, Riparian Exclusion Permit, Encroachment Permit	New well construction or decommissioning and construction projects within County jurisdiction and local coastal zone.
<b>Private Industry</b>		
PG&E	Infrastructure Review; Encroachment Permit	Construction within right-of-way for overhead electrical wires and potentially under buried pipelines
Telecommunications & Cable Companies	Infrastructure Review; Prior Notification to Construction	Construction near or crossing buried lines
Union Pacific Railroad/Southern Pacific Railroad	License Agreement or Easement; Right of Entry	Cross railroad tracks, parallel tracks; conduct surveys, enter the railroad right-of-way

\* Table adapted from PVWMA Revised BMP Environmental Impact Report, October 2001.