



**Pajaro River
Watershed
Flood
Prevention
Authority**

Phase 1 Final Report for the
Pajaro River Watershed Study

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RMC

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Glossary

- AMC (Antecedent Moisture Condition) – A measure of how wet the soil was prior to a rain event
- Annual instantaneous maximum peak discharge – The greatest discharge value at a point during a water year
- Annual maximum 3-day average discharge – The greatest average discharge value over three days during a water year
- Attenuate – To reduce
- Authority – The Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority
- Catch point – One of four locations at which PRO-FLO models discharge
- CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) – State law written to maintain a high quality environment
- cfs (Cubic Feet per Second) – A measure of discharge where 1 cfs is approximately 450 gallons per minute
- CN (Curve Number) – A scale to relate how much precipitation is absorbed by the soil to how much is converted to runoff
- Corps – The Army Corps of Engineers
- Design discharge - Discharges from the most severe combination of meteorological and hydrologic conditions that are considered reasonably characteristic of the geographical region involved
- Design storm – A synthetic rainfall used in modeling to characterize rain events rather than model individual storms
- Drainage area – The area in which all surface runoff is carried away by a single stream system
- Exceedance probability – The chance that a given event will be equaled or surpassed in magnitude
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) – A federal organization created to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters
- Flooding frequency – The number of times a flood occurs in any average interval of time
- Flood plain – The area of land that has historically been covered by water during floods
- GIS (Geographic Information System) – A spatial database
- Groundwater recharge – The addition of water to subterranean water bodies
- GUI (Graphical User Interface) – A method of interacting with a computer program
- HEC-1 (Hydrologic Engineering Center Flood Hydrograph Package) – One of the software programs used to create PRO-FLO

HEC-RAS (Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System) – One of the software programs used to create PRO-FLO

Hydraulic roughness – The resistance to flow due to channel characteristics

Hydrograph – A location specific graph showing some property of water with respect to time.

Hydrologic condition – A measure of factors that impact surface runoff and is used to determine the curve number

Impervious surface – A surface not allowing the absorption or seepage of water into the ground

Isohyets – Contours or lines of equal rainfall

Levee – An embankment constructed to prevent flooding outside of a confined space

MAP (Mean Annual Precipitation) – The average rainfall over one year for a specific point or area

NLCD (National Land Cover Dataset) – Data used to classify land uses

NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Agency tasked with maintaining, conserving, and improving the nation's natural resources and environment

Orographic effect – Mountain impacts on processes such as precipitation

PRO-FLO (Pajaro River to the Ocean FLOod Model) – Model developed for the PRWS to simulate floods in various conditions

PRO-SED (Pajaro River to the Ocean SEDiment generation and transport model) – Model developed for the PRWS to simulate the effects of various conditions on sedimentation and erosion.

PRWS (Pajaro River Watershed Study) – A study authorized by the Authority to determine the causes of flooding and identify methods of flood protection

QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) – Guidelines and protocols for data collection, handling, and analysis

Return period – The average amount of time between occurrences of an event of a given size

Riparian – Related to or situated on the bank of a river or other body of water

SCS (Soil Conservation Service) – The agency now known as the NRCS

SCVWD (Santa Clara Valley Water District) – One of the water districts impacting the PRWS

SSURGO (Soil Survey Geographic database) – Digitized soil maps

STATSGO (State Soil Geographic database) – Digital general soil association map

TDS Equation (Return Period-Duration-Specific equation) – A relationship used to determine the amount of rainfall for a location based on the MAP and the return period and duration of the event

Transposition mechanism – The basis of the design storm

TM (Technical Memorandum) – Documents cataloging technical decisions, methods, and results in support of the PRWS

USGS (United States Geological Survey) – A federal agency that collects information about and analyzes natural resources

Watershed – The area upstream of a point through which all surface water within that area flows

Water year – The period from October 1 through September 30

