Pajaro River Watershed
Flood Prevention Authority

Special Meeting of the
Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority

c/o RAPS, Inc.
P.O. Box 2453
Seaside, CA 93955
(831) 883-3750

PRWFPA Chair – Nancy Bilicich
PRWFPA Vice Chair – John Varela

DATE: November 30, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM
LOCATION: Zoom Webinar

To participate virtually, use the following link:
Para participar de forma virtual, utilice el siguiente enlace:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89354174184?pwd=wCdiqRtB8w0JaGxLuRowJcwE2RBywy.1

Or Telephone:
Dial: +16694449171
Webinar ID: 893 5417 4184
Passcode: 249934

Members of the public who wish to address the PRWFPA Board of Directors on an item to be considered at this meeting, can do so in person, virtually, or via email. Written public comment can be submitted at info@ambag.org or by emailing the Clerk of the Board at aflores@ambag.org. The subject line should read "Public Comment for the November 30, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting." Written comments will be distributed to the PRWFPA Board of Directors prior to the meeting.

Miembros del publico que desean dirigirse a la mesa directiva de PRWFPA con respecto a cualquier asunto en esta agenda, pueden hacerlo en persona, de forma virtual o por correo electrónico. Los comentarios públicos por escrito pueden enviarse a info@ambag.org o al correo electrónico de la Secretaria, aflores@ambag.org. El asunto del correo electrónico debe indicar: "Comentario público para la reunión de la mesa directiva del 30 de noviembre de 2026". Los comentarios por escrito se distribuirán a los miembros de la mesa directiva de PRWFPA antes de la reunión.

PRWFPA Board Member(s) Meeting Remotely:

John Baillie:	**346 W. Market Street, Salinas, CA 93901**	**831-998-8511**
Nancy Bilicich:	**294 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, CA 95076**	**831-786-2160**
Sonny Flores:	**30 Mansfield Rd., Hollister, CA 95023**	**831-637-8218**
Richard Santos:	**3580 Sierra Road, San Jose, CA 95132**	**408-630-2277**
Mindy Sotelo:	**481 4th St., 1st Floor, Hollister, CA 95023**	**831-636-4000**
John Varela:	**15685 La Bella Court, Morgan Hill, CA 95037**	**408-630-2277**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. JUST CAUSE ATTENDANCE
Recommended Action: INFORMATION
- Maura Twomey, Executive Director

Receive oral report.

4. ROLL CALL

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(A maximum of two minutes on any subject not on the agenda)

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

7. PLANNING

A. Modification to PRFMA's Previously Approved Funding Request
Recommended Action: APPROVE
- Mark Strudley, PRFMA Executive Director

Approve the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency's (PRFMA) proposed modification to its previously approved funding request, authorizing the use of any unexpended funds, in an amount not to exceed $220,000. (Page 5)

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. ADJOURN

REFERENCE ITEMS:

A. 2027 Calendar of Meetings (Page 9)
B. Acronym Guide (Page 11)

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING:

Date: **February 5, 2027**
Location: **Zoom Webinar**
Time: **9:00 AM**

If requested, the agenda or materials shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. If you have a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, contact Ana Flores, AMBAG, 831-883-3750, or email aflores@ambag.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54952.7, please find Chapter 9, also known as the Ralph M. Brown Act using the following link: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

Si se solicita, la agenda y materiales estarán disponibles en formatos alternativos apropiados para personas con discapacidad, requerido por Sección 202 de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990 (42 USC, Sec. 12132) y las normas y reglamentos federales adoptados para su implementación. Si necesita alguna modificación o adaptación relacionada con una discapacidad, incluyendo ayudas o servicios auxiliares, comuníquese con Ana Flores, AMBAG, al 831-883-3750 o envíe un correo electrónico a aflores@ambag.org con al menos 48 horas de anticipación a la fecha de la reunión de la junta directiva. De conformidad con la Sección 54952.7 del Código de Gobierno, por favor consulte el Capítulo 9, también conocido como la Ley Ralph M. Brown. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

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Flood Prevention Authority

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **PRWFPA Board of Directors**

FROM: **Maura F. Twomey, Executive Coordinator**

RECOMMENDED BY: **Mark Strudley, Ph.D., Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA) Executive Director**

SUBJECT: **Modification to PRFMA's Previously Approved Funding Request**

MEETING DATE: **November 30, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency's (PRFMA) proposed modification to its previously approved funding request, authorizing the use of any unexpended funds, in an amount not to exceed $220,000, for both:

1. Investigative survey work supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Pajaro River at Watsonville Project design; and
2. Vegetation thinning within the Pajaro River channel to improve flood conveyance and reduce flood risk in advance of the forecasted 2026-27 El Niño winter season.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

At its June 22, 2026 meeting, the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (PRWFPA) Board of Directors approved a funding request from PRFMA in an amount not to exceed $220,000 to complete investigative survey work supporting the design of the USACE Pajaro River at Watsonville Project.

The investigative survey work will provide the USACE team with design recommendations that identify historic river meanders (paleochannels) and maximize passive groundwater recharge benefits within proposed levee setback areas. These levee setback areas present a significant opportunity to enhance habitat and use Pajaro River flows to increase passive groundwater recharge within a subbasin designated as "critically overdrafted" by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). PRFMA anticipates completing the final deliverable in spring 2027.

Since the Board approved the original funding request, PRFMA has successfully partnered with DWR, which has provided funding and technical assistance for a portion of the investigative survey work. As a result, PRFMA now expects the total cost of the effort to be lower than originally

anticipated and does not expect to expend the full $220,000 previously authorized by the Board.

At the same time, the need for flood-risk reduction measures has become increasingly urgent. In September 2026, the Governor issued a statewide State of Emergency proclamation due to forecasts indicating an increased likelihood of significant El Niño driven winter storm activity. In anticipation of these conditions, PRFMA has been taking proactive actions to implement emergency protective measures intended to reduce flood risk before the onset of the 2026-27 winter season. Protecting the vulnerable and disadvantaged communities along the Pajaro River remains our highest priority, particularly in light of the devastating impacts the 2023 floods had on residents, businesses, agricultural operations, and farmworker communities in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

PRFMA operates with limited annual revenues that are primarily dedicated to ongoing operation and maintenance of the federal flood control system. Despite these constraints, the Agency has aggressively invested its capital reserves in emergency preparedness and flood risk reduction efforts throughout the lower watershed. PRFMA continues to prioritize projects that provide the greatest immediate reduction in flood risk while making the most efficient use of limited public resources. However, the magnitude of the remaining need for emergency protective measures exceeds the Agency's financial capacity.

Given the availability of unexpended funds from the Board's prior authorization, PRFMA respectfully requests approval to use the remaining balance for one of its highest-priority emergency protective measures: vegetation thinning within the Pajaro River channel (Attachment 1).

Dense vegetation can obstruct flows, reduce channel capacity, and increase water surface elevations during high river flows. Targeted vegetation thinning aims to improve hydraulic conveyance, reduce water surface elevations during storm events, and reduce flood risk to downstream communities. This work is expected to provide meaningful flood risk reduction benefits for downstream communities while leveraging funds already approved by the Board.

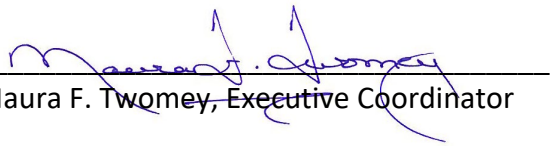
Importantly, this request does not increase the amount previously authorized by the Board. Rather, it allows PRFMA to maximize the public benefit of existing grant funds by completing the original investigative work while applying any remaining balance to an immediate flood-risk reduction project. Approval of this request would allow PRFMA to leverage previously authorized funds to address an immediate flood-risk reduction need, improve public safety, and maximize the value of existing public investments without requiring an additional appropriation from the PRWFPA.

On November 10, 2026, PRFMA received secretarial authorization to complete this work pursuant to the suspension of applicable state statutes, regulations, and requirements within the jurisdiction of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), as authorized by the Governor’s Executive Order N-14-26.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 – Map of Vegetation Thinning in the Pajaro River Channel

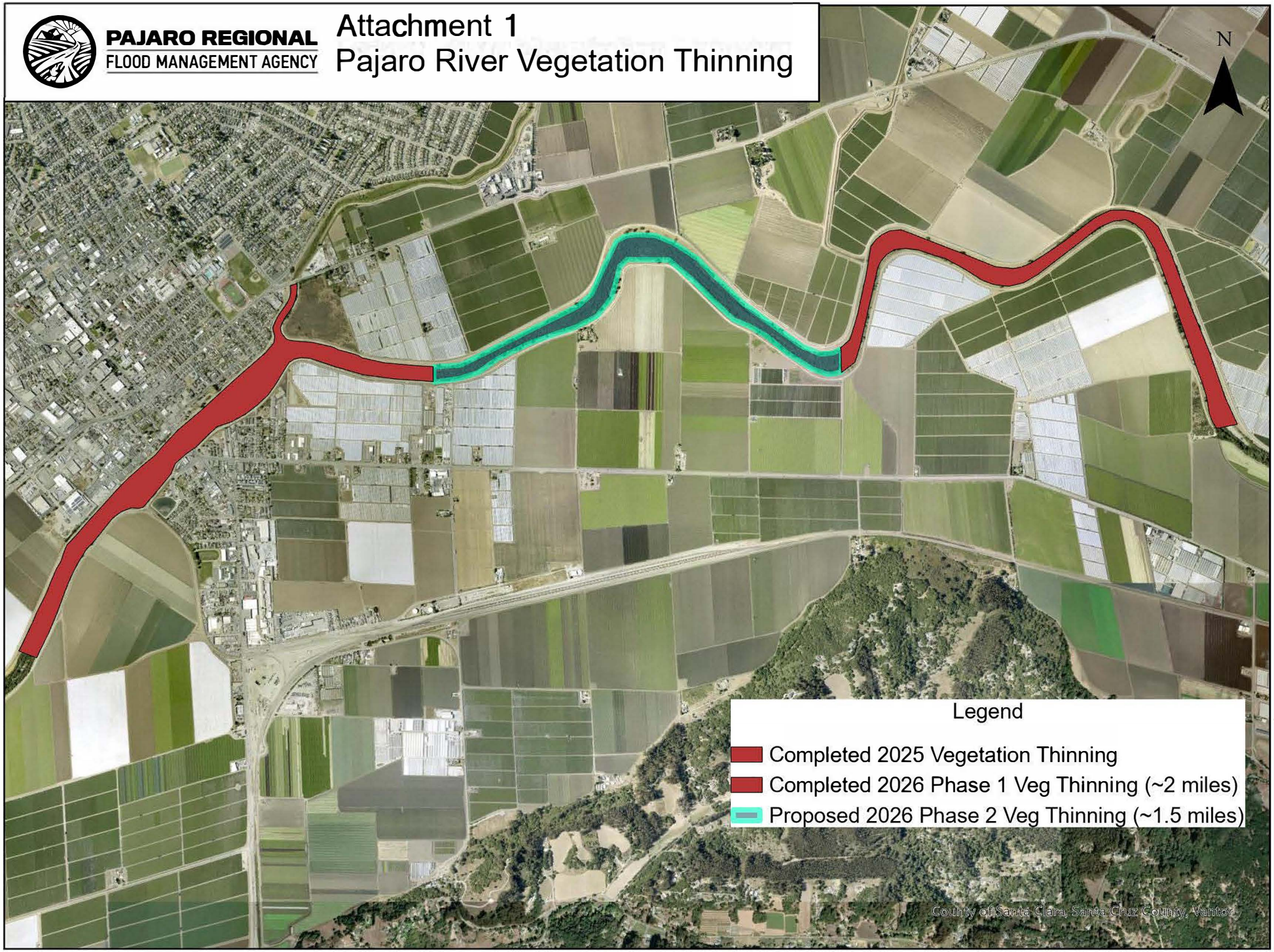
APPROVED BY:



Maura F. Twomey, Executive Coordinator

PAJARO REGIONAL
FLOOD MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Attachment 1
Pajaro River Vegetation Thinning



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2027 PRWFPA Meeting Calendar

February 5, 2027:	**Zoom Webinar** Meeting Time: 9 am
April 2, 2027:	**Zoom Webinar** Meeting Time: 9 am
June 4, 2027:	**Zoom Webinar** Meeting Time: 9 am
September 10, 2027:	**Zoom Webinar** Meeting Time: 9 am
November 5, 2027:	**Zoom Webinar** Meeting Time: 9 am

***Please note that the September 2027 PRWFPA Board of Directors meeting has been moved to the second Friday of the month**

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PRWFPA Acronym Guide	
ABC Law	Atchison Barisone & Condotti
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AFB	Alternate Formulation Briefing
ASA-CW	Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Science Associates
FCSA	Federal Cost Sharing Agreement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FRRP	Flood Risk Reduction Project
FY	Fiscal Year
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
GRR	General Reevaluation Report
LPP	Locally Preferred Plan
LRP	Locally Requested Plan
MCWRA	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
NED	National Economic Development
NFS	Non-Federal Sponsors
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OMB	Office of Management & Budget
OSA	Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
PED	Preconstruction Engineering and Design
PDT	Project Delivery Team

PRWFPA	Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority
RAPS, Inc.	Regional Analysis Planning Services, Inc.
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCWD	San Benito County Water District
SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
SF	San Francisco
SMART Planning	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk Informed, Timely Planning
SWG	Staff Working Group
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TSP	Tentatively Selected Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act