Pajaro Valley and the Community Water Dialogue



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Pajaro Valley



CWD Commitments

- 1. A commitment to protect the Pajaro Valley as an important agriculture resource
- 2. A recognition that the solution will not be an importation pipeline
- 3. A willingness to pursue diverse strategies which entail costs and sacrifices in order to bring our aquifer into balance

Accomplishments to Date

Accomplishments by Year

- 1 Building trust and initial structure and focus
 - Science, fact based approach
 - Cross collaboration
 - Identified first projects
- 2 Implementation of MAR and WIN, shaped PICA
 - Leveraged private and public funds
 - Participated and influenced water management efforts PVWMA BMP
 - Engagement with other regional and statewide partners
 - Recognized by James Irvine Foundation
- 3 Formalized administrative structure
 - RWQCB requested Tour
 - Grant funding awarded for implementation of pilot projects
 - Sought out for policy and regulatory discussions learn and influence

Community Water Dialogue Structure

- Community-driven
 - Quarterly community meetings attended by 50-60
- Action Teams advance priorities
 - Land Management and Irrigation Best Practices
 - Managed Aquifer Recharge
 - Big Projects
 - Communications
- Guidance Team provides leadership
- RCD as fiscal sponsor, staff and project administration

Dialogue to Action

to achieve the 5000 AF conservation target laid out in our Basin Management Plan and to bring the aquifer into balance

Wireless Irrigation Network (WIN)



Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)



PICA (Performance-based Incentives) for Conservation in Agriculture)

- Assists growers to track water use and nitrogen movement
- "Measure to Manage" and to demonstrate environmental performance

Water Quantity

Water Quality

Water used for irrigation Nitrate leaching & Nitrate in storm runoff







CWD Lessons Learned



Call to Action What can the State Water Board do?

- 1. Acknowledge water resource planning already completed at the local level and position State support for locally driven solutions
- 2. Empower and support communities to look more holistically at water issues and efforts one conversation
- 3. Focus on long term resiliency, not just short term reaction
- 4. Provide assistance and investment in technology, capital projects and on-farm technical assistance
- 5. Build partnerships from local to state level to act as **trusted conduit** and spread models of progress
- 6. Direct funding to local efforts and services both large scale and on-farm (there is no silver bullet) *amplify what exists*