

**Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update
Project Solicitation Form**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

General Project Information

Project Title:	Pajaro River Risk Reduction Project
Project Location:	Watsonville, CA
Estimated Cost:	\$200,000,000

Brief Project Description (1 to 2 sentences):

This project is a joint effort among Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), City of Watsonville and Action Pajaro Valley. The project is intended to increase levee flow capacity along the Pajaro River and protect local disadvantaged communities in the lower Pajaro River Watershed from flood damage. The project is an integration of several efforts to provide flood protection on watershed basis. The overall program involves integration of the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project, Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Pajaro River Levee Reconstruction Project, and the APV Community Consensus Process.

Project Proponent Information

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Other participating agencies/organizations (if applicable):

Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Watsonville, Action Pajaro Valley, Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority

DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Description

Please provide a description of your project (including the location) and its purpose, what will be constructed and/or implemented, how the project will function, the area(s) and/or entities that will be affected by or will benefit from the project, and any potential obstacles to implementation.

The Pajaro River has suffered several major floods over the past few decades due to inadequate capacity of the existing levee system and the maintenance management of the channel. The Pajaro River levee system extends for approximately 11.5 miles along the lower end of the Pajaro River, and 3 miles along the tributary Salsipuedes Creek. The Pajaro River forms the dividing County line between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The levees were constructed by the Corps in 1949. In 1955, the levees failed and flooded the City of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County. Subsequently, the levee system was federally determined to be inadequate. Since 1955, the two local counties have worked with the Corps to get a new federal authorization to reconstruct the levees with greater flood capacity. The Corps is currently developing the National

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Economic Development plan, or the preferred Federal project. The project will provide 100 year flood protection to the urban areas including the disadvantaged communities of Watsonville and Pajaro, and improved flood protection for the highly productive agricultural areas. A critical step towards implementation of the Pajaro Levee Risk Reduction Project is to reach consensus on the design and environmental considerations of the project. An independent local non-profit organization called Action Pajaro Valley (APV) will be leading the stakeholder consensus and public education process. The APV project is comprised primarily of consensus building, stakeholder coordination, public education and outreach, developing community acceptable local funding mechanisms for the larger Levee Reconstruction Project, and analyzing governance alternatives for the Levee Reconstruction Project. The coordinated implementation of the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project allows the Levee Project design to proceed assuming the floodplain will continue to offer the current level of flood attenuation benefits.

Technical Feasibility

Discuss the technical feasibility of the project. If possible, cite references that contain information about the proposed project and detail the technical feasibility of the project.

Numerous Corps and Local SponsoR documents have established the technical feasibility and need for the project.

Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Regional Goals & Objectives

Put an X next to any goal that the proposed project will achieve.

Water Supply

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Meet 100% of M&I and agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in wet to dry years including the first year of a drought. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Meet 85% M&I and 75% agriculture demands (both current and future conditions) in second and subsequent years of a drought. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Identify and address water supply needs of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Implement water conservation programs to reduce M&I and agricultural water use consistent with SBx7-7 and CVPIA. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Maximize the use of recycled water during the irrigation season and expand other uses of recycled water. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Optimize the use of groundwater and aquifer storage. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Maximize conjunctive use opportunities including interagency conjunctive use. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Optimize and sustain the use of existing import surface water entitlements from the San Felipe Unit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Maximize the beneficial use of existing local water supplies while protecting existing surface water rights. |

Water Quality

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x	1. Meet or exceed all applicable groundwater, surface water, wastewater, and recycled water quality regulatory standards.
	2. Identify and address the drinking water quality of disadvantaged communities in the Pajaro River Watershed.
	3. Protect groundwater resources from contamination including salts and nutrients.
x	4. Address impacts from surface water runoff through implementation of Best Management Practices or other surface water management strategies.
	5. Meet or exceed delivered water quality targets established by recycled water users.

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Flood Protection

x	1. Implement flood management strategies throughout the watershed that provide multiple benefits.
x	2. Reach consensus on the Pajaro River Risk Reduction Project necessary to protect existing urban areas and infrastructure from flooding and erosion from the 100-year
x	3. Work with stakeholders to preserve existing flood attenuation by implementing land management and conservation strategies throughout the watershed.
0	4. Develop approaches for adaptive management to minimize maintenance requirements and protect quality and availability of water while preserving ecologic and
x	5. Provide community benefits beyond flood protection such as public access, open space, recreation, agriculture preservation and economic development.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement

x	1. Address opportunities to enhance the local environment and protect and/or restore natural resources, in cooperation with landowners, when developing water management
x	2. Improve biological and cultural resources, including riparian habitats, habitats supporting sensitive plant or animal species and archaeological/historic sites when
x	3. Address opportunities to protect, enhance, or restore habitat to support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary marine life in conjunction with water supply management
x	4. Address opportunities for open spaces, trails, parks along creeks and other recreational projects in the watershed that can be incorporated with water management

Integration and Coordination

Put an X next to any Resource Management Strategies (RMS) that the proposed project will address.

Reduce Water Demand	Agricultural Water Use Efficiency	
	Urban Water Use Efficiency	
Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers	Conveyance - Delta	
	Conveyance - Regional/local	
	System Reoperation	
	Water Transfers	
Increase Water Supply	Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage	
	Desalination	
	Precipitation Enhancement	
	Recycled Municipal Water	
	Surface Storage - CALFED	
	Surface Storage - Regional/local	
Improve Water Quality	Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution	
	Groundwater Remediation /Aquifer Remediation	
	Matching Quality to Use	

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	Pollution Prevention	
	Salt & Salinity Management	
	Urban Runoff Management	x
Improve Flood Management	Flood Risk Management	x
Practice Resources Stewardship	Agricultural Lands Stewardship	
	Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, & Water Pricing)	
	Ecosystem Restoration	x
	Forest Management	
	Recharge Area Protection	
	Water-Dependent Recreation	
	Watershed Management	x
Other Strategies	Crop Idling for Water Transfers	
	Dewvaporation or Atmospheric Pressure Desalination	
	Fog Collection	
	Irrigated Land Retirement	
	Rainfed Agriculture	
	Waterbag Transport/Storage Technology	

Please describe:

List the projects that were integrated to develop a single proposed project, if applicable.

The overall program involves integration of the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project, Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Pajaro River Levee Reconstruction Project, and the APV Community Consensus Process.

List the agencies and organization that are working together to implement the project.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Watsonville, Action Pajaro Valley, Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority

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Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Put an X next to any climate change adaptation or mitigation strategy the proposed project will contribute to.

Adaption Strategies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve water supply reliability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand conjunctive use of multiple water supply sources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase water use and/or reuse efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide additional water supply
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote water quality protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce water demand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advance / expand recycled water use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote urban runoff reuse
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Address sea level rise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Address other anticipated climate change impacts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improve flood control
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote habitat protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establish migration corridors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Re-establish river-floodplain hydrologic continuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-introduce anadromous fish populations to watershed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance and protect watershed forest and meadow systems

Please describe:

Mitigation Strategies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase water use efficiency or promote energy-efficient water demand reduction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve water system energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advance / expand recycled water use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote urban runoff reuse
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote use of renewable energy sources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribute to carbon sequestration

Please describe:

Does the proposed project reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and/or improve energy efficiency? If so, explain how.

No.

Social Benefits and Impacts

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Does the project provide specific benefits to disadvantaged communities and/or Native American tribal communities? If so, explain.

Yes, the project provides direct flood protection benefits to the disadvantaged communities of Watsonville and Pajaro.

Does the project address any known environmental justice issues?

No.

Project Cost

Total Estimated Capital Cost	\$200,000,000
Annual Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Cost	\$0
Cost Basis (Year)	
Source(s) of Funding for Capital	Army Corps of Engineers Cost Sharing, State Subventions, local Prop 218 Assessment, and prior grants
Source(s) of Funding for O&M Cost	Prop 218 Assessment
Project Life (years)	50 Years
Provide link to project cost estimate, if available	

Economic Feasibility

Has a benefit:cost or cost effectiveness analysis been completed for your project? If so, please cite reference and briefly summarize. If no economic analysis has been completed for the project, the project may receive zero points out of a possible 100 points for the financial considerations criteria unless the project is a DAC project. If the project is not a DAC project but the B:C ratio is expected to be greater than 1, please provide a justification. The lack of an economic analysis may also affect the project's readiness score.

Yes, the estimates demonstrate a B:C ratio greater than 2.

If known, please provide the Benefit:Cost Ratio.

Provide a detailed discussion of the benefits the project will provide. To the extent possible, quantify changes and benefits (e.g. water quality and water supply benefits) that will result from project implementation; otherwise, describe benefits qualitatively.

The project will provide the critically needed flood protection for the Pajaro Valley. Additionally, the project provides environmental and water quality benefits through the design of a geomorphological river system.

Project Readiness

Proposed Project Start Date:	Currently under preliminary design and CEQA/NEPA review
Anticipated Project Completion Date:	

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Please Indicate the status (pending, in process, complete) of the following.

Project Element	Status	% Complete	Estimated Completion Date
<i>Feasibility Study</i>	complete	100	
<i>Preliminary design</i>	ongoing	50	13-Jul
<i>CEQA/NEPA</i>	ongoing	50	Jul-13
<i>Permit Acquisition</i>			
<i>Construction Docs</i>			