

**PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MEASURE K**

**INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED
DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS**

The people of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District do ordain as follows:

FINDINGS

The State Department of Water Resources has determined the Pajaro Basin to be one of the most severely overdrafted basins in the state. Almost 36 percent more water is drawn from the Basin than returns to it annually. The overdraft has lowered the level of fresh water in the Basin and has caused increasing levels of seawater to flow into the Basin. If unchecked, seawater intrusion will destroy the productive capacity of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land and contaminate residential water supplies in the Pajaro Valley. Thousands of jobs and the historic character of the community are at risk.

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency ("Agency") is responsible for managing groundwater in the Pajaro Basin. The centerpiece of the Agency's long-term Basin Management Plan is construction of a pipeline to import state water. Although financing for the pipeline project is slated to come directly from current water users in the district, the Agency has not sought voter approval for either the pipeline or for contracting imported water supplies. The Agency has developed a water management plan to be funded by voters without any mechanism for voter approval.

ORDINANCE

- 1.) The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency shall phase out groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Basin by the year 2013. The Agency's primary focus toward this end shall be to create and implement groundwater conservation measures.
- 2.) The Agency shall not enter into any contract with the state or federal government for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project without approval by the voters of the Pajaro Valley Water Management District.
- 3.) The Agency shall not use money from current tax payers in the District to pay for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project, or to pay for a pipeline to import water from either of these projects, without approval by the voters of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District.
- 4.) The Agency shall conduct feasibility studies on implementing local measures with the District including: a) education and technical assistance to promote water conservation; b) tertiary treatment for irrigation water; and c) alternative local supply sources. The agency shall report to the public on the results of these studies by December, 1999.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 1.) If any portion of this initiative is declared invalid by a court, then that portion shall be removed and the remaining portions of the initiative shall remain in full force and effect.
- 2.) This initiative may only be amended by a majority of District voters.

**JOINT IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE K**

Operation of the Measure

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is established by California law for the purpose of managing water resources within Agency boundaries. Among the objectives set for the Agency by the Legislature is the management of local groundwater resources toward the avoidance and prevention of long term overdraft.

If approved by a majority of those voting on this measure, this initiative measure will become an Agency ordinance governing certain future actions by the Board of Directors of the Agency as follows:

1. It will require the Agency to phase out groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Basin by 2013, primarily through groundwater conservation measures, and it would require the Agency to conduct specified feasibility studies and release their results by December 1999.

2. Unless specifically approved by the voters in the future, it would prohibit the Agency from entering into any contract with the state or federal governments for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project and it would prohibit the Agency from using money from current tax payers for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project, or for a pipeline to import water from those projects.

3. By its terms it would require majority voter approval for amendment of its provisions.

Effect on Existing Law

An existing ordinance of the Agency -- Measure D adopted by the voters of the Agency in June 1998 -- provides in part that the Agency must postpone for at least ten years any decision to construct a pipeline to import water from the Central Water Project and instead it should give priority to less costly local solutions for alleviating groundwater overdraft conditions. It required the Agency to contract with the Central Valley Project for acquisition of water. It imposed a ten-year moratorium on new purchases of supplemental water from outside Agency boundaries and prohibited exporting water.

If this measure is approved by the voters, to the extent that portions of it could not be reconciled with the existing provisions of Measure D, the later-adopted measure would prevail.

A "yes" vote is to approve the ordinance.

A "no" vote is against approving the ordinance.

Dated: August 13, 1998

s/ DWIGHT L. HERR
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COUNSEL

s/ DOUGLAS C. HOLLAND
MONTEREY COUNTY COUNSEL

s/ STEVEN R. SANDERS
SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNSEL

**MEASURE K CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE**



**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K
SALT WATER IS THREATENING OUR JOBS**

For fifteen years, Water Agency inaction has allowed salt water to threaten our jobs. More than 95% of the water we use in the Pajaro Valley, comes from the valley's underground water supply. But we pump more than twice as much water than returns annually. As a result, saltwater from Monterey Bay is flowing into our well water at an increasing rate. Saltwater has already contaminated several coastal wells, making them unusable. Experts predict that if nothing is done to halt saltwater intrusion, **one-third of agricultural land in the basin will be rendered unusable** resulting in an **annual loss of \$332 million** in economic production. **Thousands of jobs are at risk.**

WASTING TIME, WASTING MONEY

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency was formed almost 15 years ago. It has done virtually nothing to stop the saltwater or conserve water. The Water Agency has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to study the problem, but has failed to institute even one project to increase the water supply. The problem has only worsened. Their own studies show increased saltwater levels at inland wells.

OUR TAX DOLLARS, OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

The Water Agency wants to build a \$100,000,000 pipeline. This past June, voters said wait. **Decisions on expensive projects should remain with the voters of the Valley.**

If the people of this valley come together, we can solve the crisis.

**STOP THE SALT, SAVE OUR JOBS.
VOTE YES ON MEASURE K.**

- s/ Honorable Todd McFarren
Watsonville City Council
- s/ Pastor Tom Alejo
Hope Ministries
- s/ Ines Marines
Farmworker
- s/ David H. Walworth
Environmental Council
- s/ Luis De La Cruz
De La Cruz & Associates

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K

Measure K has been written and proposed by the United Farm Workers. They contend that your Water Agency has done nothing about our water problems. It was 1989 when your Agency began to formulate a Basin Management Plan as required by law. After four years of study and cost, the Plan was finally finished and adopted in 1993. The next step was to secure the environmental approval and the water rights necessary to begin carrying out the Plan. Environmental approval is expected within the coming year. We anticipate that water rights will follow soon after, but it is impossible to predict exact dates. Voters should realize that these steps take a great deal of time and the Agency cannot always speed up the process. BUT it is ridiculous to say the Agency has done nothing. Does the UFW have a plan to stop seawater intrusion? If so, what is their plan? The Measure K they have proposed would do nothing but obstruct what our Water Agency is trying to do. It conflicts with Measure D, which voters have already passed. Our water shortage will not be solved by having elections every few months at which we nullify what we decided to do before. Measure K is a study in confusion which should be defeated. Vote NO on Measure K.

- s/ James R. Dutra
PVWMA Chair
- s/ Brad Bennett
PVWMA Vice Chair
- s/ "Gwen" Wanda W. Carroll
PVWMA Director
- s/ Howard Mauthe
PVWMA Director

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Your Water Agency has a plan to stop groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion into our well water. This plan includes a pipeline to bring in delta water for our use, three local projects, and water conservation measures. The Agency supports and encourages reasonable water conservation measures, but opposes the approach proposed in Measure K, which would have drastic economic consequences to our community. Measure K calls for bringing our basin into balance before the year 2013, primarily by means of conservation. The only type of conservation that would achieve balance would be to stop irrigation of a substantial portion of our agricultural land. This would reduce agricultural jobs and production considerably, and would be disastrous to the entire economy of our valley. Recently voters passed Measure D, which requires the Agency to sign a contract for importation of delta water, but postpones construction of a pipeline for 10 years. Measure K conflicts with Measure D in that it prohibits the Agency from entering into a contract for importation of delta water without another approval of the voters. Measure K also prohibits the Agency from paying for imported water or the construction of a pipeline, without the approval of the voters. Measure K calls for one, and possibly two, expensive elections before a contract could be signed, and a pipeline constructed. Measure K would seriously handcuff your Water Agency, without helping to solve our water problem. It should be defeated. Vote NO on Measure K.

- s/ James R. Dutra
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) Chair
- s/ Brad Bennett
PVWMA Vice-Chair
- s/ Howard Mauthe
PVWMA Director
- s/ "Gwen" Wanda W. Carroll
PVWMA Director

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Saltwater threatens thousands of agricultural jobs. The economic viability of this valley is at stake. The water agency has failed to protect our jobs or our precious resources.

Measure K is very simple. It directs the agency to end overdraft in fifteen years. It directs the agency to focus on conservation and local solutions. Finally, it requires the agency to get voter approval before building expensive pipelines.

Conservation will save twice as much water as all the local supply projects combined can produce at less than half the cost. This is according to the agency's own studies, yet there is no conservation program in place. The agency has allocated only 4% of its budget for conservation and much of this money has never been spent.

Measure K has is supported by a wide range of community organizations and individuals including city council members, local farmers, Latino organizations, and environmental groups such as the local chapter of the Sierra Club and the Environmental Council.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE K

- s/ Arturo S. Rodriguez, President
United Farm Workers of America

END OF MEASURE K

