

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pajaro Valley
Water Management Agency

PV Water General Manager Announces Retirement

Mary Bannister steps down after 17 years of service

Watsonville, CA – The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) announced General Manager Mary Bannister will retire effective December 31, 2016.

Bannister, a certified engineering geologist, started at PV Water in 1999 after working for consulting firms in Alaska and California. Having taken the reins of PV Water during a tumultuous time of controversy and lawsuits, Bannister stabilized the agency and has overseen the adoption of a Basin Management Plan Update, and fee structure to support it, in advance of the State's new laws regulating groundwater. In addition, she worked with the City of Watsonville — under a novel partnership that is considered a model in California — to develop a Recycled Water Facility that provides over 4,000 acre feet per year of irrigation supply to coastal growers. This project and the 20-plus miles of delivery pipeline and other facilities were constructed with the help of over \$50 million in state and federal grants won during Bannister's tenure.

"It has been a journey with tremendous challenges followed by incredible successes, thanks to a visionary Board of Directors and committed staff who stayed the course for the greater benefit of the Pajaro Valley," Bannister said after her last board meeting on November 16.

The PV Water Board of Directors will name an interim general manager in December.

Bannister plans to spend her retirement time with family, growing dahlias and helping at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, along with advocating for ocean security and climate change education.

She has a daughter, Lisette Parks, 24, who is an accountant with Deloitte, and a son, Joey Parks, 20, who is a commercial fisherman. Her husband, Rick Parks, is a geotechnical engineer with the County of Santa Cruz. She lives in Watsonville with three dogs, two cats and 16 chickens.



(Mary Bannister with her family)

ABOUT THE PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) is a state-chartered water management district formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft. The agency also works to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and future anticipated needs within its boundaries, generally the greater coastal Pajaro Valley. For more information, visit www.pvwater.org or www.facebook.com/Pajaro-Valley-Water-Management-Agency-239334919458182.

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