



## Application to Participate in Fallow Land Incentive Program

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (Agency or PVWMA) has approved initiating a pilot program to incentivize growers to fallow land for the entire 2017 growing season. The Agency plans to pay growers participating in the program \$1,000 per acre of fallowed land. The entire program will include up to 200 acres and pay up to \$200,000 total. This form is a solicitation of interest in participating in the program. General requirements for participation in the program are provided below and are subject to change. Acceptance to the program is subject to approval by the Agency’s Board of Directors. Incentivized land fallowing may be a more cost effective alternative to some capital projects. Applications are due to PVWMA at 36 Brennan Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 by **5:00 pm on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.**

### **Application\***

(One application per farm location)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner    Tenant (Circle one)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Property**

Address of farm: \_\_\_\_\_

County APN: \_\_\_\_\_ PVWMA Well ID #(s): \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Total acres farmed on this parcel in 2016: \_\_\_\_\_ Crops grown in 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Farm operator in 2016: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres proposed to fallow on this parcel in 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of months with no crop: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed and returned the 2015 Conservation Survey?     Yes     No

\*There are several requirements to participate in the program.

**Fallowing, defined:** Fallowing for the purposes of this project is the non-use of a portion or all of a commercial agricultural parcel for one season. Specifically, *no* irrigation water may be applied to this parcel during the term of participation in the program. The following conditions apply:

1. Acreage to be fallowed during 2017 was commercially farmed during the prior year, 2016. The duration of the crop in 2016 is not determinative, only that the entire area to be fallowed was commercially farmed.
  - a. This does not include parking areas or roads during a strawberry year which were farmed as vegetables the prior year,
2. The goal is water conservation, so irrigated cover crops on fallowed land will not qualify.

**Qualification of Parcel:** The area to be fallowed must receive irrigation water from a PVWMA registered commercial Ag well. Funding exists for up to 200 acres to be fallowed; if more than 200 acres are submitted for inclusion in the program, there will be a ranking process which will give preference to (in no particular order):

- 1) Marginal land,
- 2) Land with tile drains or poor percolation, and
- 3) Land served by a well in areas of seawater intrusion

Depending on the number of acres that are submitted for inclusion in the program, there may be a cap placed on the number of qualifying fallowed acres farmed by the same grower.

The Agency will establish a committee of growers and Ag landowners to review the applications, and if more than 200 are submitted for inclusion in the program, rank the applicants and recommend selection of each parcel to participate in the program. A contract for participation will be sent to selected growers.

**Validation:** The Agency well and acreage survey (duplicate copy available upon request), mailed to all well operators in December 2015, must be completed by each participant. Identification of the well, or wells, that serve the fallowed land is a requirement to participate in the program. It is recognized that many growers are on a rotation with other farmers. Participation during 2017 by fallowing a portion of a parcel will not reduce the irrigated acreage of the overall farm or prejudice a grower in subsequent years.

**Participation Payment:** If the parcel qualifies at the beginning of the season and the participating grower meets all the terms of the contract then the grower will receive the \$1,000 per acre payment regardless of the quantifiable outcome, so long as the parcel remains fallow throughout the season. If it is determined a crop was grown on the fallowed acreage, the participating grower is disqualified from the program and will not be paid for any portion of the fallow season.

For further information on this program please contact the PVWMA at 831-722-9292.