



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

May 8, 2008

May 20, 2008 Agenda

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management

Dear Members of the Board:

On November 20, 2007, the Board directed the Water Resources Division Director to request a report from the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) that would outline their anticipated plan of action to secure necessary financing to fully address groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Groundwater Basin. The Water Resources Division Director was also directed to evaluate the PVWMA plan and provide a recommendation on April 15, 2008, for the Board to consider whether to initiate the process to declare a groundwater emergency and take other necessary actions to address the groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Groundwater Basin. Your Board received a report on April 15 and deferred further action to May 20, 2008.

Since April 15, staff has met with the Water Advisory Commission and has consulted with other interested parties, including PVWMA, City of Watsonville, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Soquel Creek Water District, and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. General consensus has been reached on a framework for County action, but more time is needed to work out the details before making a recommendation for action to your Board.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board accept this report on the status of Pajaro Valley groundwater management and that you direct the Water Resources Division Director to provide a further report and recommendation on June 10, 2008 for the Board to consider whether to initiate the process to declare a groundwater emergency and take other necessary actions to address the groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Groundwater Basin.

Sincerely,

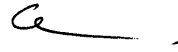
Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Agency Director

RK:JR:pb

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer



- cc: County Administrative Office
- County Counsel
- Planning Director
- HSA Administration
- Water Resources Division/EH
- Water Advisory Commission
- PVWMA
- City of Watsonville
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency

CBD BOSMAIL

From: CBD BOSMAIL
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 10:55 AM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 5/20/2008**Item Number :** 31**Name :** Douglas Deitch**Email :** ddeitch@pogonip.org**Address :** 3540 Porter Gulch Road
Aptos, 95003**Phone :** 831-476-7662**Comments :**

DEAR SUPERVISORS,

Please include SqCWD in your groundwater emergency deliberations, as well. The below linked 1996 Aptos Times article includes a very good explanation of Soquel Creek's problem and it's cause explained back in 1996 by still current SqCWD ED, Mrs. Laura Brown, spouse of 30 year Farm Bureau head Jess Brown, in case you didn't know.

Mrs. Brown said then, "We are currently in the process of putting a plan together."

Since that date, we have lost/had expropriated in berry product from our groundwaters the equivalent of 90 desal plants operating full time costing, in total, \$4.5 billion, before O&M...and 60 plants' worth of our water will be gone before 2016, when our first desal plant MAY come online. This is a complete theatre of the absurd type farce.

Perhaps the educationally and experientially unqualified leadership of SqCWD and it's ED (please compare to other local regional agencies like SCMU or PVWMA) is the cause of their lack of any progress, and this agency's misrepresentations to the public and it's customers of what actually going on in our groundwaters, and the problem's cause.

Please immediately begin the process to declare a groundwater emergency.

Gary Patton on KUSP, May 8, 2008

http://207.111.238.178/water_woes.htm

http://pogonip.org/WaterDocs/AptosTimes_96.pdf

Please consider these immediate measures to be taken, below outlined in a recent press release...please join me in these.

Douglas Deitch-Candidate for 2nd District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County, California

Deitch Calls For Driscoll's Boycott and UC Assistance to Address Regional Groundwater Emergency

The Pajaro Valley in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties reportedly produces 25% of this country's berries worth around \$500 million, using approximately 90% of local groundwater pumped annually. The entire Monterey Bay Area uses only local water sources which are virtually entirely provided through local groundwater supplies and well production. No water is imported from any outside sources or areas. All

5/19/2008

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the massive groundwater resource that we annually lose is from our own groundwater supplies which we must solely rely on, as contrasted with the rest of California, which utilizes Delta, Sierras, or Colorado River water.

Documented officially for at least the last ten years, annual groundwater extraction from the Pajaro Valley has been at 200% (i.e. 3 times) the annual sustainable yield (yield=24k/a/f/yr, pumpage=69k/a/f/yr), causing a yearly groundwater resource loss of 15,000 acre feet per year of resource loss to salt water intrusion caused by this groundwater overdrafting and mining. The late Marc Reisner, author of Cadillac Desert, The American West and It's Disappearing Water, at a forum in 1998 in Watsonville, characterized Pajaro's water problem and resource loss as the most severe and abusive in the world.

For example, the neighboring city of Santa Cruz is in the process of attempting to construct a desalination plant for around the last 5 years at a cost of approximately \$50 million, before operations and maintenance. Our community would have to construct 7.5 of these desal plants a year at a cost of \$375 million (before operations and maintenance) to keep up the amount of our groundwater resources which are effectively exported and expropriated annually from our groundwater supplies in berry product.

The vast majority of berry product from our region is distributed by family owned, though multinational Driscoll's Berries (Driscolls.com), whose President and CEO is our Aptos neighbor, Miles Reiter. Additionally, the University of California, through it's Pomology Department at UC Davis, maintains a research facility in Watsonville. UC President Dynes, in his visit here in Spring of 2007, announced that UC's fifth biggest revenue generator was the \$5 million annual royalty payment received on it's "intellectual property" of strawberry strains developed for the berry industry. Therefore, \$1.25 million of this royalty payment is directly attributable to overproduction in Pajaro and our groundwater disaster here. In other words, UC aid, abets, and hugely profits by this.

Consequently, to establish sustainable use of our vitally important local groundwater resources, I am requesting by this Press Release that Driscolls immediately commit to refuse to grow, distribute, or aid in the production of any more berry product annually in the Pajaro Valley than can be sustainably produced there without harm or any saltwater intrusion resource loss to our local and vital groundwaters. This is the only way our losses can be expeditiously halted and the concept of "equitable and sustainable use" of our water supply can be established.

Should Driscolls not do this, I propose that a boycott of Driscolls berry products be commenced until such time as Driscolls agrees to a model of sustainable berry production and water use in our region.

Additionally, I request that UC Regent's Chairman Richard Blum and the Regents, President Dynes, and UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal request that UC

legal counsel review it's intellectual property royalty agreements with the berry industry to determine if these agreements might be utilized to control use of UC developed strawberry strains in the Pajaro Valley to limit production there to a sustainable level of production and water use, as well.

Finally, I ask the entire Board of Supervisors in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, to join me in this request and action.

Respectfully,
Douglas Deitch
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begentlewiththeearth.com
pogonip.org
831-476-7662