

WATER RESOURCES AGENCY FACT SHEET



About MCWRA

The Agency is recognized throughout the region as a leader in water resource management. Through demonstrated knowledge, integrity, collaboration, and quality actions, they manage water resources sustainably while minimizing impacts from flooding for present and future generations.

Water Sustainability & Reservoir Management

The Agency supported various water sustainability studies, including modified reservoir releases, aquifer storage, water quality sampling, and deep aquifers. It also balanced flood control with reservoir storage, achieving the highest combined storage volume since 2011 and maintaining sustained flow conditions for Steelhead Trout migration.

Grant Funding and Project Support



Secured 8 grants totaling **\$19.5M** for various projects, including reservoir operations tools, flood studies, Salinas River Lagoon management, urban waterway protection, recycled water system well replacement, and dam safety improvements.

Groundwater and Aquifer Monitoring



MCWRA conducted comprehensive groundwater studies, drilled new monitoring wells, and decommissioned old ones to aid seawater intrusion monitoring. It also facilitated a full year of reservoir releases to the Salinas River for aquifer recharge, which helped reduce coastal groundwater pumping.



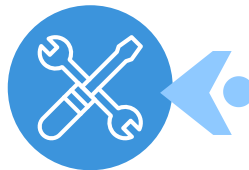
Flood Management & Storm Response

The Pajaro River Levee's operations were transferred to the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency for comprehensive solutions. The MCWRA enhanced weather and streamflow monitoring, issued flood warnings, hosted training, and managed **15,000 acre-feet** of floodwaters through pump stations. Significant storm damage repairs were carried out, and over **60,000 sandbags** were distributed to residents.



Environmental Protection & Collaboration

The Agency obtained a federal incidental take permit to support the Salinas River Lagoon & Sandbar Management Program. It also enhanced environmental protection by installing new fencing, gates, signage, and cameras on agency lands, and partnered with sister agencies to develop a long-term strategy for the Salinas River watershed.



Infrastructure Improvements & Maintenance

Repairs to the San Antonio Dam spillway were initiated, with state funding secured and a Senior Water Resources Engineer hired to manage the project. Additionally, Nacimiento Dam outlet works repairs were undertaken, and the small unit at the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant was overhauled.

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