

February, 2015

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water)
Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Directors:

The approval of the Cost of Service Report during the January board of directors meeting was a profound moment in a quest to secure the future of the Pajaro Valley. Starting in October 2010 at our monthly board meeting, a vision took shape that was staggering to those of us who looked at what needed to be done. We were very much aware of the resistance and ugliness that often framed any discussion of water management and the path ahead was formidable. For me, this was personal. I had rebuffed early attempts by the agency to promote any plan that I had assumed would jeopardize the vibrant agriculture community that was so vital to this valley, basing most of my concerns on rising costs of water. As I heard opinion after opinion from fellow farmers regarding the agency, I decided to jump into the fray to find out for myself what was and was not true.

I was appointed to the agency board in the middle of some of the ugliest moments in the history of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water). Dave Kegebein, Dennis Osmer and Mike Dobler had just rescued the agency from a devastating lawsuit, and agency critics seized the moment to fire salvo after salvo at the damaged agency hoping to see it fail once and for all. Fortunately the PV Water staff and those directors with a big picture vision kept moving forward. I left my complaints behind and focused on solutions that supported the agency act's purpose.

The 2010 vision coalesced when the Community Dialog Group provided a forum to share and develop ideas. The melding of the agency's vision with the outreach of the Community Dialog Group was a gift from heaven. Through that early connection, a plan developed that acknowledge a need to include individuals who represented distinct areas of interest in the community. More importantly, the willingness of committee members, staff, and consultants to talk openly about their concerns and ideas created an atmosphere that encouraged a recommendation to the board that was broadly supported.

With last month's approval, that vision in 2010 became a reality and has moved from the creation and design phase to the community wide approval stage. It was a significant moment without fanfare, however, Mary and I got it. It was BIG! There are so many to thank in our community for the solution we have proffered including our detractors who, unintentionally, helped us establish a legal framework that passed scrutiny by the state's highest court.

Congratulations to General Manger Mary Bannister and her staff, especially Brian Lockwood, and the indefatigable effort they both have committed to this valley. I appreciate it and repeat, last month was extraordinarily BIG!

Dave Cavanaugh, Board Member
PV Water