

# Full Text of Measure K (1998 November)

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Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District Initiative  
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Measure K  
Initiative Measure To Be Submitted Directly To The Voters

The people of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District do ordain as follows:

## FINDINGS

The State Department of Water Resources has determined the Pajaro Basin to be one of the most severely overdrafted basins in the state. Almost 36 percent more water is drawn from the Basin than returns to it annually. The overdraft has lowered the level of fresh water in the Basin and has caused increasing levels of seawater to flow into the Basin. If unchecked, seawater intrusion will destroy the productive capacity of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land and contaminate residential water supplies in the Pajaro Valley. Thousands of jobs and the historic character of the community are at risk.

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency ("Agency") is responsible for managing groundwater in the Pajaro Basin. The centerpiece of the Agency's long-term Basin Management Plan is construction of a pipeline to import state water. Although financing for the pipeline project is slated to come directly from current water users in the district, the Agency has not sought voter approval for either the pipeline or for contracting imported water supplies. The Agency has developed a water management plan to be funded by voters without any mechanism for voter approval.

## ORDINANCE

1. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency shall phase out groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Basin by the year 2013. The Agency's primary focus toward this end shall be to create and implement groundwater conservation measures.
2. The Agency shall not enter into any contract with the state or federal government for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project without approval by the voters of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District.
3. The Agency shall not use money from current tax payers in the District to pay for water from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project, or to pay for a pipeline to import water from either of these projects, without approval by the voters of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency District.
4. The Agency shall conduct feasibility studies on implementing local measures within the District including: a) education and technical assistance to promote water conservation; b) tertiary treatment for irrigation water; and c) alternative local supply sources. The Agency shall report to the public on the results of these studies by December, 1999.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. If any portion of this initiative is declared invalid by a court, then that portion shall be removed and the remaining portions of the initiative shall remain in full force and effect.
2. This initiative may only be amended by a majority of District voters.

