



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 6, 2017

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### CRITICAL PAJARO FLOOD PROTECTION MEETING

The Zone 7 Flood Control and Water Conservation District is urging members of the public living and working in the Pajaro Valley to attend a critical upcoming public meeting on a proposal to improve levee protection along the Pajaro River and its tributaries.

Public involvement in this process, including input and support, will be critical in getting the project built and improving flood protection for residents and farmers. With the recent release of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft General Reevaluation Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment, the District and its partners are confident there is an opportunity for progress on the long-delayed project.

"The release of this report represents a much-anticipated and positive step toward real progress along the Pajaro River," Zone 7 Chair Zach Friend said. "As the storms of last winter taught us, further delays represent an ongoing threat to some of our most vulnerable communities. I urge all members of the public to attend this meeting and make their voices heard."

The goal of the Pajaro River Levee Project is to increase flood protection by rebuilding existing levees, or adding new setback levees or floodwalls in such a way that much larger flood flows can be contained within the Pajaro River channel. In addition to added flood protections, potential benefits include decreased maintenance requirements, improved habitat for endangered species, increased groundwater recharge to improve our local water supplies, and



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additional recreational opportunities. The project could also benefit homeowners who pay a premium for flood insurance based on the existing risk.

Members of the public can also comment by going to the following websites, downloading the report, and submitting comments to Mr. Chris Eng at [CESPN-ET-PB@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESPN-ET-PB@usace.army.mil) or via mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Attn: Mr. Chris Eng, Environmental Manager, 1455 Market St., Suite 1737B, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398.

- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District](#)
- [Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works](#)
- [Zone 7 Flood Control and Water Conservation District](#)
- [Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority](#)

Hard copies are available at:

- Watsonville Public Library, 275 Main St., Suite 100, Watsonville
- Porter Mansion, 29 Bishop St., Pajaro
- Pajaro Middle School, 250 Salinas Road, Pajaro
- Casa De La Cultura, 225 Salinas Road, Pajaro

**WHAT:** Pajaro River Levee Project Community Meeting

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Watsonville Civic Center Community Room, 275 Main St., 4th floor