

**SECTION 5.0  
PACHECO PASS WATER DISTRICT  
WATER SERVICE**

**5.1 Overview**

The Pacheco Pass Water District (PPWD), established in 1931, is located adjacent to Highway 156 with lands in both San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. The District's primary purpose is to capture, store and release local surface water in order to recharge groundwater in the area. Approximately 80 percent of the District is located in San Benito County, and San Benito LAFCO is the principal LAFCO for determining the sphere of influence for the District.

The District's boundaries encompass area within San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. PPWD's profile for water service is shown in *Table 5.1*, and a map of the District's current boundary and SOI are shown in *Figure 5.1*.

**Table 5.1  
Pacheco Pass Water District**

<b>Service Area / Financial Summary</b>	
District Office:	PO Box 1382 Hollister, CA 95024 (831) 637-0566 / (831) 637-8646 fax
District Area:	San Benito County: 639.6 square miles Santa Clara County: unknown
Population:	NA
Operating Budget (FY 2007-2008):	Revenues / Expenditures: \$35,000 / \$45,000
Net Assets 06/30/2006:	\$674,115 (from 06/30/2006 Financial Statement)
<b>Water Service Data</b>	
Services	Water storage and release for groundwater recharge
Number of Service Connections	None
Wells/ Water Main / Pumps	None
Capacity and Treatment	None
Storage Capacity	6,500 af







## **5.2 Growth and Population Projections**

The Pacheco Pass Water District includes 409,321 acres within northern San Benito County and lands within southern rural Santa Clara County (the acreage is not known at this time). Land use in the area is almost entirely ranchland. The District's function is to provide surface water supply for natural groundwater recharge through reservoir storage and release.

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) has adopted population projections through 2030 for San Benito County. Projected growth within the unincorporated area of the County is negligible, increasing from an estimated 18,099 residents in 2005 to 19,773 in 2030.<sup>1</sup>

The District is located within an area that is subject to development pressure from Santa Clara County. Although the District does not provide wholesale or retail water service, there is a critical need to maximize groundwater recharge to avoid basin overdraft and minimize demand for imported water.

## **5.3 Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies**

The District's reservoirs are designed to collect and store local surface water from Pacheco Creek along with naturally occurring runoff. The District has two appropriative water rights: 2,226.5 acre-feet per year (af/yr) for Arroyo de las Viboras, and 7,250 af/yr for the North Fork of Pacheco Creek.

PPWD's infrastructure consists of two dams and their adjacent reservoirs. The State Department of Water Resources inspects the dams two to three times per year. The Los Viboras Dam is in good condition and has the capacity to store 500 acre-feet of water. The North Fork Dam was built in 1936 and has a capacity to store 6,000 acre-feet of water. Major repairs were completed in mid-2004 related to valve replacement and improvements were also completed on the spillway.

The District does not have a Master Plan or Capital Improvement Plan. The State has informed the District that the North Fork Dam will need an estimated \$320,000 in repairs within the next three years. The District did not provide specifics on what the repairs would entail. Required repairs have not yet been fully completed.

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<sup>1</sup> Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Projections adopted by the AMBAG Board of Directors April 14, 2004.



## 5.4 Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The Pacheco Pass Water District's primary source of revenue is property tax with a small increment of interest.

Since the District was formed prior to the passage of Proposition 13, it receives a share of the base property tax revenues assessed on the properties within its boundaries by San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. This revenue source is the District's only source of income except interest.

The District noted that due to the State's fiscal constraints, mandatory dam fees have increased significantly. The District used to pay an annual fee of \$2,300 to the State; that fee is now \$12,000. They are exploring grants and other financial opportunities, particularly in light of the estimated \$400,000 in dam repairs that will be needed within the next five years.

The District maintains reserves for both operations and capital improvements. Operating reserves are approximately \$35,500 and capital reserves are \$115,717. The District does not have any long-term debt.

Table 5.2 summarizes the financial history of the District.

**Table 5.2**  
**Pacheco Pass Water District**  
**Financial Summary**

	FY 2004-2005 Actual	FY 2005-2006 Actual	FY 2006-2007 Projected	FY 2007-2008 Budgeted
Operating Revenues	0	\$29,625	\$42,701	\$35,000
Operating Expenses	\$29,625	\$24,854	\$35,496	\$45,000
Depreciation Expense	0			
Net Non-operating Revenues / (Expenses)	\$24,854			
Capital contributions	0			
Change in Net Assets	(\$4,771)			
Beginning Balance				
Net Assets, End of Year				

The District is planning for capital improvements as described in *Section 5.3* above. However, the District has limited financial resources, and the costs for the planned capital improvements are significant relative to the size of the district and its ability to generate additional revenue.



## 5.5 Cost Avoidance Opportunities

No cost avoidance opportunities were noted.

## 5.6 Opportunities for Rate and Fee Restructuring

The Pacheco Pass Water District does not purchase any water or charge any user fees. The absence of this revenue source limits the District's ability to carryout needed capital improvement projects.

## 5.7 Opportunities for Shared Facilities

The Pacheco Pass Water District shares facilities with other agencies as appropriate. The District is participating as a stakeholder in the Santa Clara Valley Water District's San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project.

## 5.8 Evaluation of Management Efficiencies

PPWD has minimal staff and operates under the oversight of the elected Board of Directors.

## 5.9 Government Structure Options

The majority of the Pacheco Pass Water District is located in San Benito County. There may be efficiencies and benefits from the District reorganizing with the San Benito County Water District, including increased groundwater recharge activities.

## 5.10 Local Accountability and Governance

The Pacheco Pass Water District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected at large by voters within the District. According to District records, there have been no contested elections. The governance is summarized in *Table 5.3*.



Table 5.3  
Pacheco Pass Water District

<b>Date Formed:</b>	1931		
<b>Statutory Authorization:</b>	California Water District Law (Government Code §34000)		
<b>Board Meetings:</b>	varies		
Member	Title	Term Expires	Compensation
Sam E. Lomanto	Director	November 2008	None
Cort Blackburn	Director	November 2008	
Michael O'Connell	Director	November 2008	
Allison Rohnert	Director	November 2010	
Vacant	Director	November 2010	

The District does not have a regularly scheduled meeting time. The Board meets as needed and meeting agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance at the San Benito County courthouse.

However, California Water Code Section 34802 requires that the Board adopt a resolution establishing a regular meeting time and location. The Board should ensure that the District is in compliance with this requirement and holds regular meetings.

## 5.11 Determinations

### 5.11.1 Growth and Population

*Purpose: To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.*

The Pacheco Pass Water District is located within northern San Benito County and southern rural Santa Clara County, in an area that is subject to development pressure from Santa Clara County. Although the District does not provide wholesale or retail water service, there is a critical need to maximize groundwater recharge to avoid basin overdraft and minimize demand for imported water.

### 5.11.2 Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

*Purpose: To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.*

PPWD's infrastructure consists of two dams and their adjacent reservoirs. The State Department of Water Resources has informed the District that the North Fork Dam will need an estimated \$320,000 in repairs within the next three years.



### 5.11.3 Financing Constraints and Opportunities

*Purpose: To evaluate a jurisdiction's capacity to finance needed improvements and services.*

PPWD's sources of revenue are property taxes and interest income; the District does not charge for its services. The District has limited financial resources to use for capital improvements.

### 5.11.4 Cost Avoidance Opportunities

*Purpose: To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.*

No cost avoidance opportunities were noted.

### 5.11.5 Opportunities for Rate and Fee Restructuring

*Purpose: To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.*

The Pacheco Pass Water District does not purchase any water or charge any user fees. The absence of this revenue source limits the District's ability to carryout needed capital improvement projects.

### 5.11.6 Opportunities for Shared Facilities

*Purpose: To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.*

The Pacheco Pass Water District shares facilities with other agencies as appropriate.

### 5.11.7 Evaluation of Management Efficiencies

*Purpose: To evaluate the internal organizational structure of the jurisdiction.*

PPWD has minimal staff and operates under the oversight of the elected Board of Directors.

### 5.11.8 Government Structure Options

*Purpose: To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.*

There may be efficiencies and benefits from the District reorganizing with the San Benito County Water District, including increased groundwater recharge activities.

### **5.11.9 Local Accountability and Governance**

*Purpose: To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management process.*

PPWD provides public notice and holds meetings that are open and accessible to the public. The District should establish a regular meeting time and location in accordance with California Water Code Section 34802.