



February 12, 2024 BAFPAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Contra Costa: Claudia Gemberling, Mark Boucher, Sara Duckler, TIm Jensen

Marin: Judd Goodman

Napa: Drew Engstrom

One Shoreline: Colin Martorana, Jonathan Perisho

Pajaro: Mark Strudley, Rusty Barker

Sonoma Water: Carlos Diaz

Santa Cruz - Antonella Gentile

Valley Water: Katie Muller

Vallejo: Natalie Muradian

BAFPAA Staff: Jennifer Krebs

1. Admin Updates - Carlos Diaz
 - a. MOU - still waiting on Alameda County
 - b. RFP - Valley Water will contract for 1 year with Jennifer & then do an RFP next year
 - c. Leadership Open Positions: looking for 2 vice chairs
 - d. Spring Conference: 4/30. Conference planning: Sara Duckler & Mark Boucher happy to work on the conference along with Katie and Parastou. 2/20 at 2:30 conf planning meeting. Walking creeks to get LIDAR data - perhaps at the conference.
 - e. Water Board Meeting on 2/8. Presentation by SFJPA. New staff working on Sediment solutions/climate change.
 - f. Judd attending Sediment Solutions tomorrow at BCDC.
2. Pajaro River Flooding 2023 storms and aftermath: Mark Strudley and Rusty Barker
 - a. Repairs ongoing, Levee project. Two large storms: January and March. 3 sites needed repair. 2 sites have subsequently been repaired. One site is still in process. (**PRESENTATION FOLLOWS MINUTES**)
 - b. Army Corps to construct new levees.
 - c. Lessons Learned: Pajaro is a new agency - Still developing the EOC paradigm that best serves the community. State resources were invaluable
3. Rainfall Mapping Committee: Mark Boucher is going to convene a committee later in the year. Perhaps it will be discussed at the conference. Solano will be updating their model, too.
4. Committees:
 - a. Environmental Permitting Committee - Claudia - Met on January 24th. Drew Engstrom spoke on the Napa Large Woody Debris Program. Lots of topics pending for the next meeting on 3/20. Mark and Rusty recommend [ETL 1110-2-583 GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPE PLANTING AND VEGETATION](#)

MANAGEMENT AT LEVEES, FLOODWALLS, EMBANKMENT DAMS, AND APPURTENANT STRUCTURES

- b. CHARG - Roger edited a paper on Modeling SF Bay. Will present at BAFPAA soon.
- c. SFEP IC meeting soon.
- d. The SFBRA Advisory Committee (AC) met on Feb 2, and here's a summary of BAFPAA-pertinent items, from Paul Detjens.
 - The SFBRA grant to the **Lower Walnut Creek Restoration** Project received a \$3m budget augmentation to accommodate increased costs of the John Muir Land Trust's public access amenities for the Pacheco Marsh portion of the project. This augmentation was approved by the SFBRA governing board in their December meeting.
 - The AC had a robust discussion of the proposed **equity guidelines** back in in the November meeting, and this meeting endorsed an updated version to next go to the full SFBRA Board. The guidelines recommend additional outreach and mentoring with the goal of receiving more competitive grant applications from groups that traditionally are underrepresented.
 - The AC heard a presentation on **Tribal Engagement** and endorsed the recommendations.
 - The AC reviewed SFBRA **Oversight Committee** recommendations. Some spirited discussion as to what degree successful projects already are (or should be) considered in a more regional sense, instead as stand-alone efforts. AC attendees pointed out close coordination with the SF Bay Joint Venture, the Bayland Habitat Goals strategy, as well as a number of other ongoing subregional strategy efforts.
 - For future meetings, the AC requested presentations on the **Petaluma** Baylands Strategy and the **Novato** Baylands Strategy (when its ready).
 - EPA's **Luisa Valiela** gave an update on the new levels of federal funding for the bay area and the new office opened to administer this expanded program. I understand this is the same announcement she provided at the last BAFPAA meeting.
 - Discussion of the **State of the Estuary Conference** (March 11-13, 2024). It appears that all the cool peeps (like you, fellow BAFPAA members) will be there!
 - The AC heard a presentation from the Watershed Project's Naama Raz-Yaseef on the extensive community engagement efforts on the **North Richmond Living Levee Project**. This effort had 20 paid community members that went through a learning academy with a focus on community decision making. The group then formed three workgroups:
 1. Envisioning Design Approaches,
 2. Sustainability and Growth – thinking beyond the project, and
 3. Developing a Community Survey.

This is way beyond what is traditionally seen as 'typical' for a flood risk reduction project, but this type of genuine outreach and deep engagement is being embraced more and more by funders / grantors.

- Finally, back in November / December, volunteers from AC (including yours truly) reviewed and scored 15 projects that were submitted in this grant round, including a number with shoreline flood protection benefits.

- e. AQPI - Antonella looking for collective wisdom on distrometers.
5. Future meeting topics
 - a. Sandbag alternatives - USFlood, March
 - b. Sandbag alternatives - TrapBag, April
 - c. CHARG papers, May - Roger
 - d. LIDAR with Iphone - Judd?
 6. Treasurer's Report. Mark and Katie working on details of transfer from CCC to VW.
 7. Next Meeting - March 11, 1:30



Pajaro River Flood Risk Mgmt. Project and Flood System Recovery

Mark Strudley, Executive Director

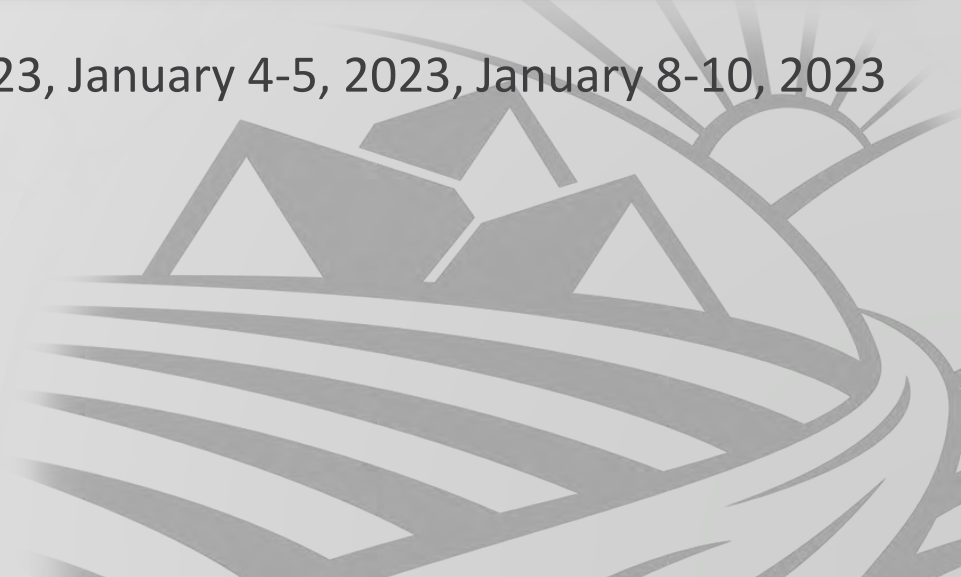
February 12, 2024

www.prfma.org



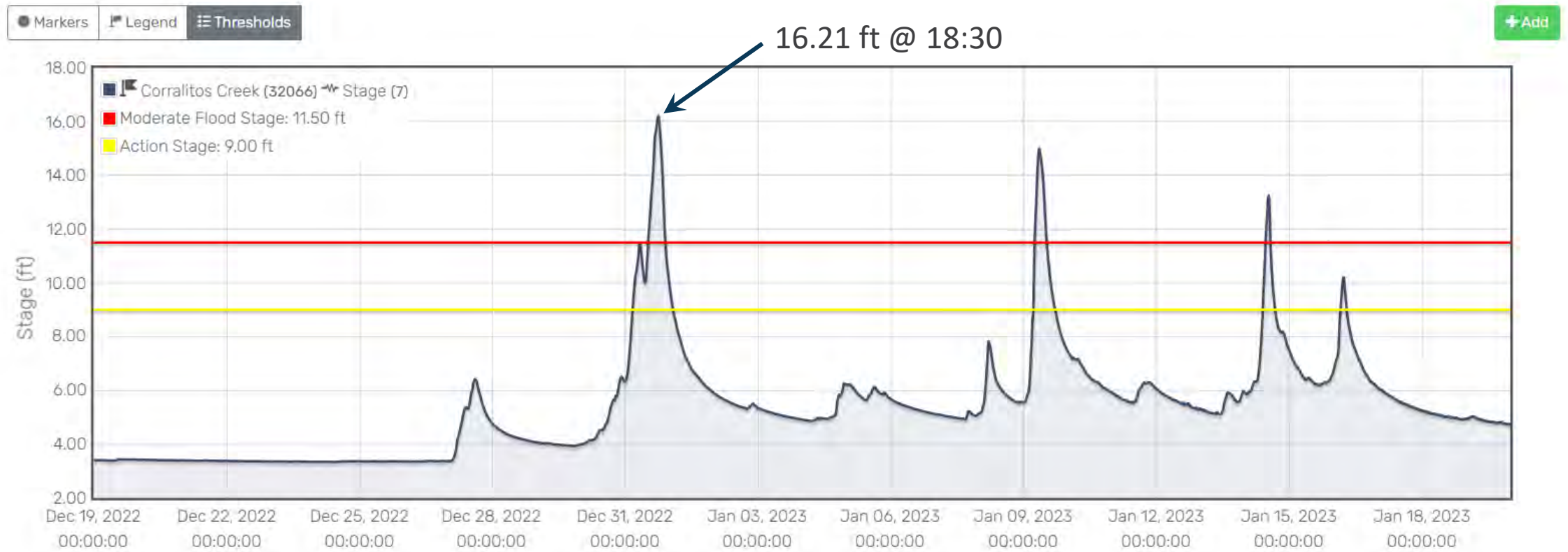
January 2023 Storms

December 31, 2022 – January 1, 2023, January 4-5, 2023, January 8-10, 2023





Corralitos Creek at Freedom (Green Valley Rd) Gage





ULEFONE
SHOT ON POWER ARMOR 18T





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SHOT ON POWER ARMOR 18T



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SHOT ON POWER ARMOR 18T

Monitor Stage: 25.0 Feet

Flood Stage: 32.0 Feet

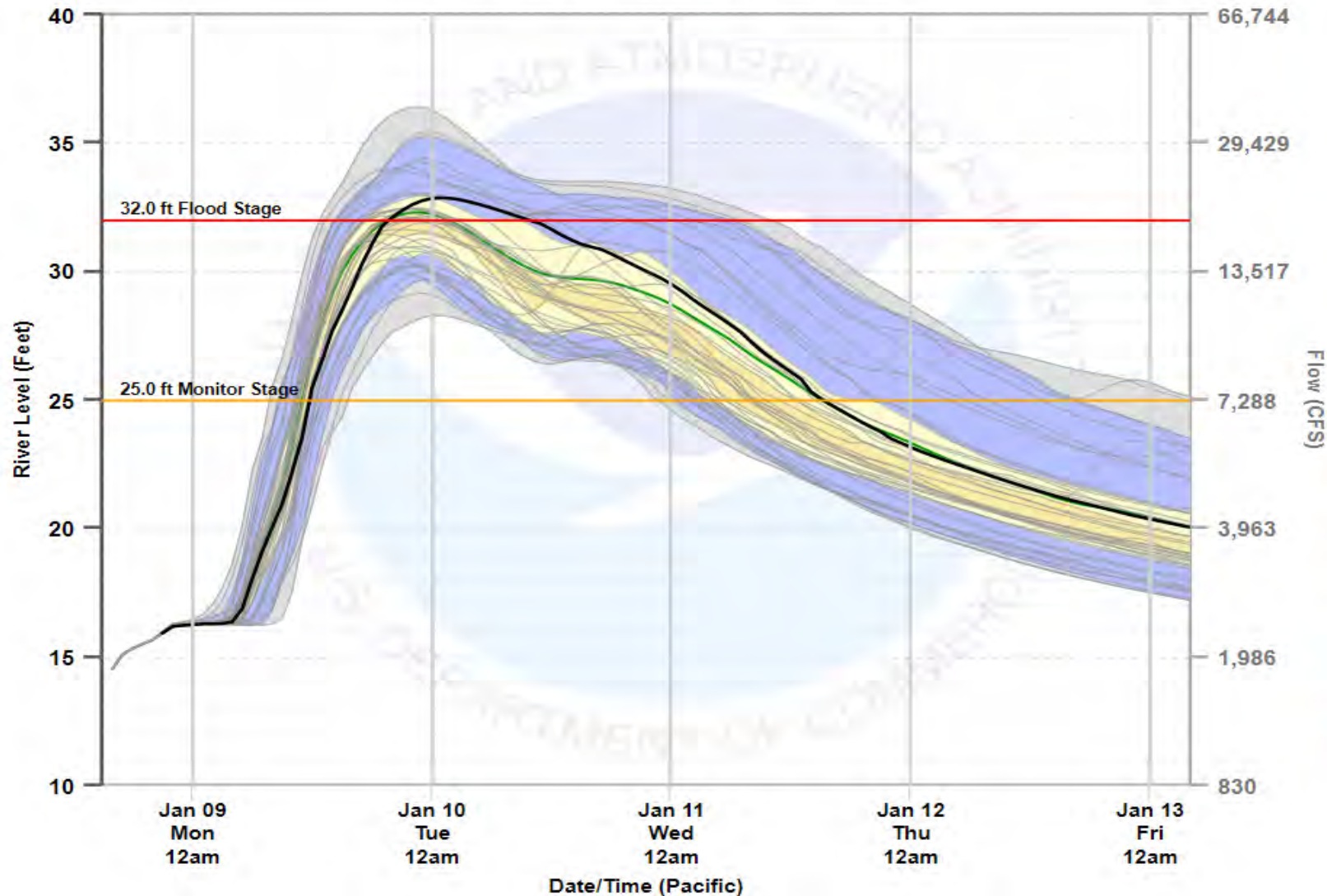


PRODUCT NOTE: Ensemble forecasts produced by CNRFC only consider meteorological uncertainty and do not account for hydrologic uncertainty.

Short-Range Peak Exceedance Plot Product Information Plot Type: Ensemble Forecast CSV Ensemble File Download (Data in feet): AROC1

Hourly River Level Probabilities PAJARO RIVER - CHITTENDEN (AROC1)

Created: 01/08/2023 at 9:17 PM PST



Chance of River Level Exceedance (Feet)
Forecast Period: 01/08/2023 4 pm - 01/13/2023 4 am

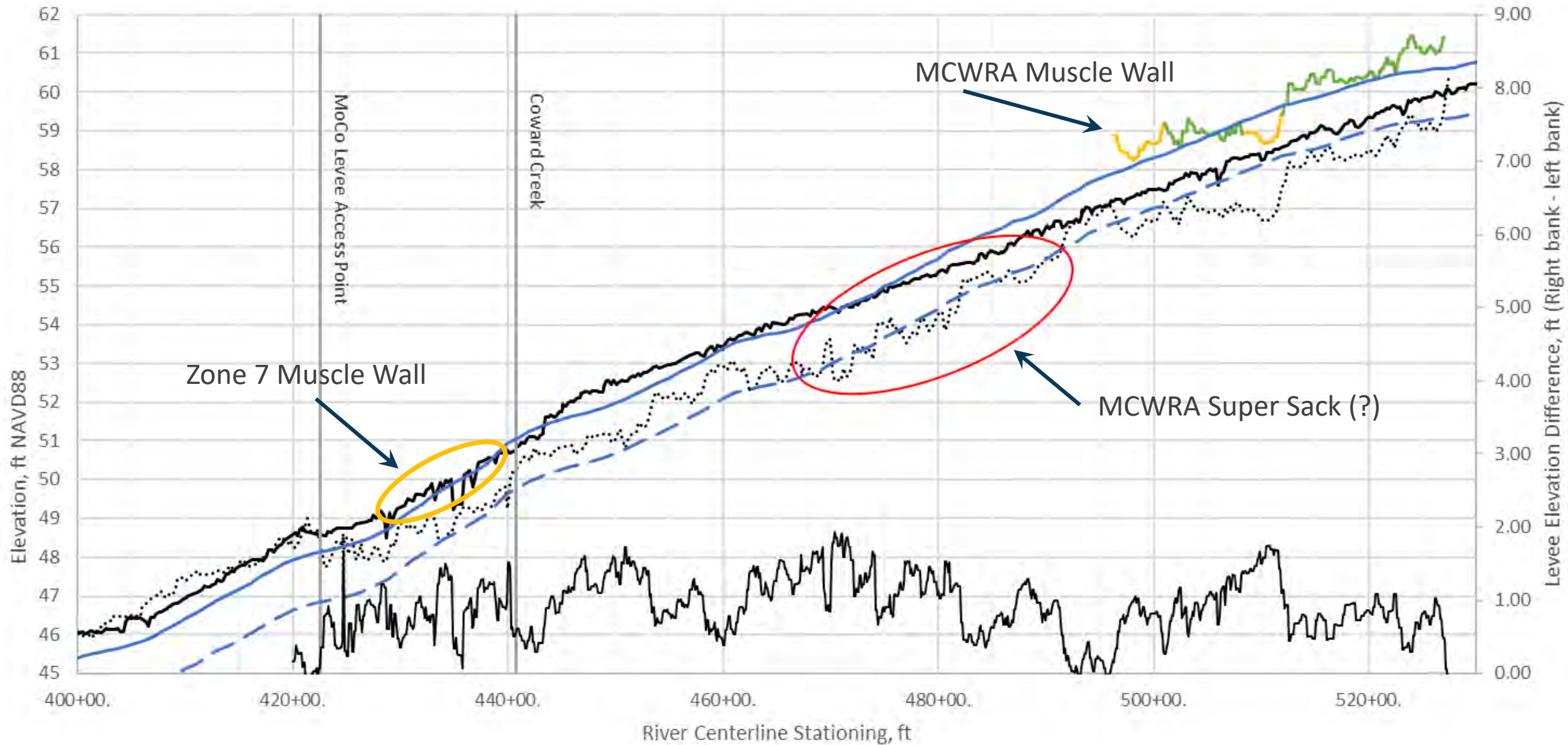
Max	36.38
5%	35.37
10%	34.33
25%	32.95
50%	32.02
75%	30.87
90%	29.93
95%	29.22
Min	28.27

Flood Stage 32.0 ft 52%
25.0 ft 97.5%

Custom Thresholds

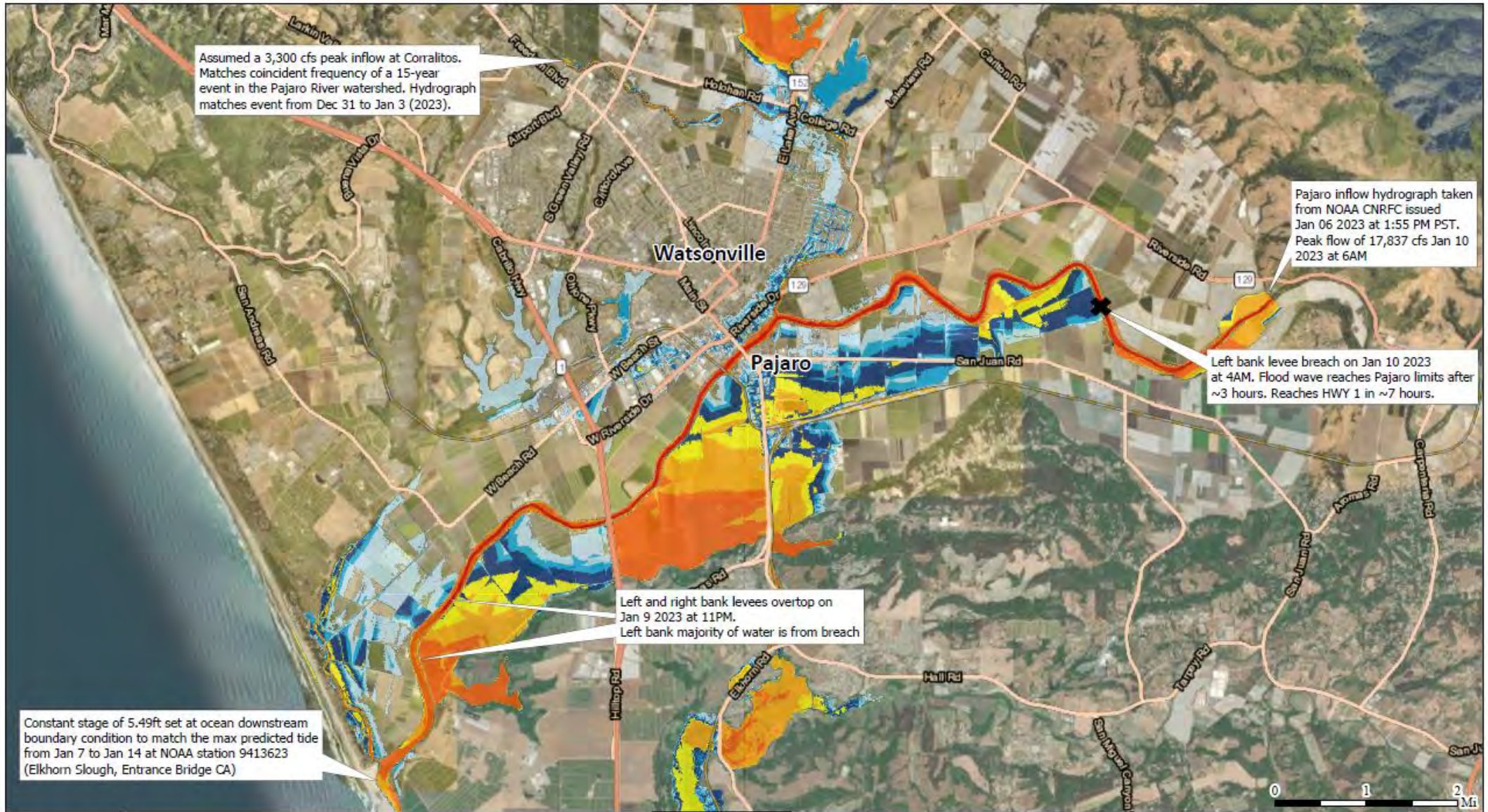
Show:

- Official Forecast (Deterministic)
- Ensemble Mean
- Model Traces
- Hourly Probabilities
 - 0-5% chance
 - 5-25% chance
 - 25-40% chance
 - 40-60% chance

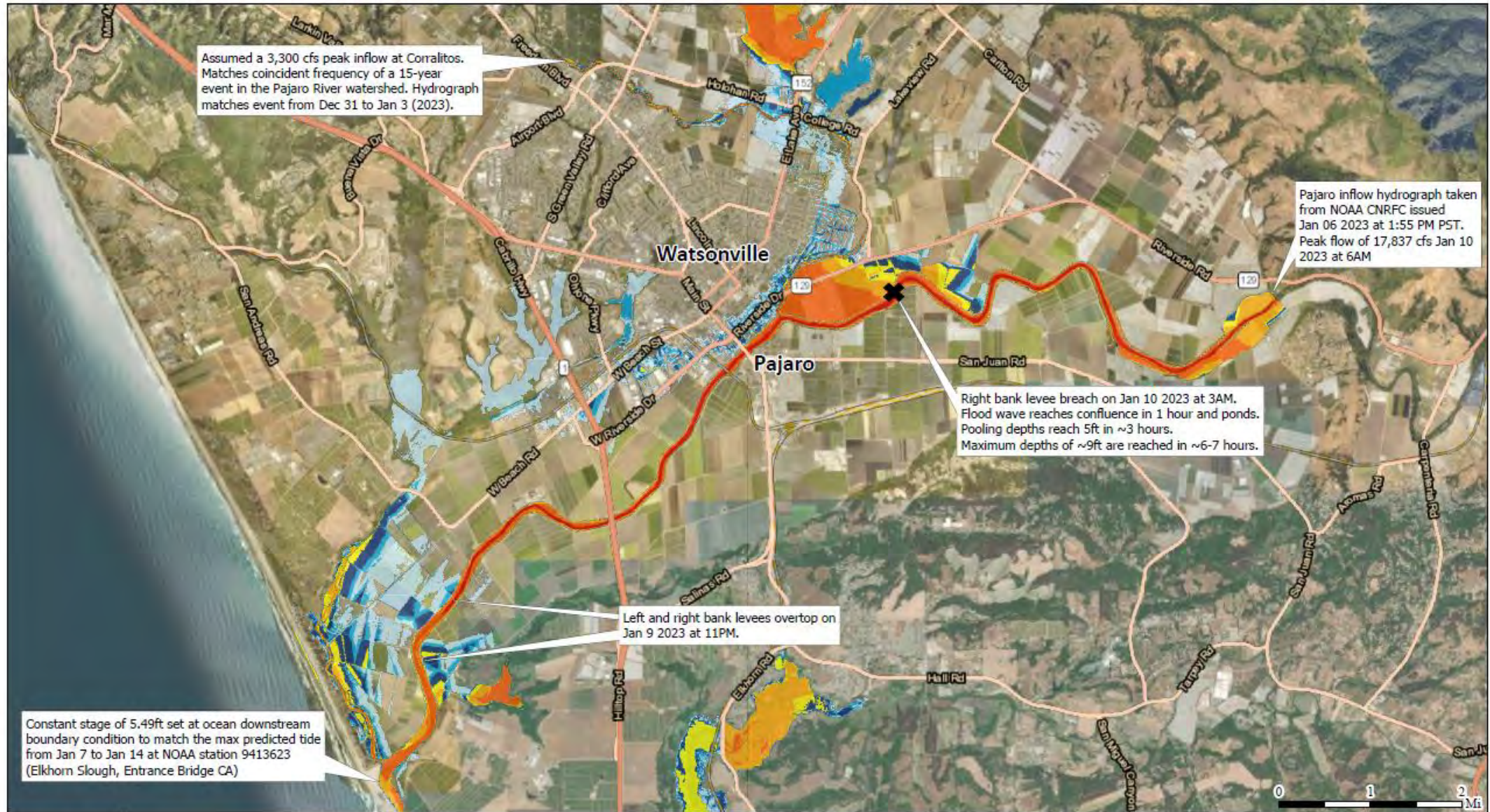


..... Pajaro River Left Bank Levee - Monterey County
 — Reference Points
 — Proposed MCWRA Muscle Wall

— Pajaro River Right Bank Levee - Zone 7
 — Muscle Wall 1/4/2023
 — Modeled WSE



	Max Depth (ft) 0 - 0.5 1 - 2 3 - 5 > 15 0.5 - 1 2 - 3 5 - 15				<p>2270 Douglas Blvd, Suite 118 Roseville, CA 95661 (209) 304-1739</p>	County of Santa Cruz - Zone 7		Figure 1 Date: January 2023
	January 10th 2023 Projected Flooding Estimate - Pajaro River Assumed Breach Left Bank							



	Max Depth (ft) 0 - 0.5 1 - 2 3 - 5 > 15				<p>R&F ENGINEERING 2270 Douglas Blvd, Suite 118 Roseville, CA 95661 (209) 304-1739</p>	County of Santa Cruz - Zone 7 January 10th 2023 Projected Flooding Estimate - Pajaro River Assumed Breach Right Bank	Figure 1
	 0.5 - 1 2 - 3 5 - 15	Date: January 2023					



March 2023 Storm







JAN 2023 BANK OVERFLOW

Corralitos Creek overtopped along both sides of the creek.

Flows to the north continued along Hollohan Blvd. flooding the community of Orchard Park and continued along College Rd.

Flows to the south crossed agricultural fields, overwhelmed a drainage basin (privately maintained), across E. Lake Ave. and south through the City of Watsonville generally along Bridge Street.

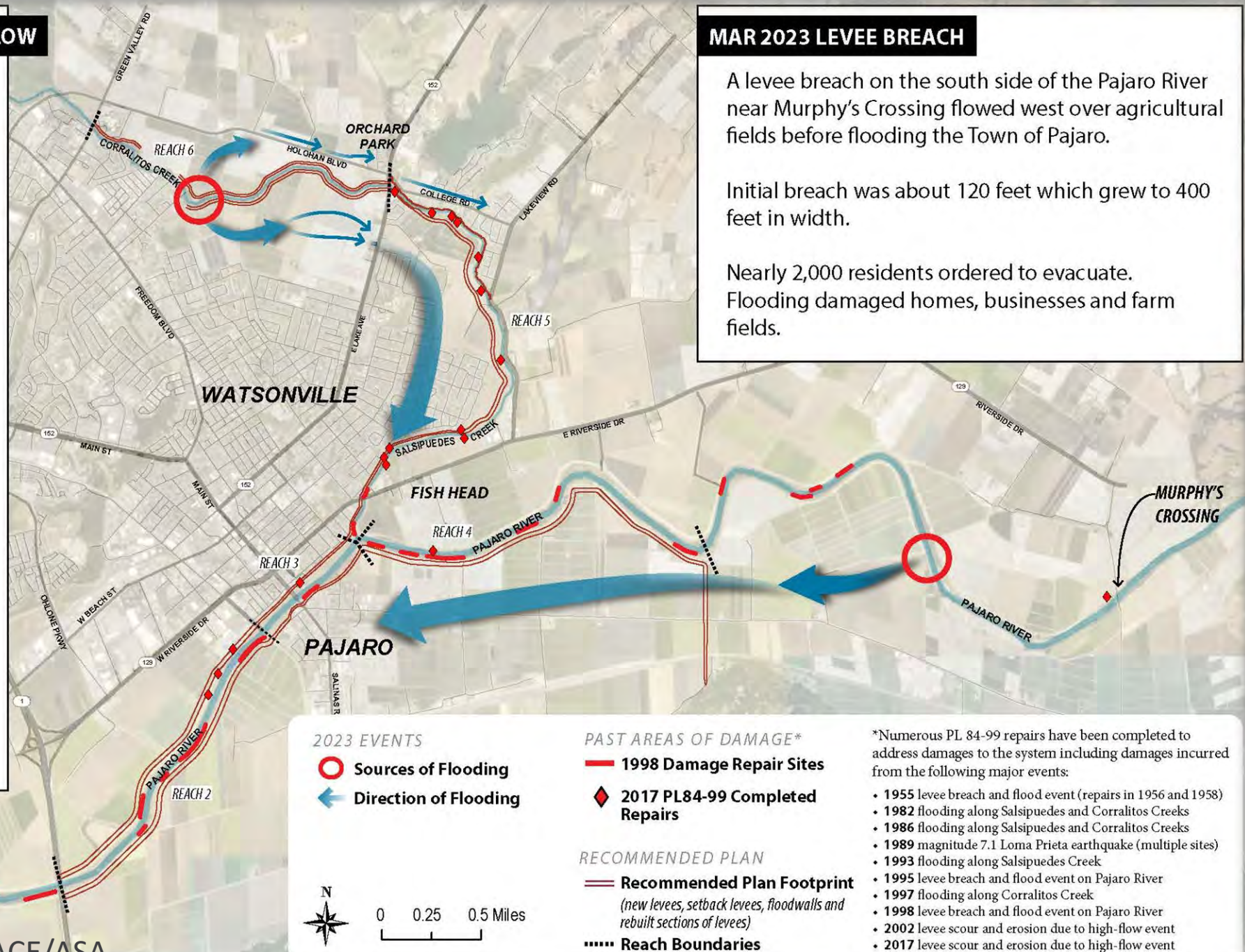
Water eventually pooled and flooded the neighborhood.

MAR 2023 LEVEE BREACH

A levee breach on the south side of the Pajaro River near Murphy's Crossing flowed west over agricultural fields before flooding the Town of Pajaro.

Initial breach was about 120 feet which grew to 400 feet in width.

Nearly 2,000 residents ordered to evacuate. Flooding damaged homes, businesses and farm fields.



2023 EVENTS

- Sources of Flooding
- ➔ Direction of Flooding



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

PAST AREAS OF DAMAGE*

- 1998 Damage Repair Sites
- ◆ 2017 PL84-99 Completed Repairs

RECOMMENDED PLAN

- ▬ Recommended Plan Footprint
(new levees, setback levees, floodwalls and rebuilt sections of levees)
- ⋯⋯⋯ Reach Boundaries

*Numerous PL 84-99 repairs have been completed to address damages to the system including damages incurred from the following major events:

- 1955 levee breach and flood event (repairs in 1956 and 1958)
- 1982 flooding along Salspuedes and Corralitos Creeks
- 1986 flooding along Salspuedes and Corralitos Creeks
- 1989 magnitude 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake (multiple sites)
- 1993 flooding along Salspuedes Creek
- 1995 levee breach and flood event on Pajaro River
- 1997 flooding along Corralitos Creek
- 1998 levee breach and flood event on Pajaro River
- 2002 levee scour and erosion due to high-flow event
- 2017 levee scour and erosion due to high-flow event

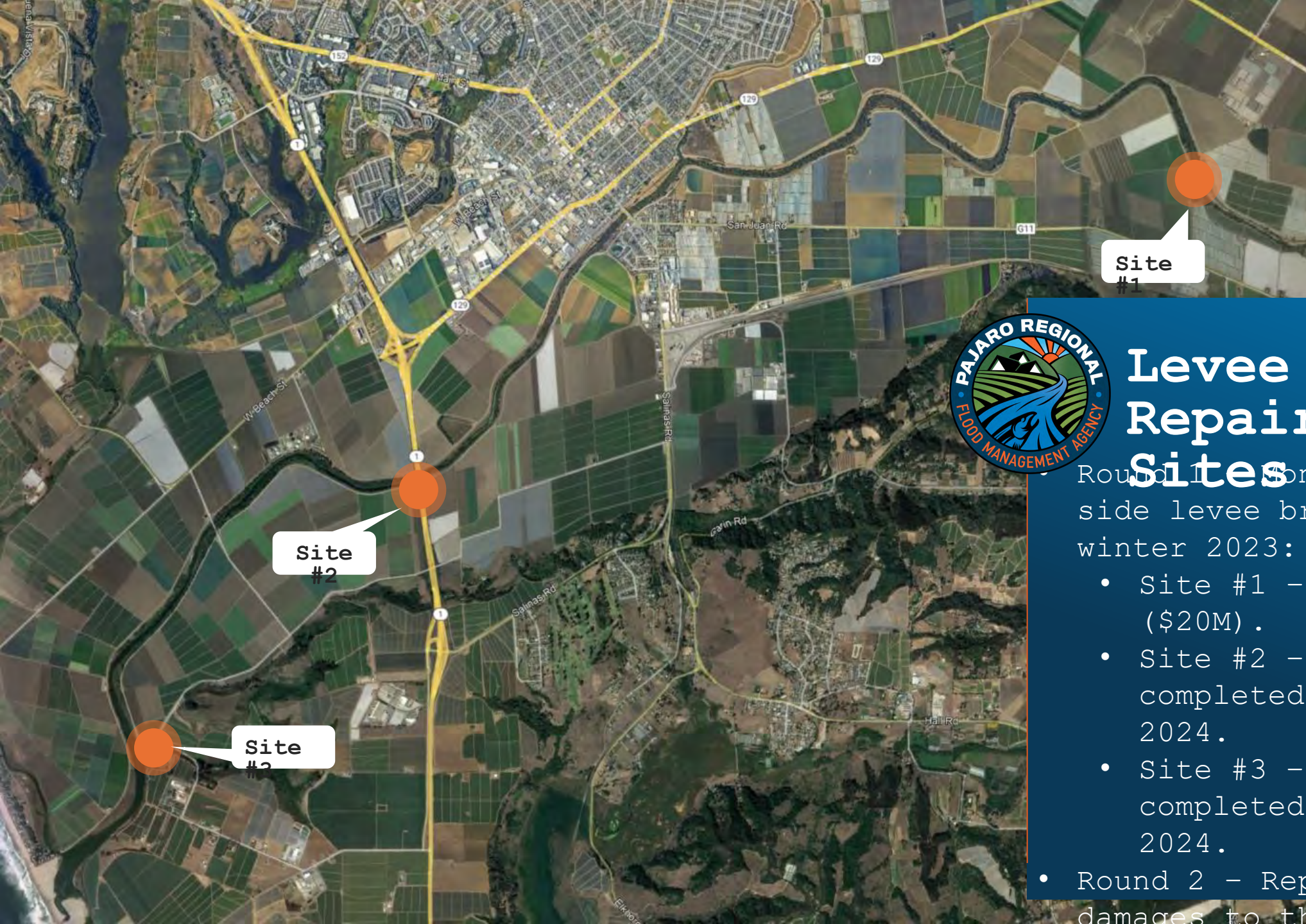






Federal and State Official visits to Levee System and Media Coverage

- Senator Alex Padilla visit on January 27, 2023;
- NOAA NWS Western Region Director visit on March 1, 2023;
- Brigadier General Antoinette Gant, Division Commander of USACE SPD Division Headquarters visit on March 6, 2023;
- Video conference call with White House, including Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor and Associate Director Climate, Energy, Environment, and Science at OMB on March 15, 2023;
- Federal-State delegation field tour of Pajaro Levee, March 17, 2023;
- Senator Alex Padilla tour of levee system, April 4, 2023;
- Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor and Federal Delegation field tour on April 6, 2023;
- Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren media briefing on April 12, 2023.



Site #1

Site #2

Site #3

Levee Repair Sites

Round 1 - Monterey County side levee breaches from winter 2023:

- Site #1 - Complete (\$20M).
- Site #2 - To be completed in April 2024.
- Site #3 - To be completed in February 2024.
- Round 2 - Repairing other damages to th



Overview and Goals of Action Strategy

Background

- PRFMA beginning O&M role for the system
- A comprehensive Emergency Action Plan (EAP) effort is underway, but the EAP won't be ready for this flood season
- Action Strategy is intended to outline and prioritize proactive steps to prepare for flood season 2023/24
- Governor's Executive Order exempts emergency flood preparedness work on the Pajaro system from State permitting through November 1st

Goals

- Discuss and identify the most vulnerable areas in the system
- Identify and prioritize levee/channel work to be completed prior to November 1st
- Identify additional preparations and planning for flood fighting operations



Investment of PRFMA Capital Reserves

- Pump station generator for Pajaro Village Pump Station (\$250,000) – Completed December 2024.
- Vegetation trimming in Pajaro River (\$241,000) – Completed October 2024.
- Failed culvert replacement, lower Pajaro River (\$370,000) – to be completed in February 2024.





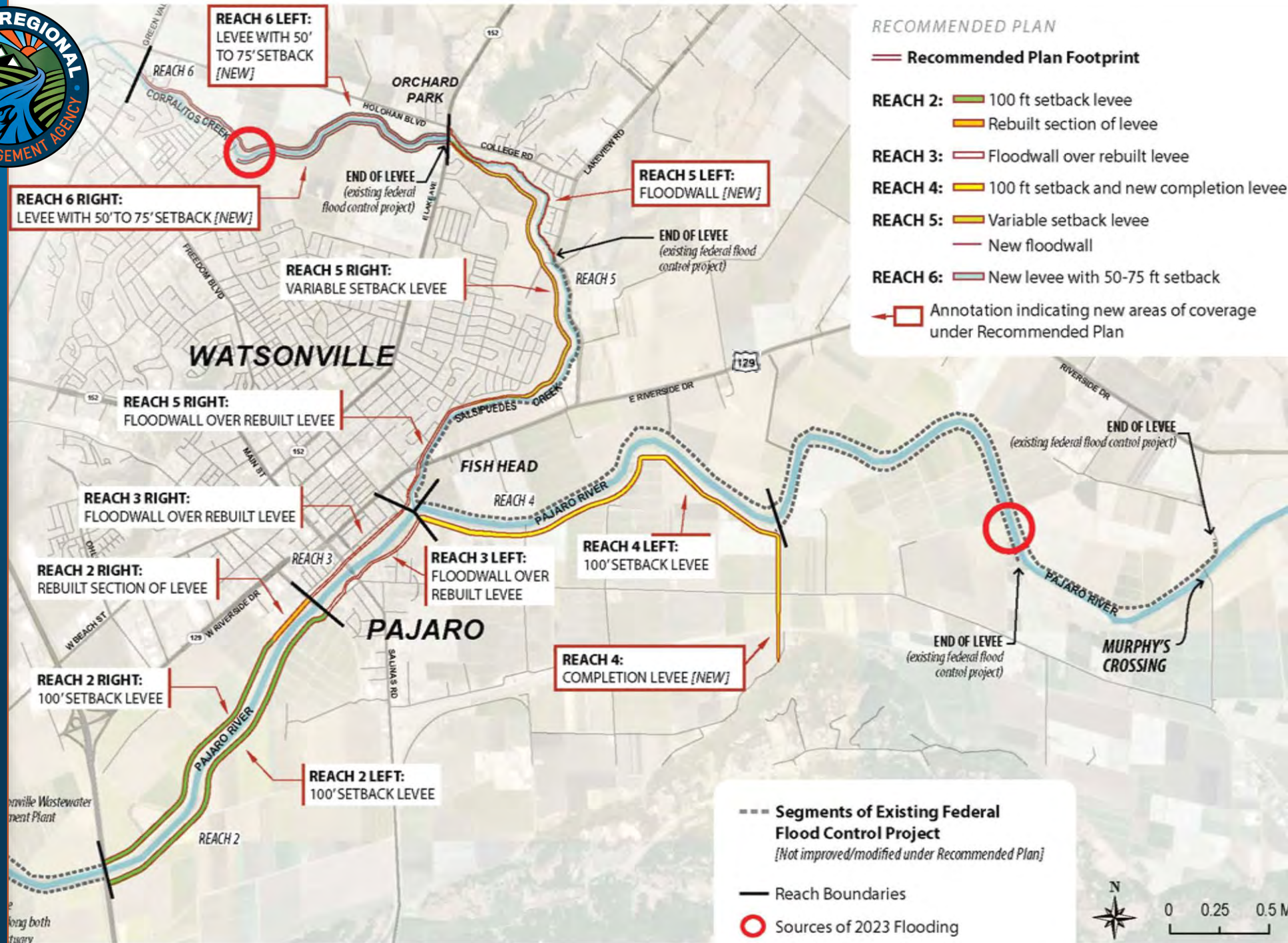
Federal and State requests:

- Provide all necessary federal and state funds;
- Close-out NEPA;
- Execute the Engineering Documentation Report (EDR);
- Execute a Project Partnership Agreement;
- Relieve the project of federal and state regulatory and administrative burdens;
- Re-introduce project segments that were previously removed or provide other funding support.

Pajaro River Flood Risk Mgmt. Project Update



- Project will be built in phases, reach by reach.
- Construction is scheduled to start on Reach 6 in late summer 2024.





AB 876 (Rivas)

- Urgency clause
- CEQA Exemption
- State Permitting Exemption for originally authorized project (1966)

Assembly Bill No. 876

CHAPTER 816

An act relating to the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor October 13, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 13, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 876, Robert Rivas. Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project: environmental laws: exemptions.

Existing law provides for funding for the project for flood control on the Pajaro River in the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz, authorized by the federal Flood Control Act of 1966. Existing law also requires a flood management project that receives financial assistance, as provided, to meet specified requirements, and requires the Department of Water Resources or a specified state entity to submit a report to the Legislature that indicates whether the project meets those requirements.

This bill would exempt the Pajaro River flood control project from various state and local environmental laws and regulations, only if specified criteria are met and only until a specified date, and as of that date would repeal these provisions. The bill would provide, among other exemptions, that a specified report, as described, shall be conclusively presumed to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the Pajaro River Project, including to support the issuance of any permit, funding, or other approval by a state or local agency for the Pajaro River Project when implementing the California Environmental Quality Act. The bill would also require the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of specified environmental impacts, on or before March 1, 2024, as provided.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Digest Key

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:



Other Ongoing Efforts:

- PROTECT Grant FHWA with AMBAG: Pajaro BIRDS (Bridge Infrastructure Resiliency Design Study)
- Pajaro Bridge to Bay Project (pending FEMA grant)
- NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant (Reach 4 RB)
- CA Dept of Insurance and Dept of Water Resources Community Based Flood Insurance Program
- Lots of other grant-funded planning efforts to position the agency to operate appropriately and secure project grant funding



For more information:

Mark Strudley,
PRFMA Executive Director
mark.strudley@prfma.org

www.prfma.org

