



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®

# Media Advisory

## USACE, partners to sign agreement for Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project Nov. 21

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Nov. 13, 2023

**PAJARO, Calif.** – Please join U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA-19), U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-18), California Senator John Laird, CA Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, CA Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District and Pajaro Regional Flood Risk Management Agency (*non-federal sponsor*), and others as they commemorate the signing of the Project Partnership Agreement for construction of the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project. Following the ceremony and a group photo, media are invited to conduct individual interviews with members of the event.

**What is a PPA?** A Project Partnership Agreement is a legally-binding agreement between the Government and a non-federal sponsor (state, municipal government, flood control district, port authority, etc.) for construction of a water resources project. It describes the project and the responsibilities of the Government and the non-federal sponsor in the cost sharing and execution of work.

### Event Details:

**WHAT:** Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project PPA Signing Ceremony  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Nov. 21, 10-11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** City of Watsonville City Hall, Community Room, 4th Floor, 275 Main Street  
**WHO:**

- \* U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA-19)
- \* U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-18)
- \* CA Senator John Laird (CA-17)
- \* CA Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
- \* CA DWR Director Karla Nemeth
- \* Major Shantel Glass, USACE San Francisco District Deputy Commander
- \* Zach Friend, Santa Cruz County Supervisor/PRFMA Chair (*Master of Ceremonies*)

Members of the press should send their RSVP to Brandon Beach at [brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil](mailto:brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil). Hard copies of the PPA will be made available at the ceremony by request.

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT**  
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## About the Project

The Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project will provide 100-year flood risk reduction to the City of Watsonville, Town of Pajaro, and surrounding agricultural areas by constructing levees and improvements along the lower Pajaro River and its tributaries. The \$599 million project will be managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA). Federal and state agencies are covering 100 percent of the project costs, a first for California for a project of its kind. PRFMA is responsible for operating and maintaining the flood systems on behalf of its member agencies. Construction is expected to start summer of 2024.

