



Proposed Assessment

Adequate Funding for Levee Operations & Maintenance

May 10, 2022



What is PRFMA?



- Created July 2021
- Plan, manage, finance flood risk reduction projects/programs
- Joint Powers Authority (public agency)
 - Counties of Monterey & Santa Cruz
 - City of Watsonville
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency
 - Santa Cruz County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Board of Directors = One representative from each agency
- Meets monthly



What problem are we trying to solve?

- Reduce flood risk to protect life, property & local economy
- Levee system provides 8-year level of flood protection
- **Levee maintenance is underfunded**
- Long history of flooding; future floods likely
- Portions of community mapped into FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas
 - Mandatory flood insurance, building restrictions





What is the proposed solution?

1) Improve levee operations & maintenance

2) Improve levees to provide up to 100-year flood protection



Improving Maintenance of Existing Levees

- **Necessary to maintain existing levels of flood protection and prevent levee failures**
- PRFMA will assume O&M duties
 - Consistent levels of service
 - Cost efficiencies, long-term savings
- Cost to adequately fund O&M services = \$3.8 million/year
 - Existing revenues from member agencies = \$2.6 million/year
 - **Budget shortfall = \$1.2 million/year**





Improving Levees/Increasing Flood Protection

- \$400 million project to improve levees along Pajaro River and Salsipuedes/Corralitos Creek (up to 100-year flood protection)
- **USACE/State paying 100% of project design and construction costs***
- Currently in early design & environmental phase
- Construction to begin 2025, completed in 2032
- Once completed, will remove properties from FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area

***State/Feds will only provide funding if levee operations and maintenance is adequately funded, now and in the future**



PRFMA Proposed Budget

REVENUES:

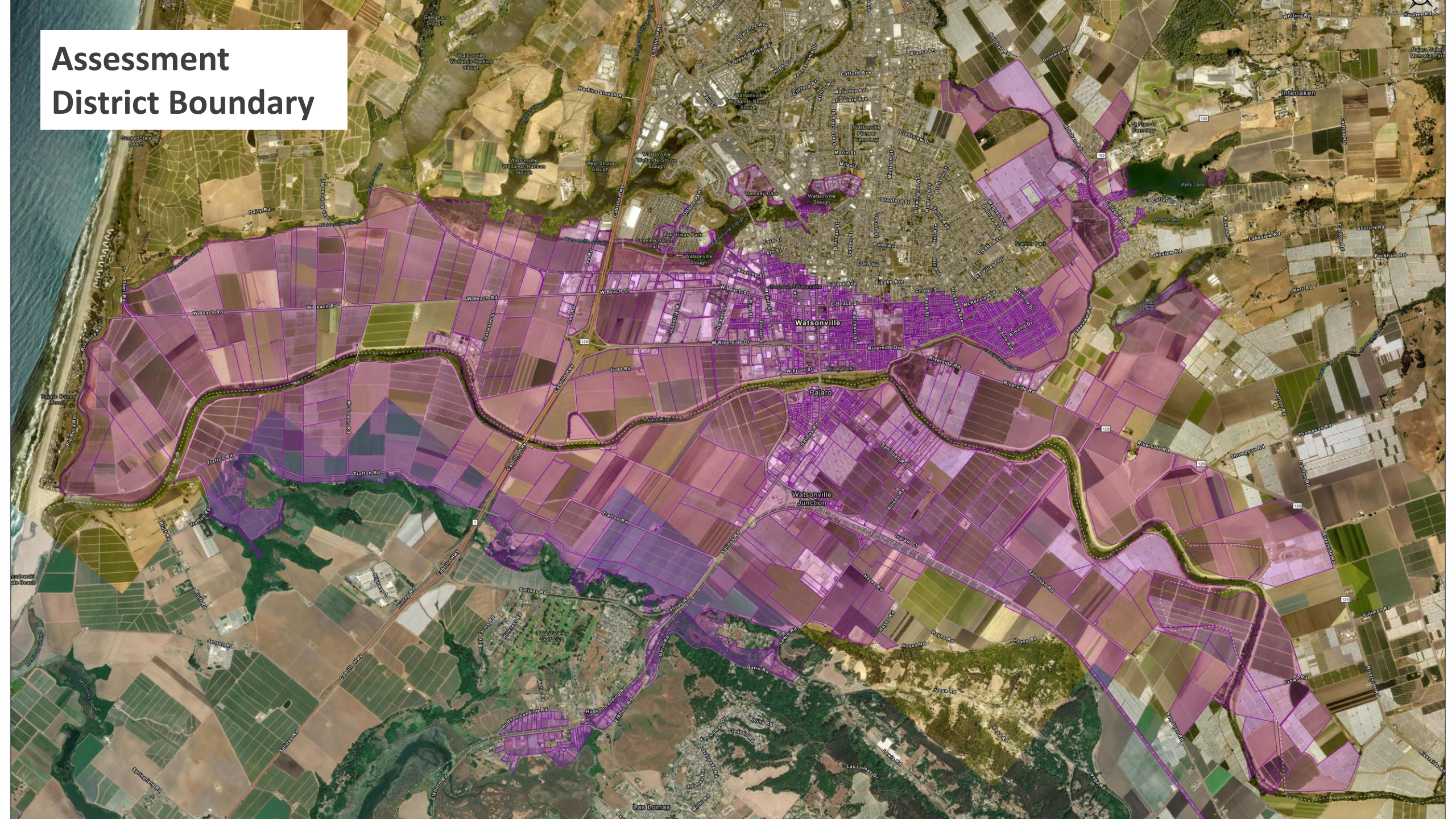
<i>Line Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Member Agency Contributions - Levee OMRR&R (81.2% Zone 7 / 18.8% MCWRA):	
Zone 7 - Levee OMRR&R	\$ 1,805,700
MCWRA - Levee OMRR&R	\$ 418,300
New Assessment	\$ 1,200,000
Sub-Total - Levee OMRR&R	\$ 3,424,000
Member Agency Contributions - Drainage OMRR&R:	
Zone 7 - Drainage OMRR&R	\$ 332,700
MCWRA - Drainage OMRR&R	\$ 25,400
City of Watsonville	\$ 49,900
Sub-Total - Drainage OMRR&R	\$ 408,000
Total Revenue	\$ 3,832,000



Proposed Assessment

- Purpose:
 - **Adequately fund maintenance of existing levees to maintain current level of flood protection and prevent further decay**
 - Maintain eligibility for \$400 million in state/federal project funding
- Specifics:
 - Only properties that receive benefit are assessed
 - Benefit is avoidance of flood damages to land and structures
 - Individual assessments calculated based upon property characteristics & relative flood risk
 - Average single-family home assessment is \$16/month

Assessment District Boundary





Factors Used to Calculate Assessments

Benefit to each property is the avoidance of flood damages to land and structures. Factors to determine flood damages include:

Relative flood risk

(location of property/Benefit Zone)

Land-use type

(e.g. Single-family residential;
Commercial; Industrial)

Parcel size

(acreage)

Size of structure

(square footage)

Average depth of flooding

Percentage of parcel that is flooded



Average Assessments

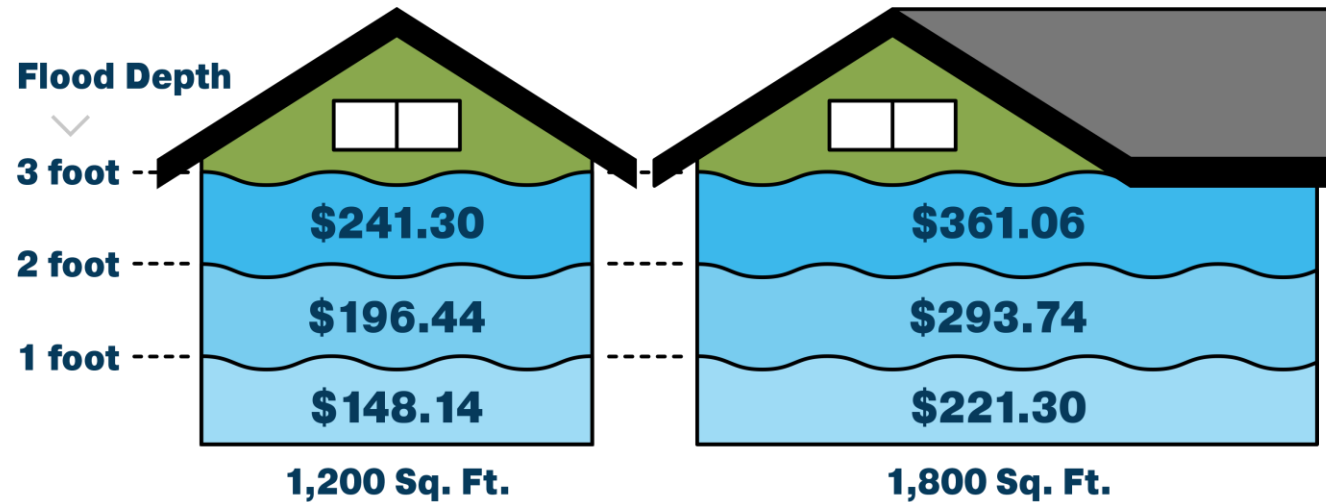
Average Single-Family Residential Assessment = approx. \$16/month

Land Use Type	Average Assessment Per Year	Number of Properties
Agriculture	\$284	289
Blended	\$2,442	17
Commercial	\$1,043	225
Industrial	\$2,533	138
Multi-Family Residential	\$472	285
Mobile Home (Park)	\$2,644	5
Rural Residential	\$180	17
Single-Family Residential	\$194	1,747
Vacant	\$16	280



How Assessments Vary by Property

- 3 feet of flooding causes more damage than 1 foot of flooding
- The greater the flooding, the greater the benefit
- Assessments increase as benefit increases



LAND USE TYPE	Single-Family Residential
BENEFIT ZONE	SC2
PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY THAT IS FLOODED	100%
PARCEL SIZE	.10 acre



Key Facts

- Levee maintenance services are currently underfunded.
- Past flooding is not predictive of future flooding.
- Flood insurance is not a flood prevention tool, it's a disaster clean-up payment.
- Floods are one of the only natural disasters than can be prevented, with proper planning and investment.
- The \$400M in state/federal investment is worth \$130,000 for every property that will be protected by the levee improvements.



Prop 218 Process

- Ballots sent to property owners on April 22
 - Ballots must be received by June 8
- Ballots are weighted by proposed assessments
 - \$1 = 1 vote
- Assessment will be approved if votes in favor outweigh votes against
- If approved:
 - Assessment will take effect fall 2022
 - PRFMA Board will convene Citizens Assessment Oversight Committee



**PAJARO REGIONAL
FLOOD MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

OFFICIAL BALLOT
PROPOSED ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
BOLETA OFICIAL
PROPUESTA DE IMPRESTO ANUAL

Property Owner (Propietario): SMITH JOHN
Parcel Number: Site Address; Proposed Assessment
Número de parcela: Dirección de la propiedad; Propuesta de impuesto

123-23-2323; 123 OCEAN AVENUE; \$250.00

Total Proposed Annual
Assessment:
Impuesto anual total:
\$250.00

SAMPLE

**DO NOT TEAR YOUR BALLOT IN HALF OR IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED
NO CORTE SU BOLETA POR LA MITAD O NO SERÁ CONTADA**

BALLOT QUESTION / PREGUNTA DE LA BOLETA

Shall the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency establish a new \$1.2 million assessment commencing in fiscal year 22/23 and continue every year thereafter for levee operations and maintenance as set forth in the Preliminary Engineers Report dated April 13, 2022?
¿Debería la Agencia Regional de Gestión de Inundaciones de Pájaro establecer un nuevo impuesto que recaude \$1.2 millones de dólares a partir del año fiscal 2022/2023 y que continúe cada año para operaciones y mantenimiento de diques como se establece en el Informe Preliminar de Ingeniería con fecha del 13 de abril de 2022?

YES, SÍ NO

THIS IS A WEIGHTED BALLOT. The total votes for this ballot are equal to the total annual assessments shown above.
ESTA ES UNA BOLETA PONDERADA. El total de votos para esta votación es igual al total de las cuotas anuales que se muestran arriba.

This assessment will not be imposed if a majority of the weighted ballots are opposed to the proposed maximum annual assessment. Property Owner/Authorized Representative must sign in his/her own handwriting for ballot to be counted.

Este impuesto no se impondrá si la mayoría de las papeletas ponderadas se oponen al impuesto anual máximo que se propone. El propietario de la propiedad / representante autorizado debe firmar con su propia letra para que se cuente la boleta:

SIGNATURE of Owner/Authorized Representative (DO NOT PRINT)
FIRMA del propietario/Representante autorizado (NO IMPRIMIR)

Date/Fecha

Name of Owner/Authorized Representative (PRINT)
Nombre del propietario/Representante autorizado (MARCA)

Witness Signature*/Firma del testigo*

**Only required if property owner is unable to sign due to illness or injury. In that case, he/she may make a mark witnessed by one person.
Sólo es requerido si el dueño de la propiedad no puede firmar debido a una enfermedad o lesión. En ese caso, él/ella puede hacer una marca presenciada por una persona.



**PAJARO REGIONAL
FLOOD MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

JOHN SMITH
123 OCEAN AVENUE
WATSONVILLE, CA 95000

The Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency is proposing a \$1.2 million assessment to adequately fund levee operations and maintenance to secure \$400 million in federal and state funding for the Pajaro River Flood Management Project. **This is your official ballot to cast your vote in favor or against the proposed assessment.**

La Agencia Regional de Gestión de Inundaciones de Pájaro está proponiendo un impuesto que recaude \$1.2 millones de dólares para financiar adecuadamente las operaciones y el mantenimiento de los diques y así asegurar \$400 millones en fondos federales y estatales para el Proyecto de Gestión de Inundaciones del Río Pájaro. **Esta es su boleta oficial para emitir su voto a favor o en contra del impuesto que se propone.**

**PLEASE READ THE BALLOT INFORMATION GUIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION
POR FAVOR LEA LA GUÍA DE INFORMACIÓN DE LA BOLETA PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN**

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR BALLOT

1. Mark an "X" in the box next to "Yes" or No"
2. PRINT and sign your name and provide date
3. NO RASGUE SU BOLETA
4. Place the ballot into the official ballot return envelope and:
 - 1) mail the ballot; or,
 - 2) deliver by hand to the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, 701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; or
 - 3) deliver by hand to the public hearing. 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, City of Watsonville, City Council Chambers, Top Floor, 275 Main Street, Watsonville

Ballots must be received before the close of the public hearing. Ballots received after the close of the public hearing cannot be accepted as per state law.

CÓMO COMPLETAR SU BOLETA

1. Marque una "X" en el cuadro junto a "Sí" o No"
2. IMPRIMA, firme y proporcione la fecha
3. NO RASGUE SU BOLETA
4. Coloque la boleta en el sobre oficial de devolución de la boleta a:
 - 1) Envíe la boleta por correo; o
 - 2) Entréguela en persona a la Agencia Regional de Gestión de Inundaciones de Pájaro, 701 Ocean Street, Salón 410, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; o
 - 3) Entréguela en persona a la audiencia pública. Las boletas deben recibirse antes del cierre de la audiencia pública. 6:30 p.m., miércoles, 8 de junio Ciudad de Watsonville Salas del Concejo Municipal, piso superior, 275 Main Street, Watsonville

Las boletas recibidas después del cierre de la audiencia pública no pueden ser aceptadas según la ley estatal.



Yes, or No: Property Owners Decide

YES Vote

- Improved services for levee O&M
- Decreased risk of flood-related damages to properties
- Community remains eligible for \$400M in state/federal project funding
- Project is built, provides up to 100-year flood protection
- Properties removed from FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area

NO Vote

- Levee maintenance services reduced to account for budget shortfall
- Increased risk of flood-related damages to properties
- Community loses eligibility for state/federal Project funding
- FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area remains in place; potential for more to be “mapped” in due to climate change
- Property owners remain subject to mandatory flood insurance, building restrictions



Upcoming Community Meetings

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10 – Pajaro Middle

6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 19 – City of Watsonville City Hall

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, Public Hearing & Close of Balloting – City of Watsonville City Council Chambers



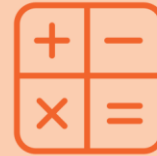
Please visit www.prfma.org for more information.



**PROPOSED
ASSESSMENT
INFORMATION**



**FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS**



**ASSESSMENT
CALCULATOR**



**PAJARO FLOOD
RISK MANAGEMENT
PROJECT**

Contact Us: info@prfma.org

Assessment Hotline:

- English: (831) 204-3769
- Spanish: (831) 204-3000