

# French resigns as manager of Pajaro Valley water agency

Craig French, general manager of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency for the last two years, has resigned to take another job.

The agency's board of directors accepted his resignation at a special meeting last night. French, who notified board members individually of his decision Monday, plans to stay with the agency until early November. He has been hired as a project manager for a privately owned land company in the Santa Clara Valley.

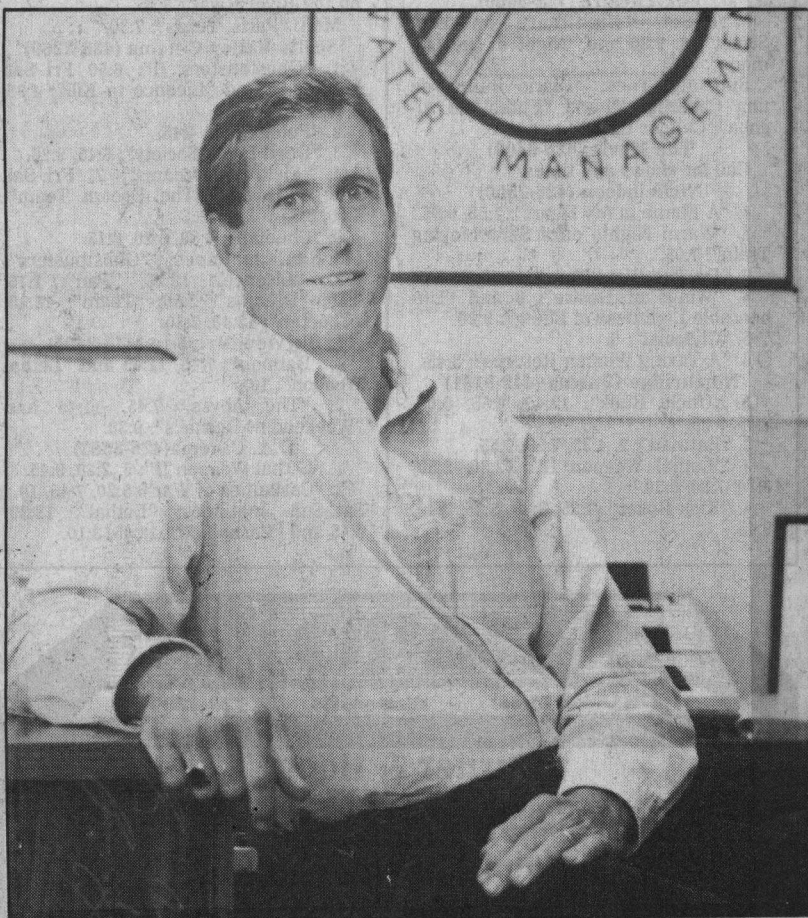
"It's disappointing to all of us, of course," board chairman Brad Bennett said this morning of French's resignation. "We've all been really pleased with his performance."

French, 39, joined the agency after serving as public works director for the city of Capitola, where he worked for 15 years.

As the agency's first full-time manager, French has guided development of Pajaro Valley Water Management Plan, now two-thirds complete, which will serve to identify current water problems and anticipate future needs in the 120-square-mile agency area that extends into three counties. French also initiated a program to install and monitor wells in the area.

In his role, French has represented the agency throughout the state and in Washington, D.C.

"There's definitely been groundwork," French said of the agency's progress during his tenure. "I just won't be around to watch the board put the decisions in place."



Kurt Ellison

## Craig French will leave the agency in November.

"My leaving should not affect the progress of the management plan," he said.

French said his new job, at a company he refused to name, was offered to him.

"The position found me," he said. "It all happened so quickly."

The position will also allow him flexibility in helping the agency in

the transition phases after his notice time has expired. At the agency's regular board meeting Thursday, officials plan to discuss how they will go about replacing French.

French, a Capitola resident, is a graduate of San Jose State University. He said he plans to continue living in Santa Cruz County.