

# Agenda

## Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

### *Advisory Committee Meeting #5*

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Conference Room, 5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz

#### Meeting Objectives

1. Share additional background information about basin conditions.
2. Build understanding around four related Sustainability Indicators—Groundwater Levels, Groundwater Storage, Seawater Intrusion, and Surface Water Interactions—to inform future Advisory Committee discussions around initial proposals for each indicator in terms of Significant and Unreasonable Conditions, Minimum Thresholds, and Undesirable Results.
3. Discuss seawater intrusion example initial proposal to better understand the information that will be included in future options and alternatives to be presented by support staff.

#### Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter & Materials
5:15 p.m.	<i>Arrivals/Committee members collect food for dinner</i>	
5:30 p.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review project timeline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz</li> <li>• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator (presentation)</li> </ul> <i>Materials:</i> <i>Item 1. Agenda</i> <i>Item 2. Updated GSP Process Timeline Graphic</i>
5:45 p.m.	Oral communications ( <i>items not on the agenda</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment on general topics related to Advisory Committee work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>
5:55 p.m.	Understand the broader context for and interrelationships among the following four focal Sustainability Indicators: Groundwater Levels, Groundwater Storage, Seawater Intrusion, and Surface Water Depletion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District (presentation)</li> </ul>
6:35 p.m.	Share additional background information on basin conditions to inform future Advisory Committee discussions on initial proposals regarding Sustainability Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darcy Pruitt, RWMF</li> <li>• Georgina King, HydroMetrics</li> </ul> <i>Materials:</i> <i>Item 3. Compendium of maps</i>

Time	Topic	Presenter & Materials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps</li> </ul>	
7:05 p.m.	Review and discuss an example Seawater Intrusion proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georgina King, HydroMetrics</li> </ul> <p><i>Materials:</i> Item 4. Presentation re: Numeric Example of Setting Minimum Thresholds for Seawater Intrusion</p>
7:40 p.m.	Break	
7:55 p.m.	Overview of Management Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georgina King, HydroMetrics</li> </ul> <p><i>Materials:</i> Item 5. Introduction to Management Areas</p>
8:05 p.m.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused on topics discussed in this meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public</li> </ul>
8:15 p.m.	Form working group to review streamflow depletion and groundwater dependent ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz</li> </ul> <p><i>Materials:</i> Item 6. Memo re: Formation of Ad Hoc Surface Water Working Group</p>
8:45 p.m.	Confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 28, 2018 Advisory Committee Meeting Summary</li> <li>Amended Charter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> <li>Eric Poncelet, Facilitator</li> </ul> <p><i>Materials:</i> Item 7. Draft Meeting Summary from Feb. 28 Item 8. Amended Charter</p>
8:50 p.m.	Recap and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Poncelet, Facilitator</li> </ul>
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

**Written Communications and Correspondence (included in the meeting materials packet).**

1. Email Correspondence from B. Steinbruner, March 16, 2018.

## **Guidance for Public Input during Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Advisory Committee Meetings**

All information furnished to the GSP Advisory Committee is provided on the MGA website located here: <http://www.midcountygroundwater.org/gsp-advisory-committee/committee-meetings>.

### **Submittal of Written Correspondence and Informational Materials**

Submittal of written correspondence and/or informational materials (e.g., handouts) must be received by 5:00 pm on the Monday of the week prior to the scheduled committee meeting (10 days prior to the meeting) to be included in the meeting materials for committee review (commonly referred to as the committee packet). Due to holidays and other factors there may be instances when even the above deadline is not adequate. Submittals received after the deadline but prior to the start of the committee meeting will be included in the meeting materials for the next committee meeting. Submittals received after the deadline may not have time to reach committee members or be read by them prior to the consideration of an item. Materials may also be submitted in-person immediately preceding the start of a board meeting by giving those materials directly to the meeting facilitator. Organized groups wishing to make a presentation are asked to contact Darcy Pruitt at [dpruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:dpruitt@cfsc.org) or 831.662.2052 prior to the committee meeting. Soquel Creek Water District serves as the designated administrative headquarters of the MGA. Written correspondence and materials may be directed to: Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency, c/o Soquel Creek Water District, Attention: Karen Reese, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073.

### **Public Comments**

#### **Non-Agenda Items**

At the outset of the meeting during the time set aside for public comment, members of the public can comment on any item not on the agenda as long as it is related to the subject matter of the MGA. Each speaker will be limited to a single presentation of up to three minutes. The maximum time set aside for public comment will be 15 minutes total for all speakers. Time limits may be increased or decreased at the meeting facilitator's discretion. Those wishing to speak should come to the front of the room and be recognized by the facilitator. Speakers must address the entire committee: dialogue will not be permitted either between speakers and committee members or amongst committee members.

#### **Items on the Agenda**

Comments may also be given during the remainder of the meeting as outlined in the evening's GSP Advisory Committee agenda. Each speaker will be limited to up to three minutes. The maximum time set aside for public comment will be 15 minutes total for all speakers. Time limits may be increased or decreased at the meeting facilitator's discretion.

#### **Disability Access**

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Please contact Darcy Pruitt at [dpruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:dpruitt@cfsc.org) or 831.662.2052 if you need assistance in order to participate in a public meeting or if you need the agenda and public documents modified as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PROCESS OVERVIEW

2017

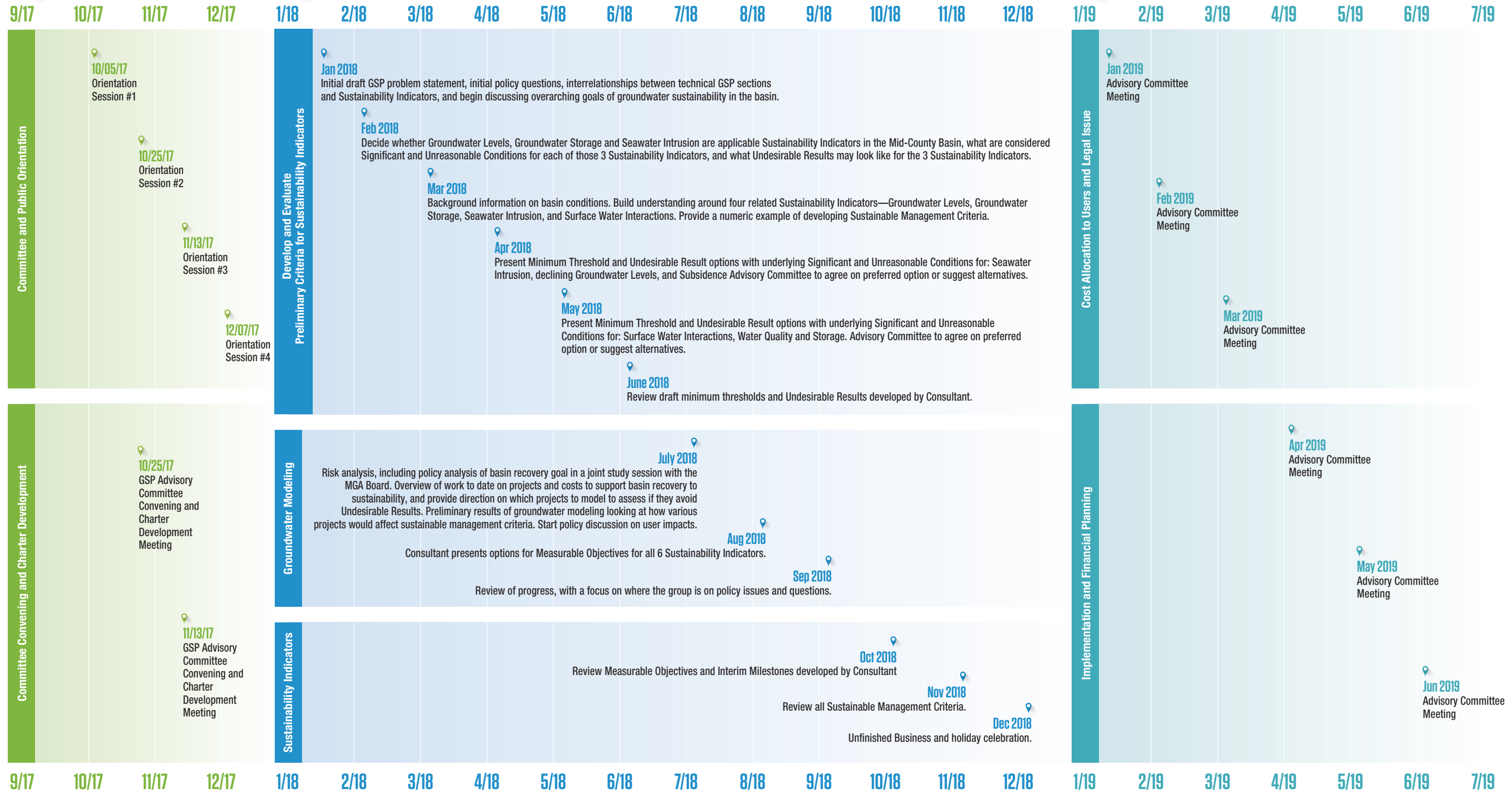
2018

2019

PHASE 1: ORIENTATION AND CONVENING

PHASE 2: GSP ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 3: GSP ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPMENT





### Compendium of maps and charts related to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development.

		Document	Location	Notes
	<b>Groundwater Levels</b>			
1	Location of private domestic wells	Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Management Biennial Review and Report Water Years 2015-2016	Figure 2-4: Non-Municipal Water Use Building Footprints, Residential Parcels and Small Water Systems	County database begins in 1971 and estimates 20-40% of wells in use are not documented. Model uses building footprints for developed residential parcels not receiving municipal water
2	Location institutional wells		Figure 2-5. Non-Municipal Groundwater Use Institutions	
3	Location of Ag wells		Figure 2-6. Agriculture in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin and Model	Model assumes one well per parcel where crops are located. County estimates 20-40% of wells in use are not documented.
4	Location of municipal wells	Use SkyTEM map	MGA 3/15 Board packet	
5	Location of monitoring wells	Use SkyTEM map but that map also has production wells. Not every monitoring well in a cluster is labeled	MGA 3/15 Board packet	Add and label creeks
6	Aquifer Cross-Section	Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Flow Model Technical Memorandum Subsurface Model Construction		Figure incomplete for MGA, needs to show location of cross-section and include City and Central wells.
7	Depth to top screen Muni wells	Still to be developed	Fig 2-4 and 2-11 from 2004 Report	Figures incomplete for MGA but provide possible starting points to represent municipal well depths
8	Depth to top screen private and ag wells (use County data)	Is map development warranted given data gaps?		County database begins in 1971. Approximately 20-40% of wells in use are not documented. Model uses estimates. County data does not include screening intervals
9	Contour maps (5 total, one for each aquifer)	Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Management Biennial Review and Report Water Years 2015-2016 (Fall 2016)	Fig 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 5-2, 5-3	Contours are educated guestimates based on monitoring well GW data. TU unit has no GW contours because of lack of sufficient GW monitoring data.

Item 3.

		Document	Location	Notes
10	Precipitation and Deep Recharge Estimates	Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Management Biennial Review and Report Water Years 2015-2016	Figures 2-1 & 2-2 Table 2-1	Do not have update of Table. Climate change should be discussed later. Model has all the info needed but we are still documenting.
11	Groundwater pumping	Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Management Biennial Review and Report Water Years 2015-2016	Fig 2-3	
	<b>Seawater Intrusion</b>			
See 1, 2, & 3	Well locations (see above)			
See 5	SkyTEM data with measured chloride concentrations	Just completed	MGA 3/15 Board packet	
See 4	SkyTEM data with production wells	Just completed	MGA 3/15 Board packet	
12	Land use	Specific Information on Land Use Maps	Land Use Jurisdictions and UWMP water demand categories	D. Pruitt and C. Carr to develop generalized maps for MGA use
13	Chloride concentrations over time (charts)	Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Management Biennial Review and Report Water Years 2015-2016	Only show those charts with intrusion	
	<b>Surface Water Interactions</b>			
14	Concept of losing, gaining, and disconnected streams	GSP Orientation #1 Power Point	p.30	PowerPoint slide illustrates general concepts
15	Watersheds	New map for MGA GSP		Draft MGA GSP map.
16	Monitoring wells in relation to creeks	Soquel Creek MAMP #3 Report	Fig 1	Map for lower reach of Soquel Creek Need map for all creeks in basin
17	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Still to be developed		MGA model data needed
18	Losing and gaining creeks from model	In development		MGA model data needed
	<b>Groundwater in Storage</b>			
19	Historical groundwater in storage changes	Need additional model output processing		MGA model data needed

Information in black is tailored to MGA/GSP needs.

Information in red indicates where data is missing, needs revisions, or decisions to fulfill MGA/GSP purposes.

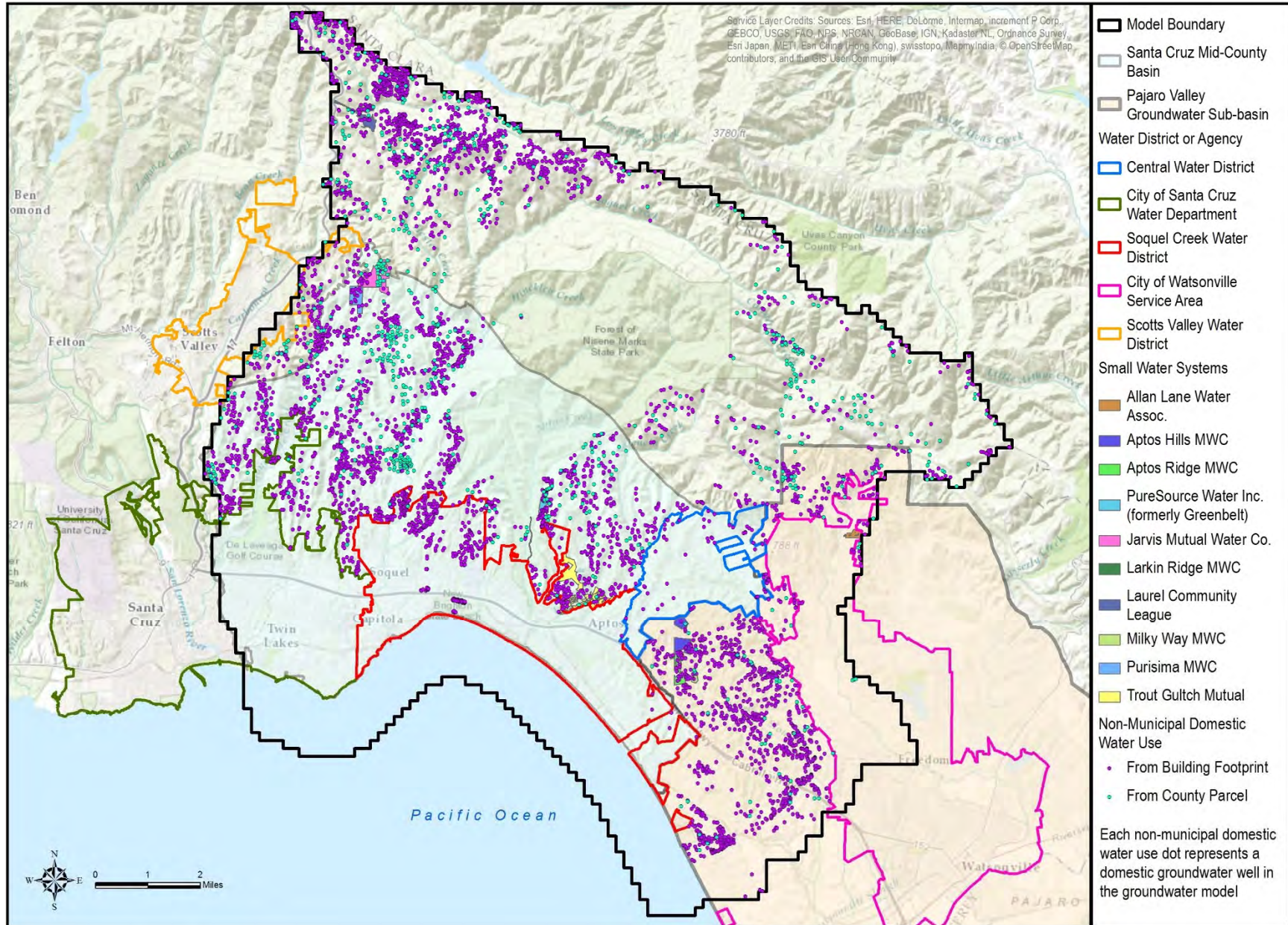


Figure 2-4: Non-Municipal Water Use Building Footprints, Residential Parcels and Small Water Systems



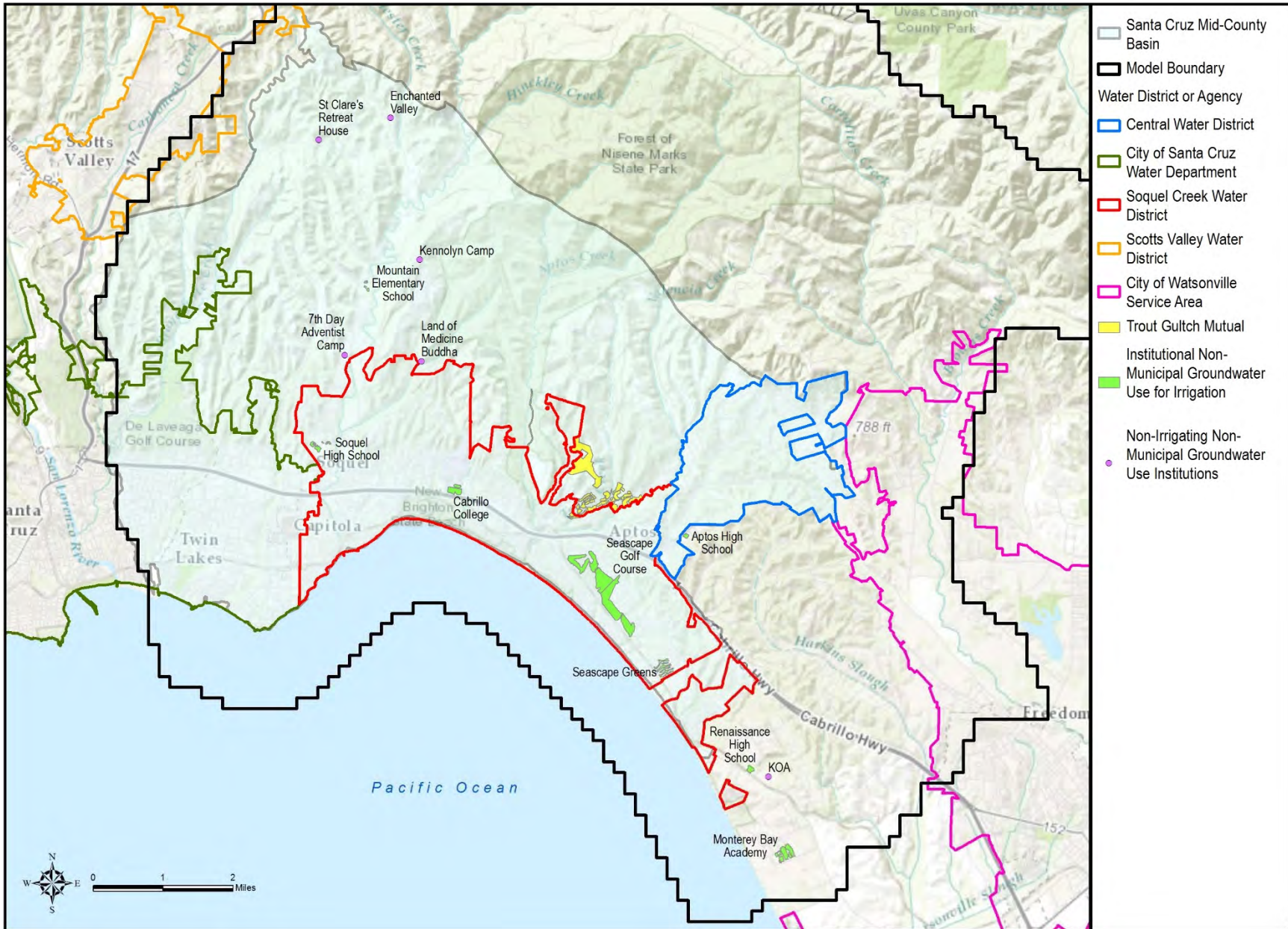


Figure 2-5. Non-Municipal Groundwater Use Institutions



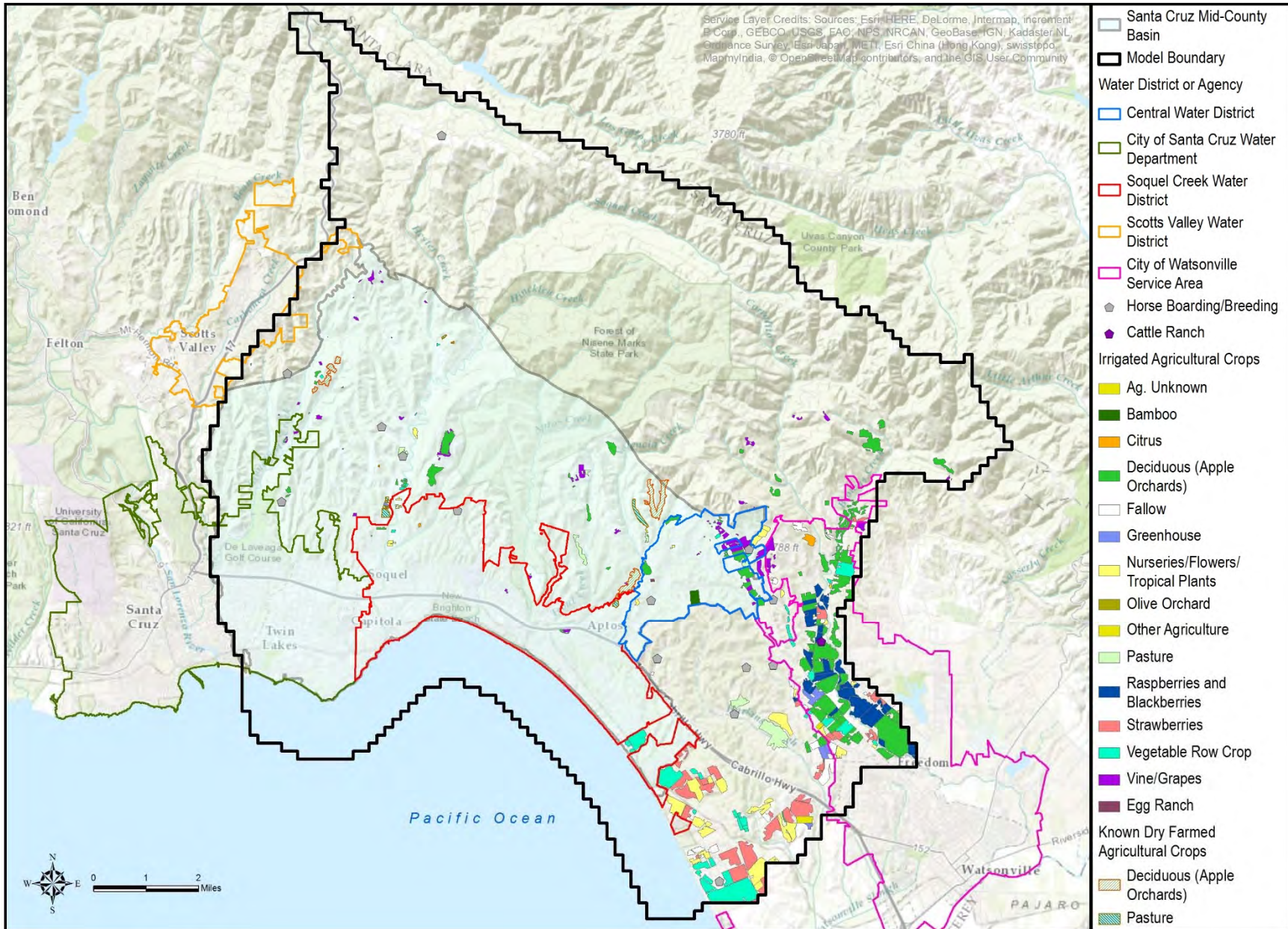
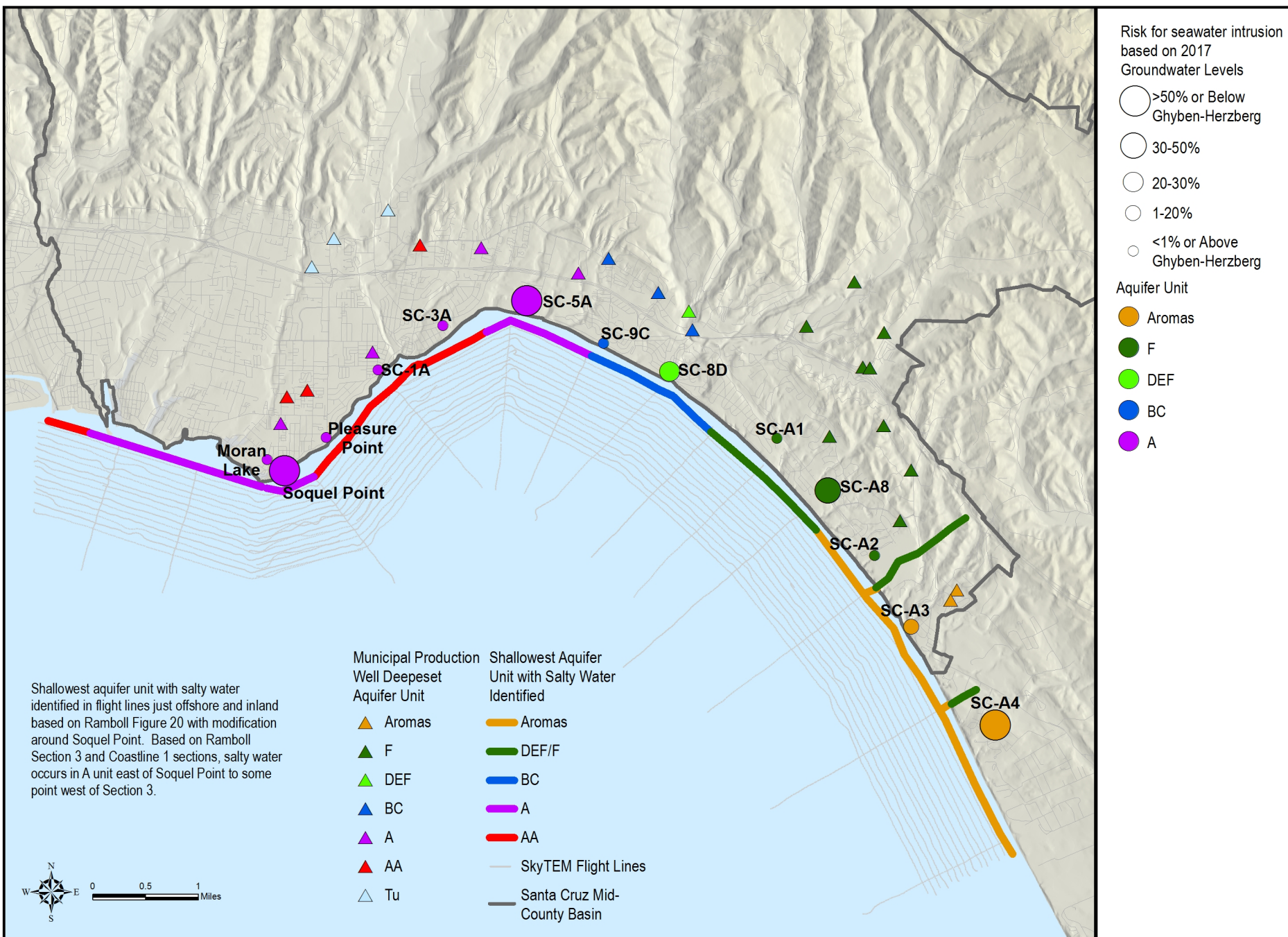
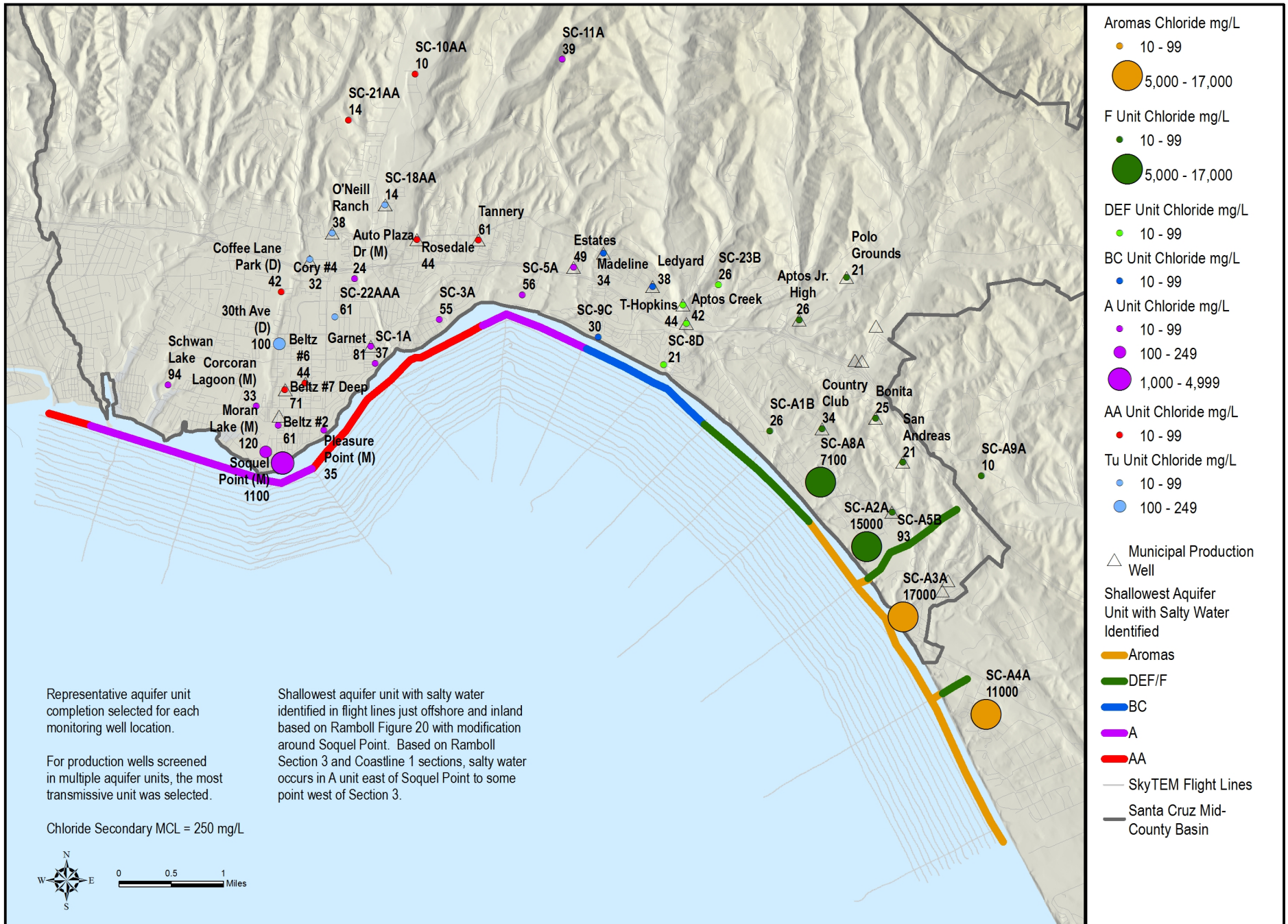


Figure 2-6. Agriculture in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin and Model









Groundwater Chloride Concentration Fall 2016



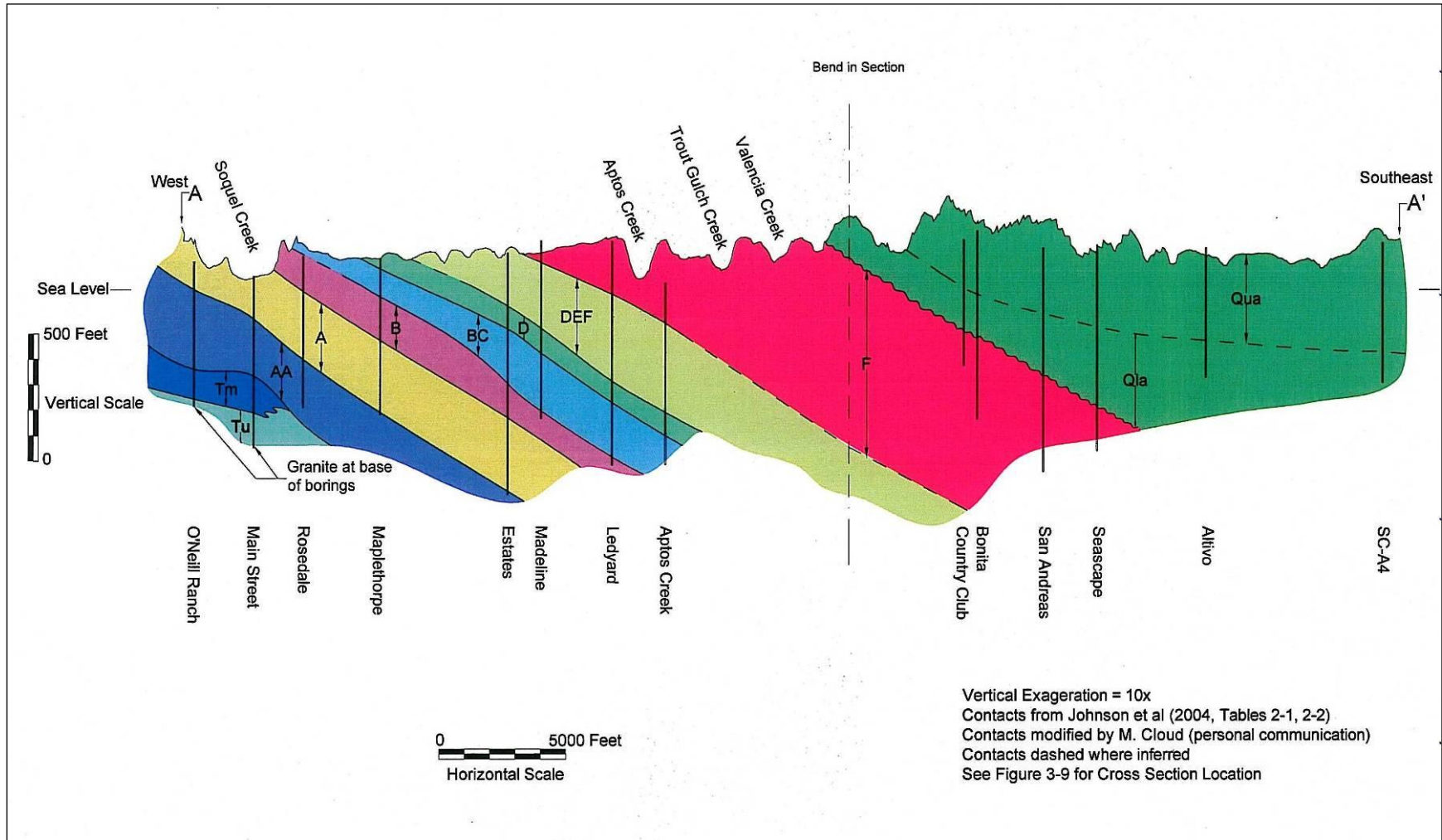
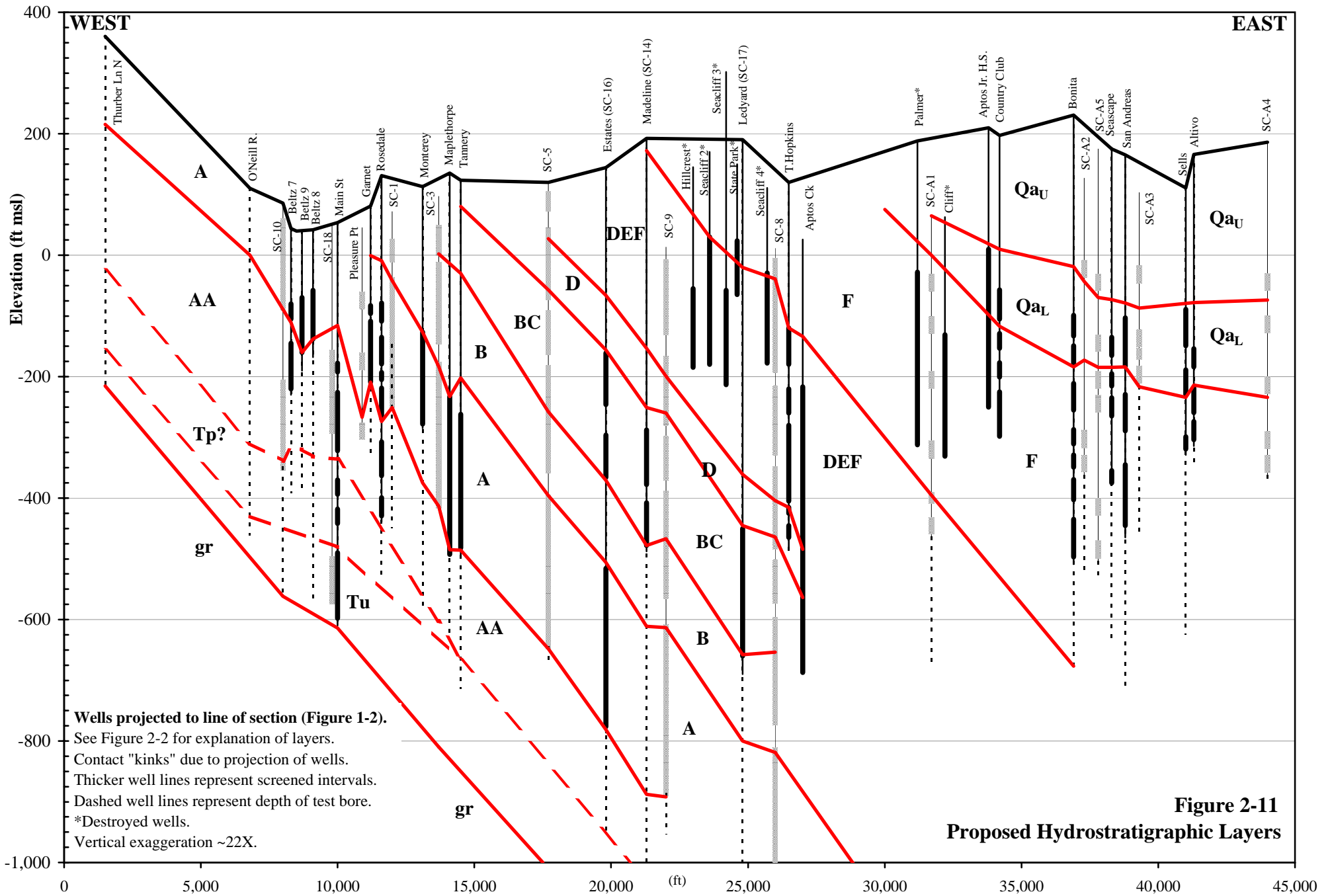
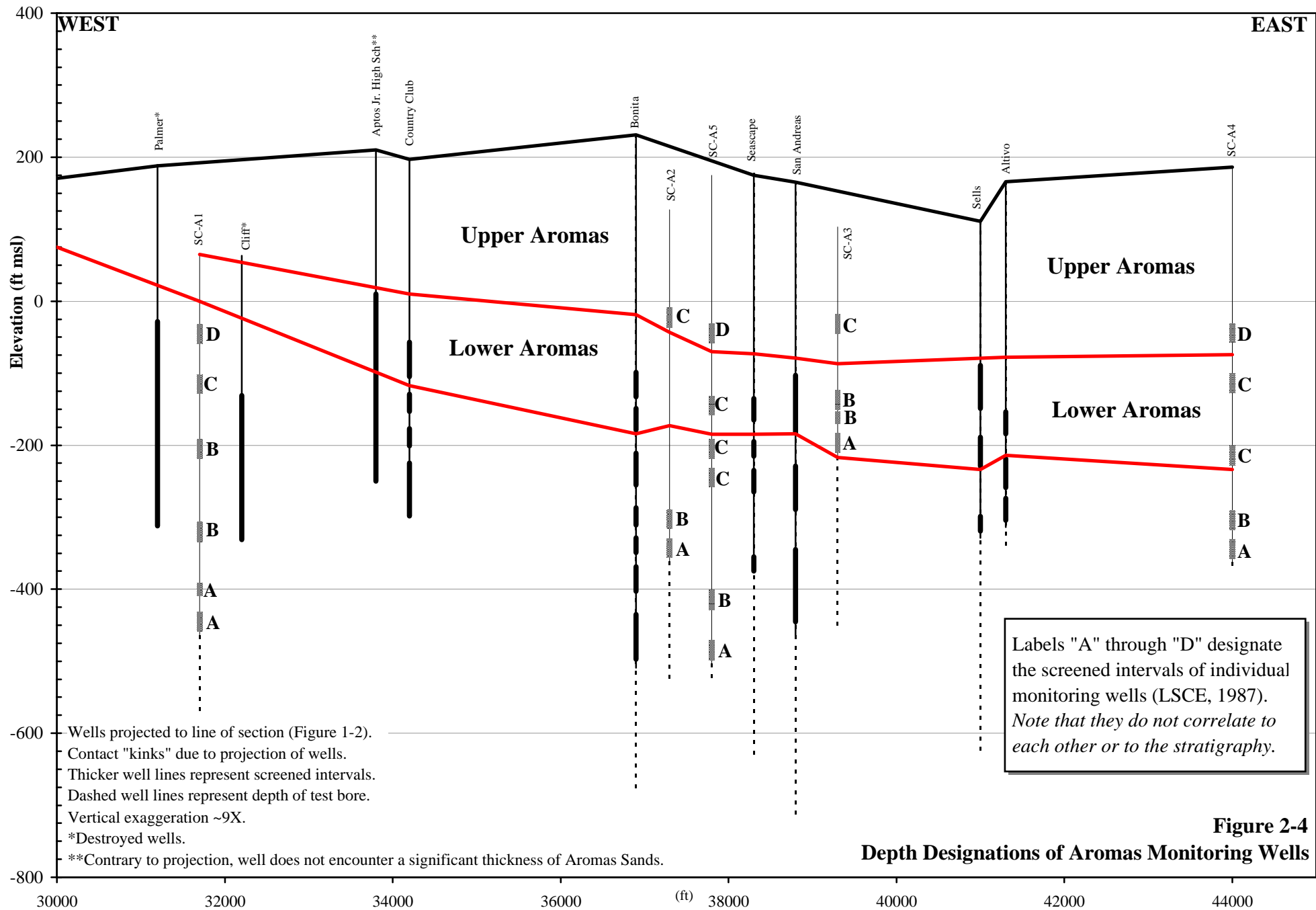


Figure 2: Generalized Hydrostratigraphic Cross-Section





**Figure 2-4**  
**Depth Designations of Aromas Monitoring Wells**



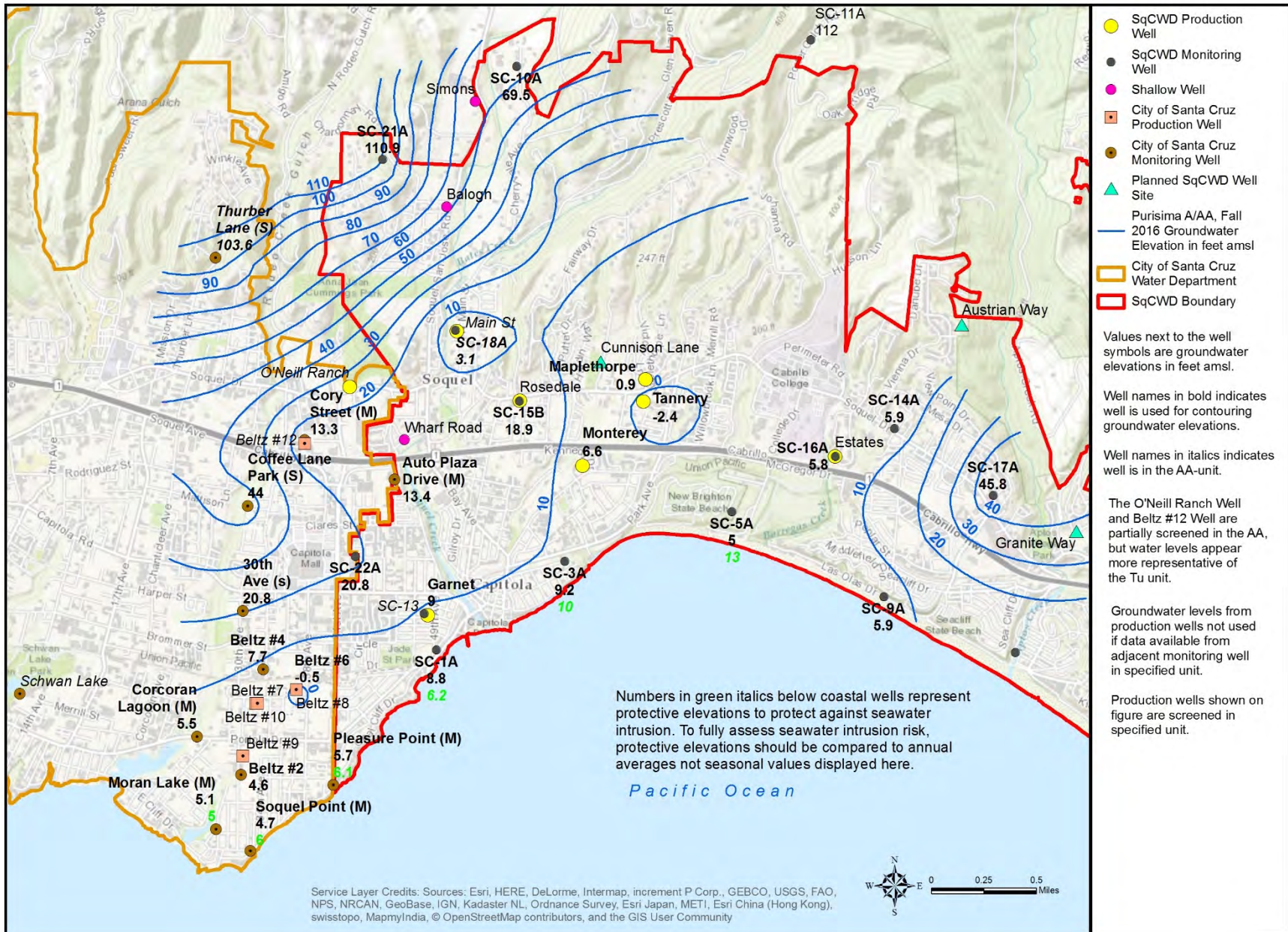


Figure 3-3 (2016): Groundwater Elevation Contours, Purisima A/AA-Units, Fall 2016



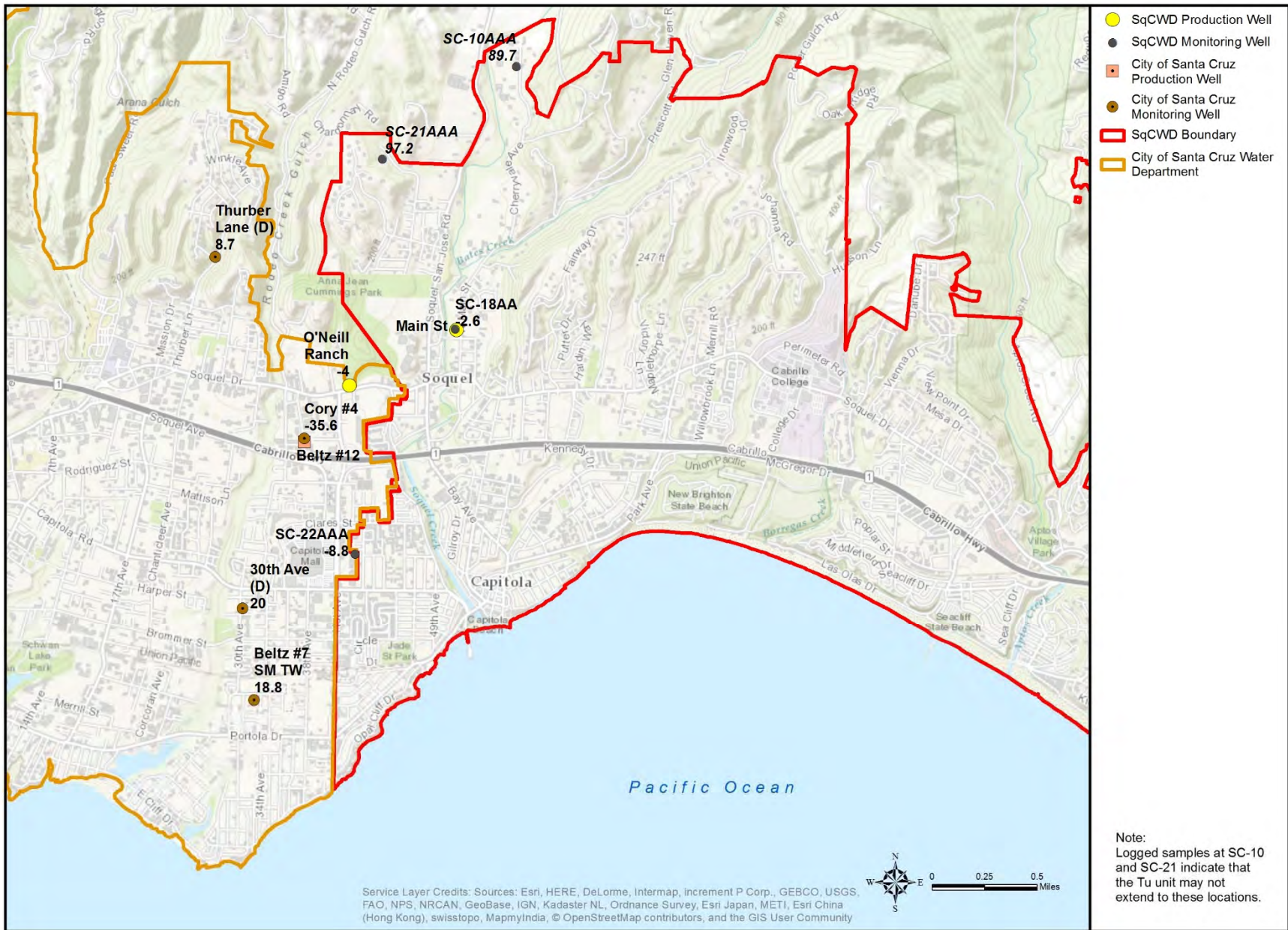


Figure 3-5 (2016): Groundwater Elevations Tu Unit, Fall 2016



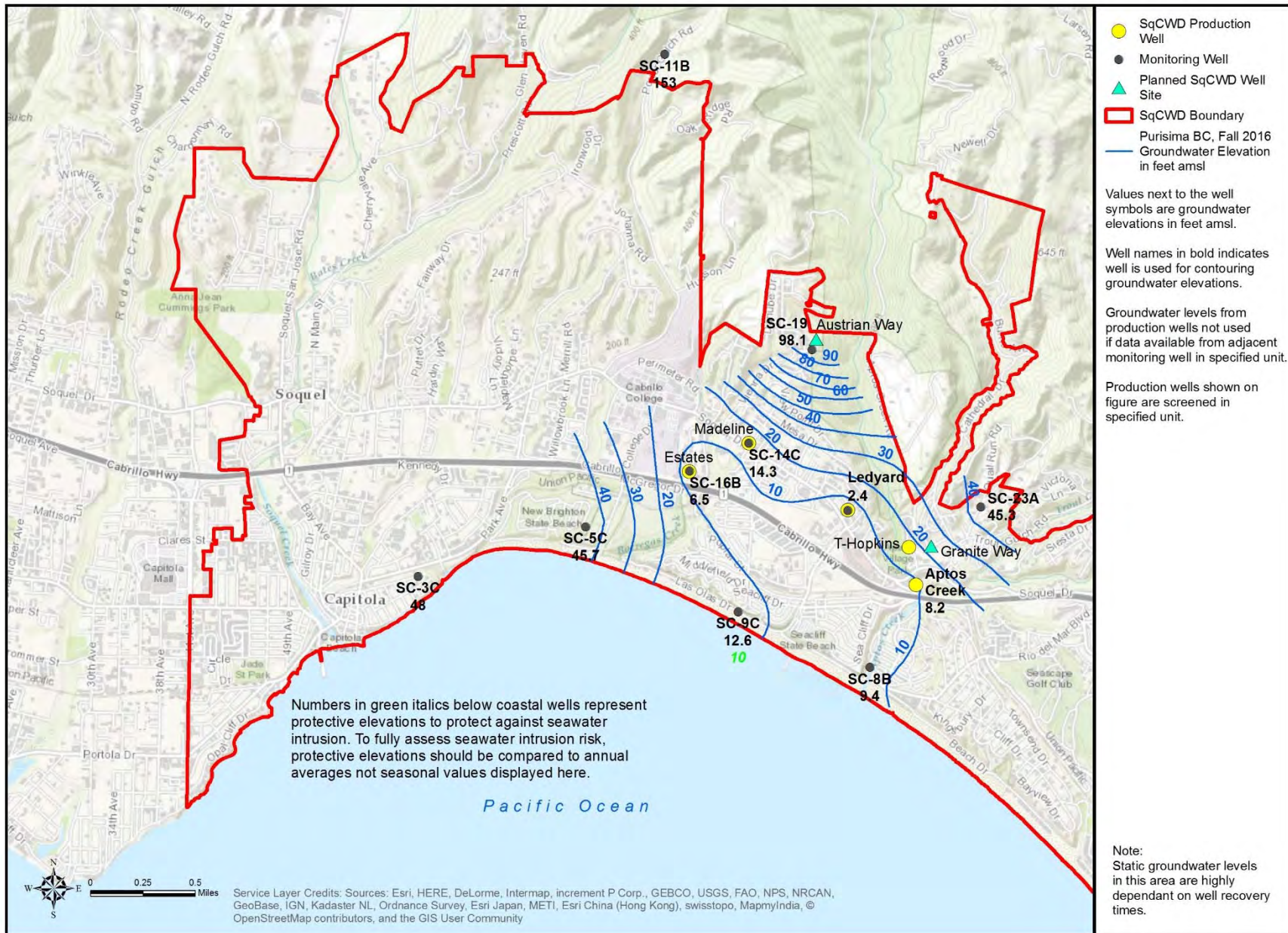


Figure 4-3 (2016): Groundwater Elevation Contours, Purisima BC-Unit, Fall 2016



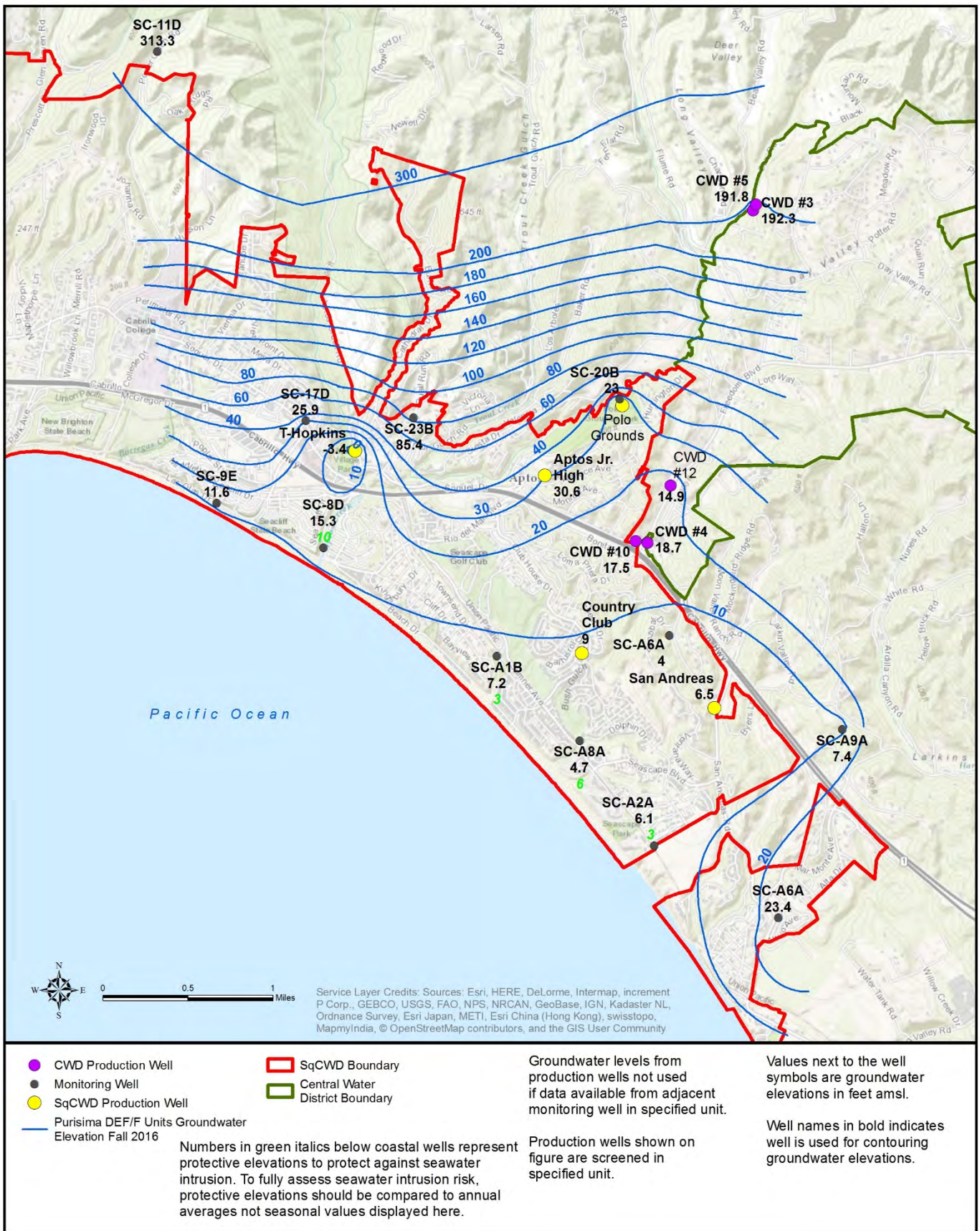


Figure 4-5 (2016): Groundwater Elevation Contours, Purisima DEF/F-Units, Fall 2016



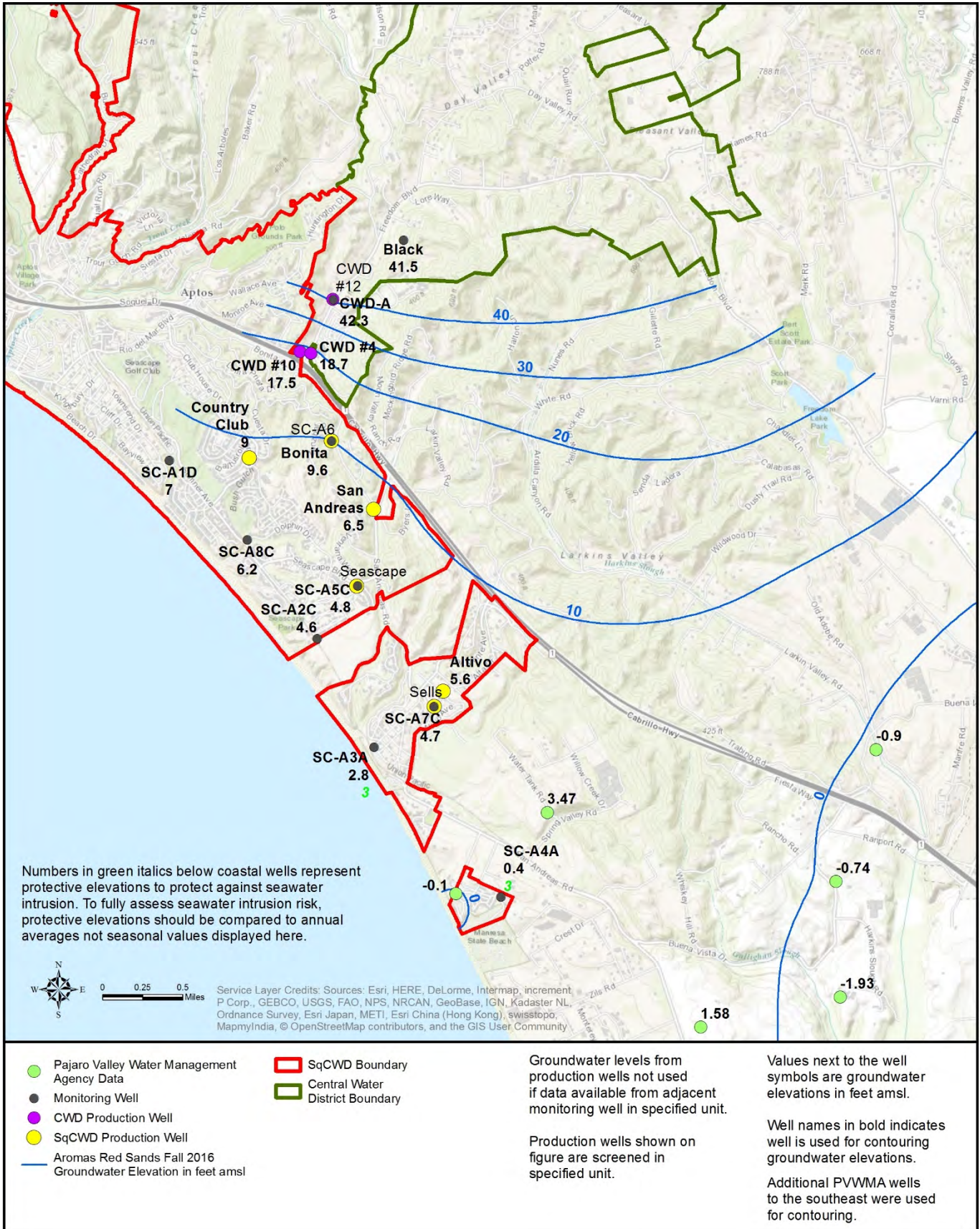


Figure 5-3 (2016): Groundwater Elevation Contours, Aromas Area, Fall 2016



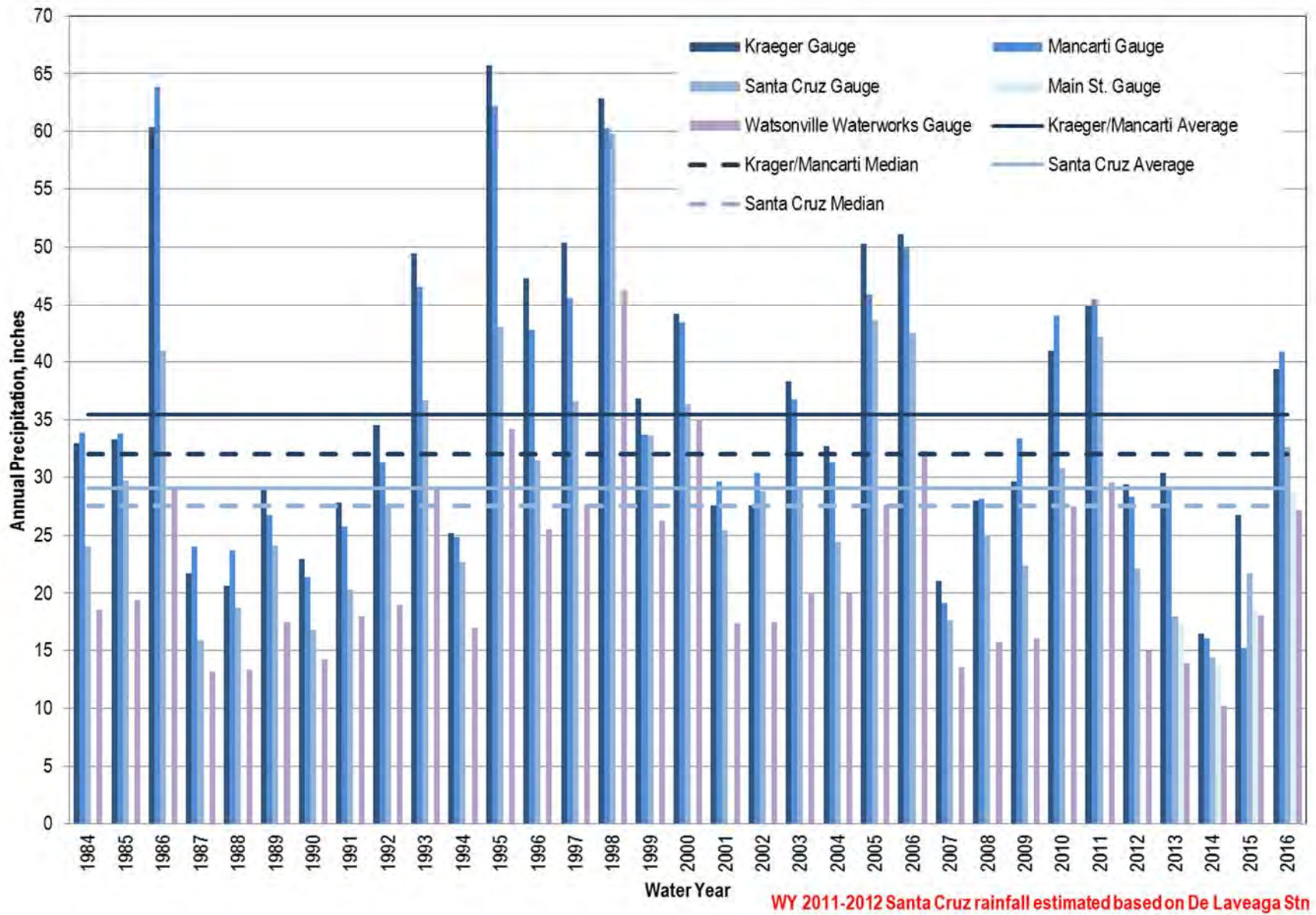


Figure 2-1: Precipitation at Kraeger, Mancarti, Santa Cruz Co-op, Watsonville Waterworks and Main Street Gauges

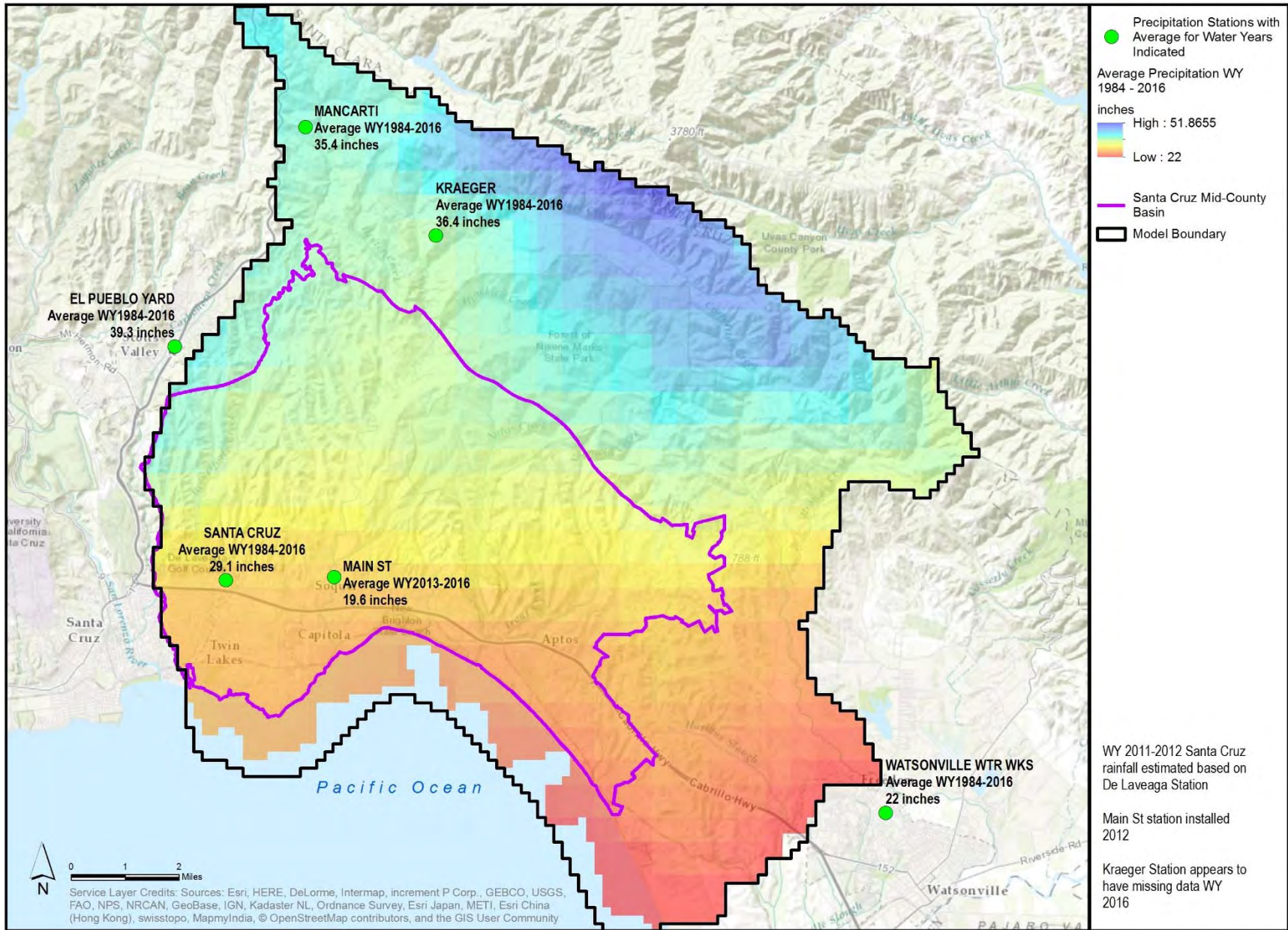


Figure 2-2: Rainfall Station Locations

*Table 2-1. Estimated Deep Recharge for Water Years 2010-2016*

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Rainfall at Santa Cruz Co-op (inches)</b>	<b>Estimated Recharge (acre-feet)</b>
2010	30.8	9,700
2011	42.2 <sup>1</sup>	21,000
2012	22.2 <sup>1</sup>	4,000
2013	18.0	2,100
2014	14.4	800
2015	21.7	3,700
2016	32.6	11,300

<sup>1</sup> Rainfall estimated based on De Laveaga totals due to missing data at Santa Cruz Co-op station



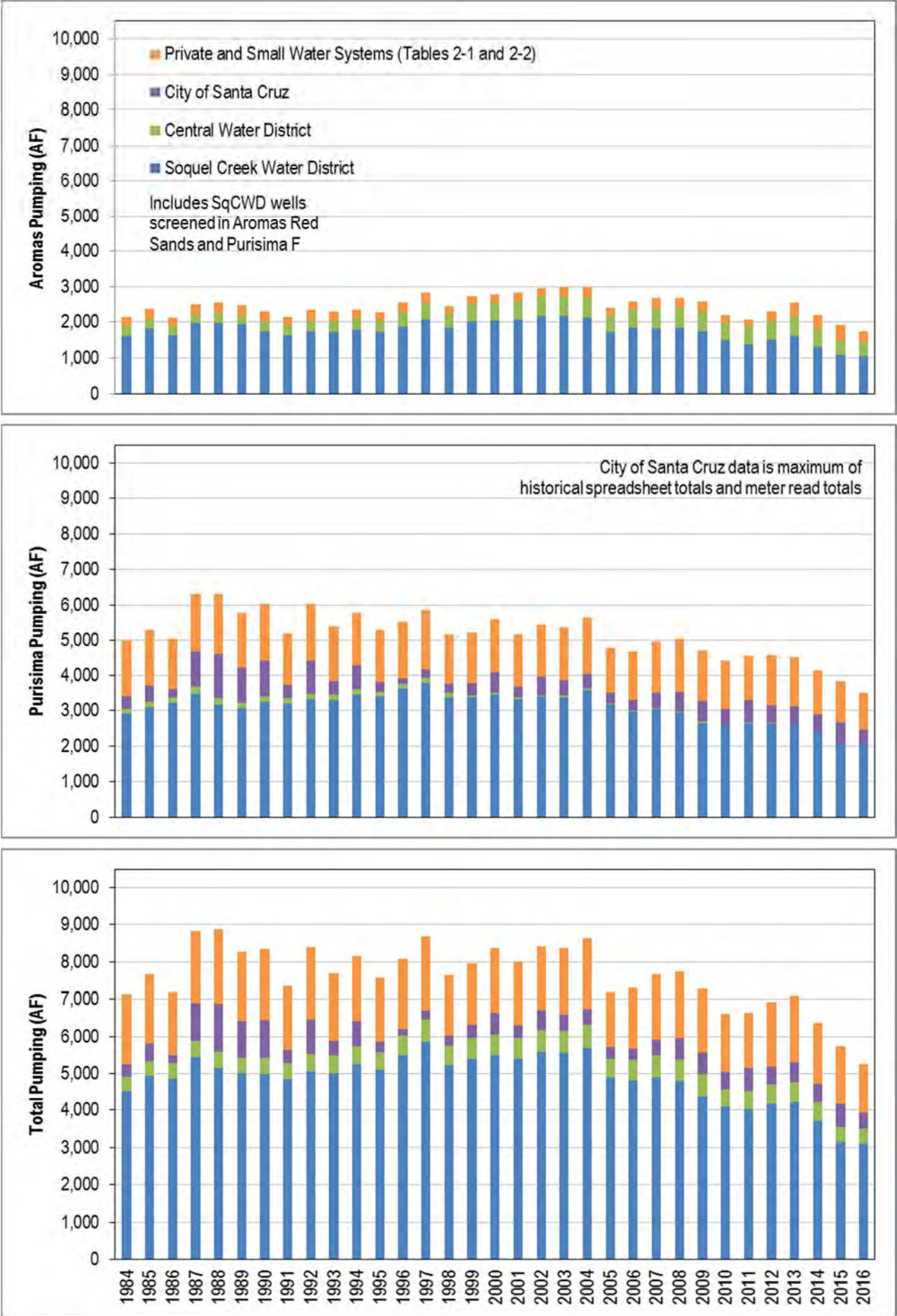
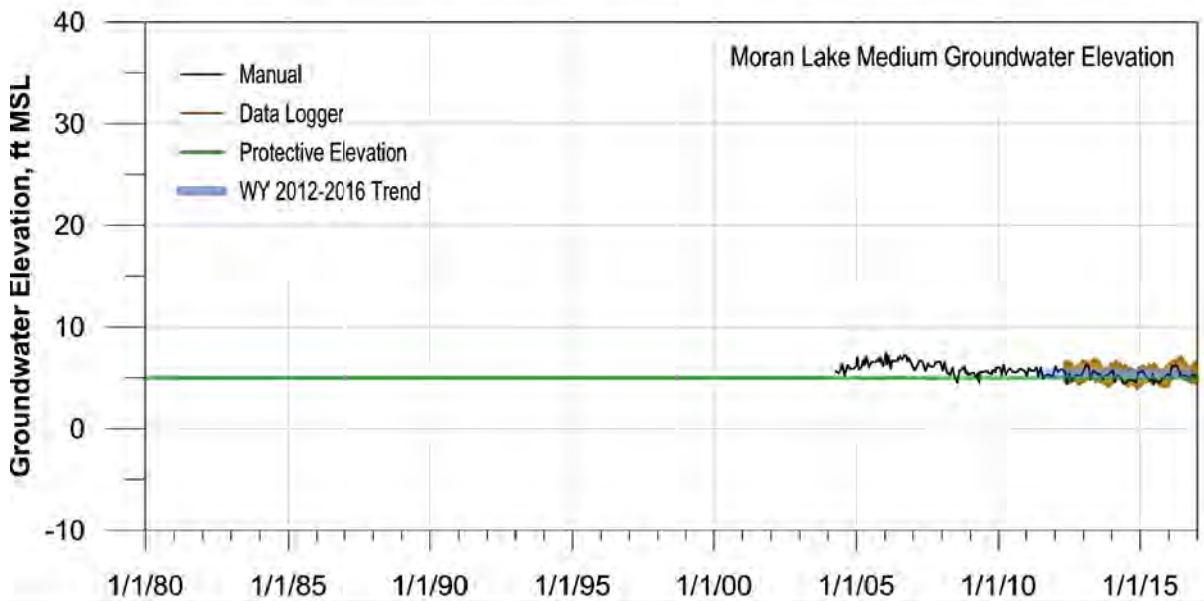
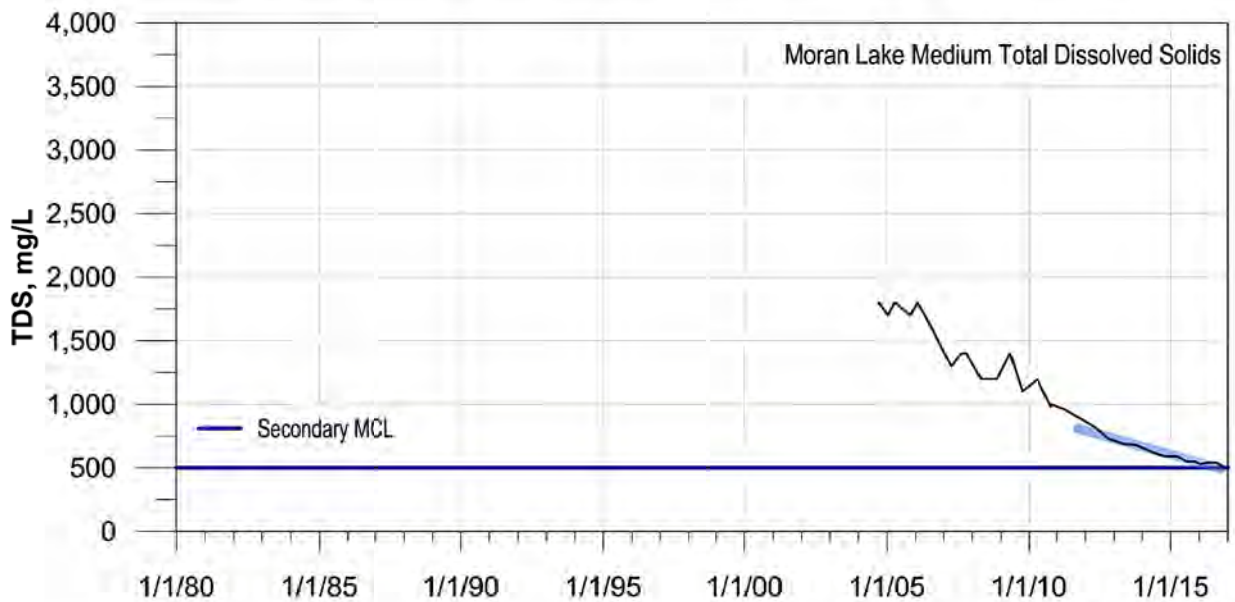
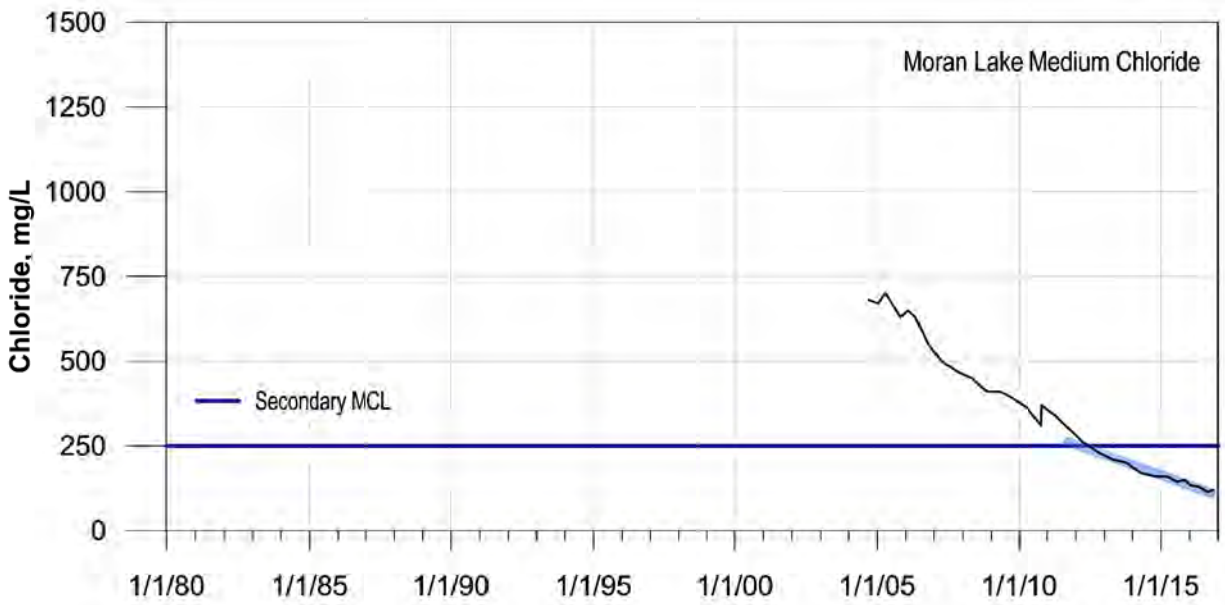
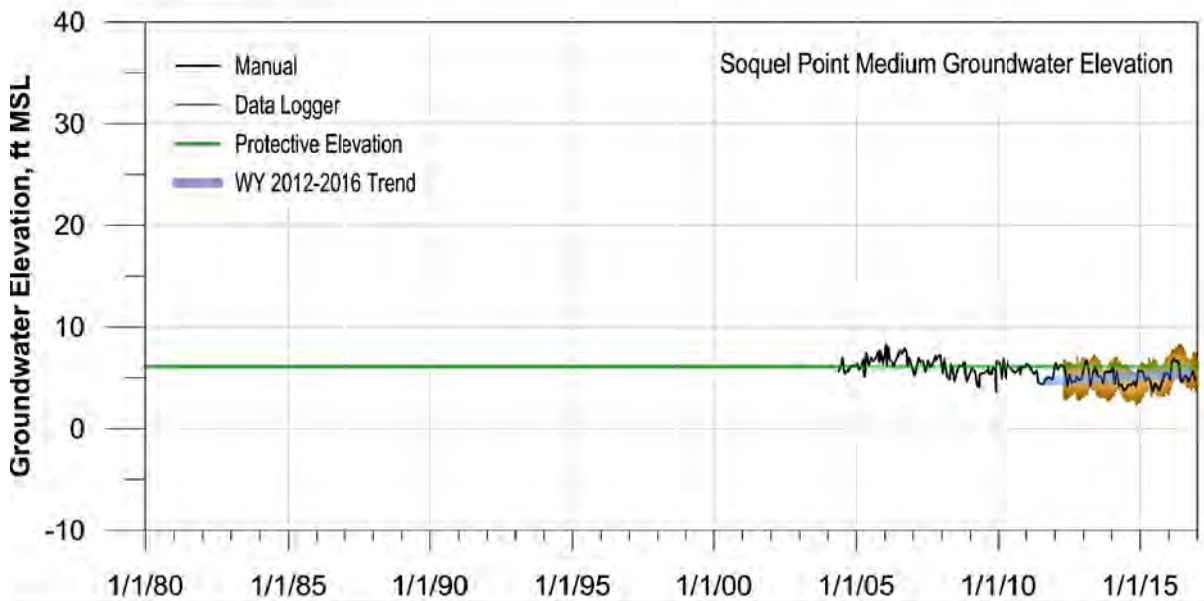
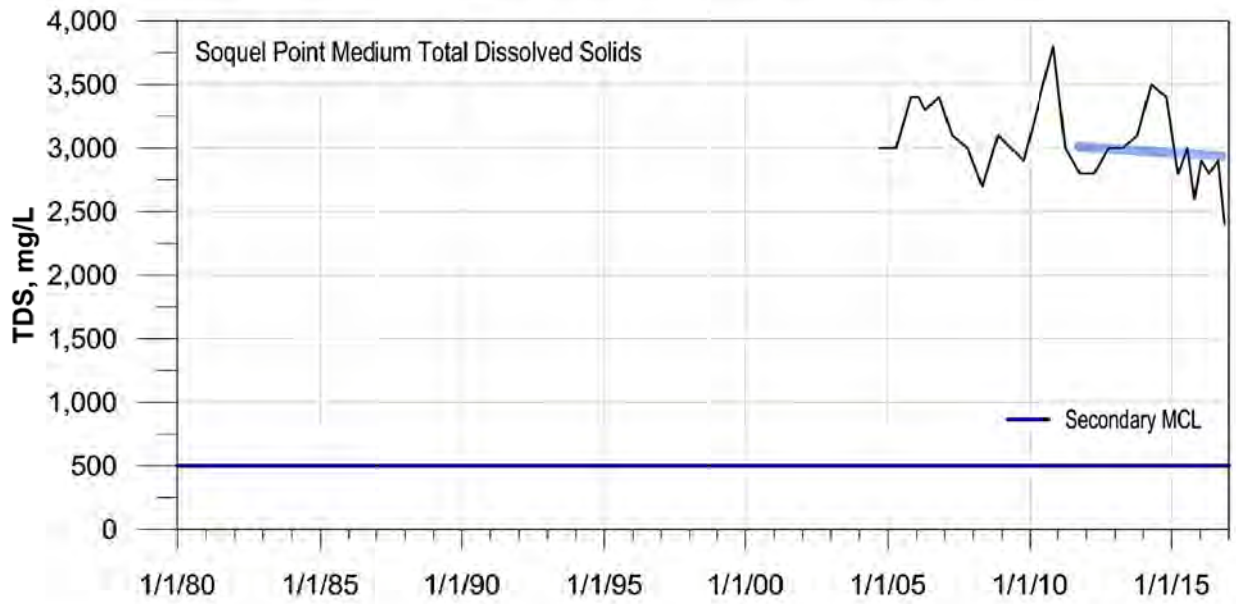
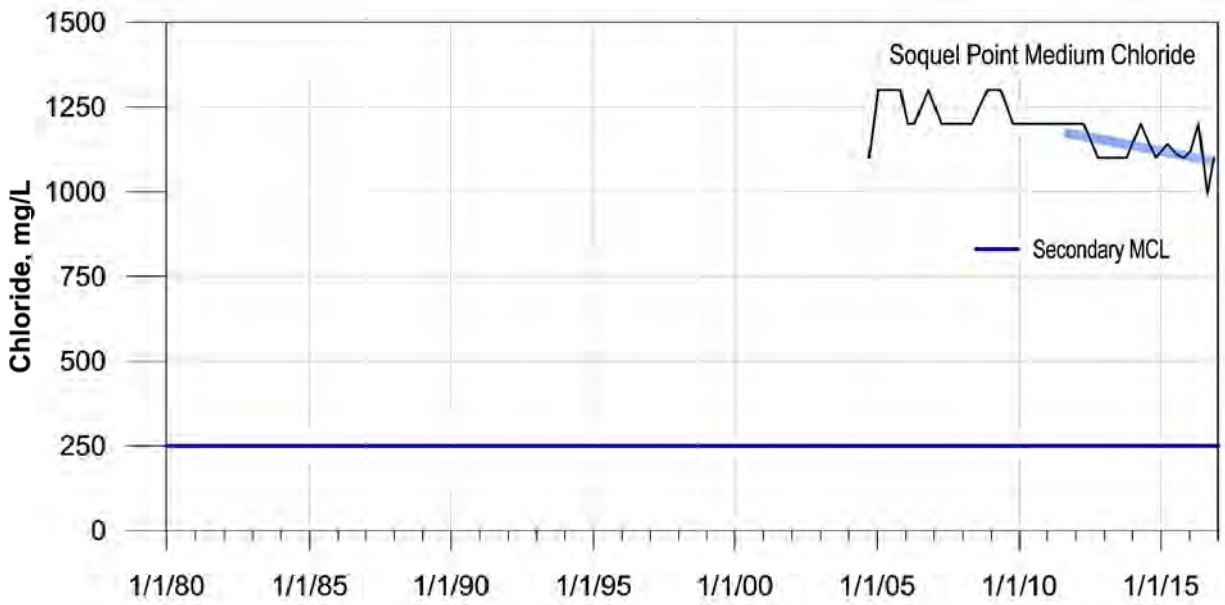
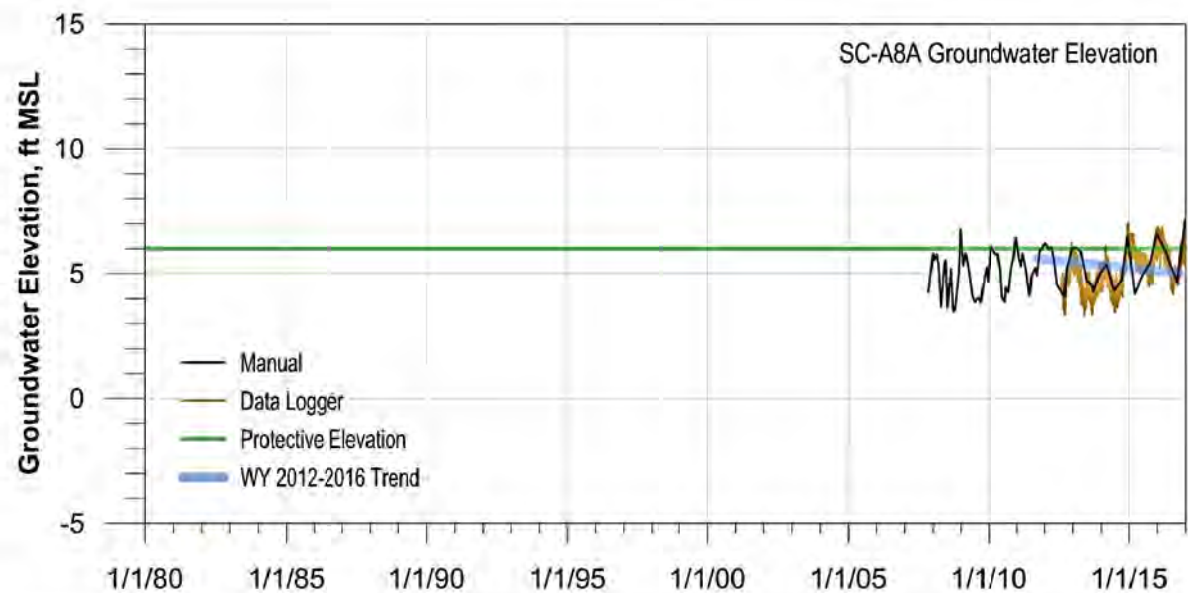
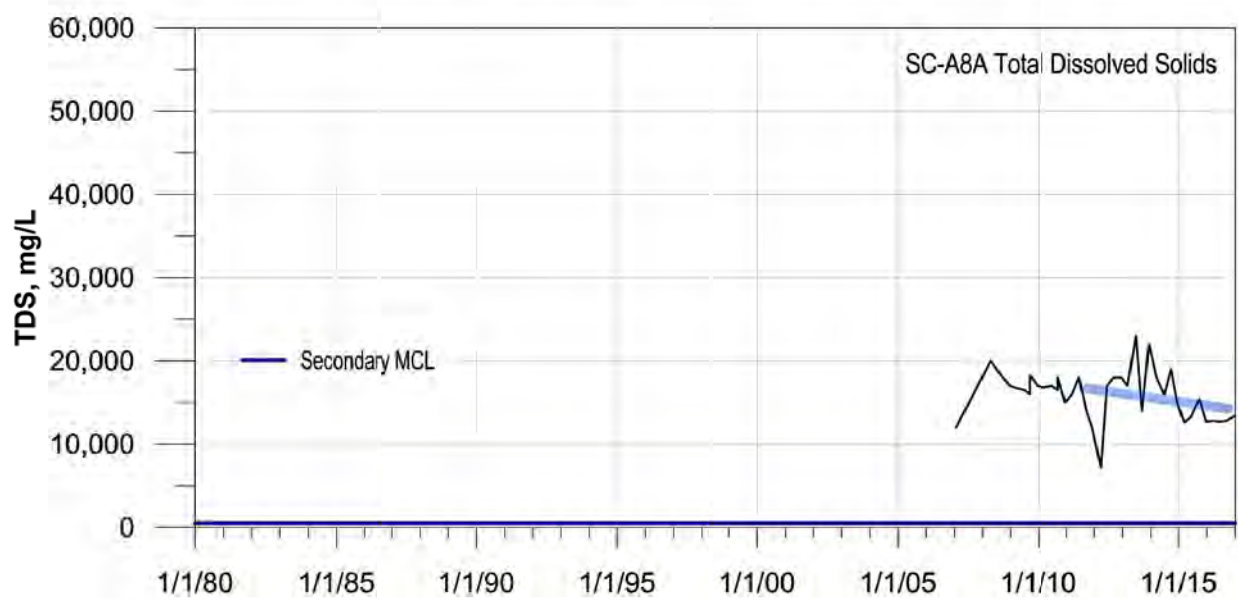
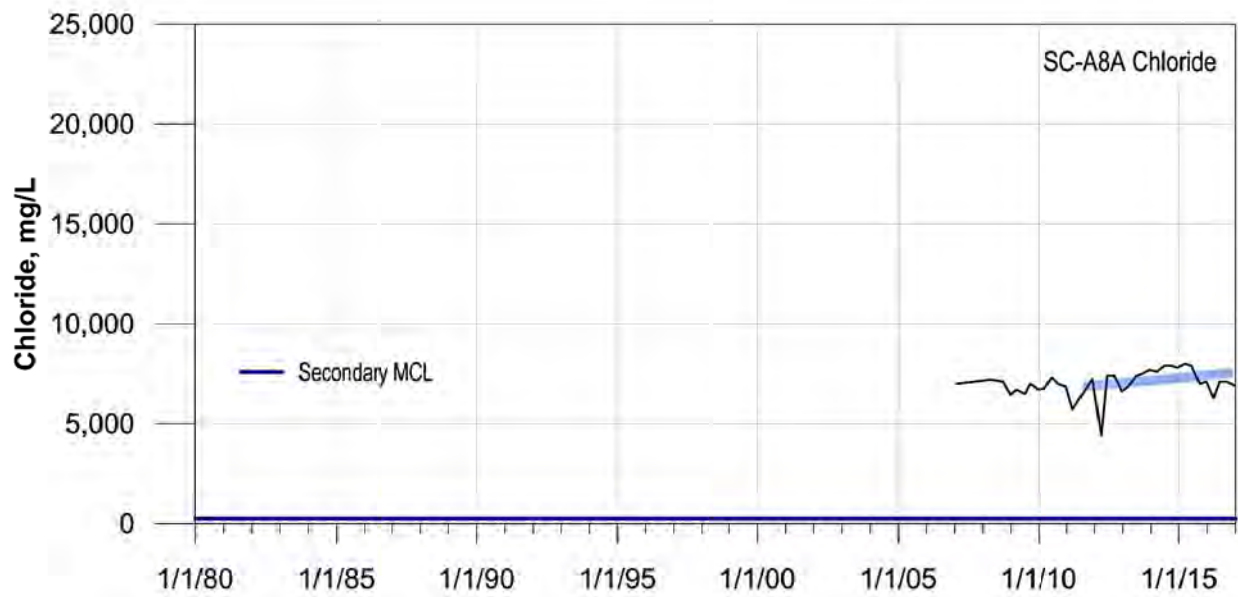


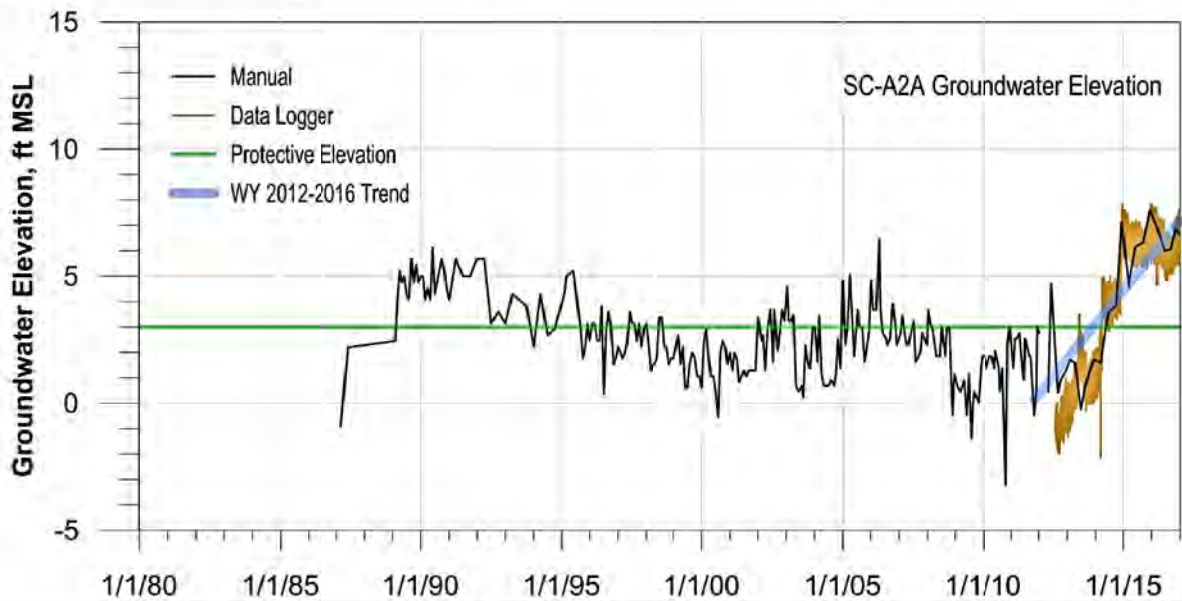
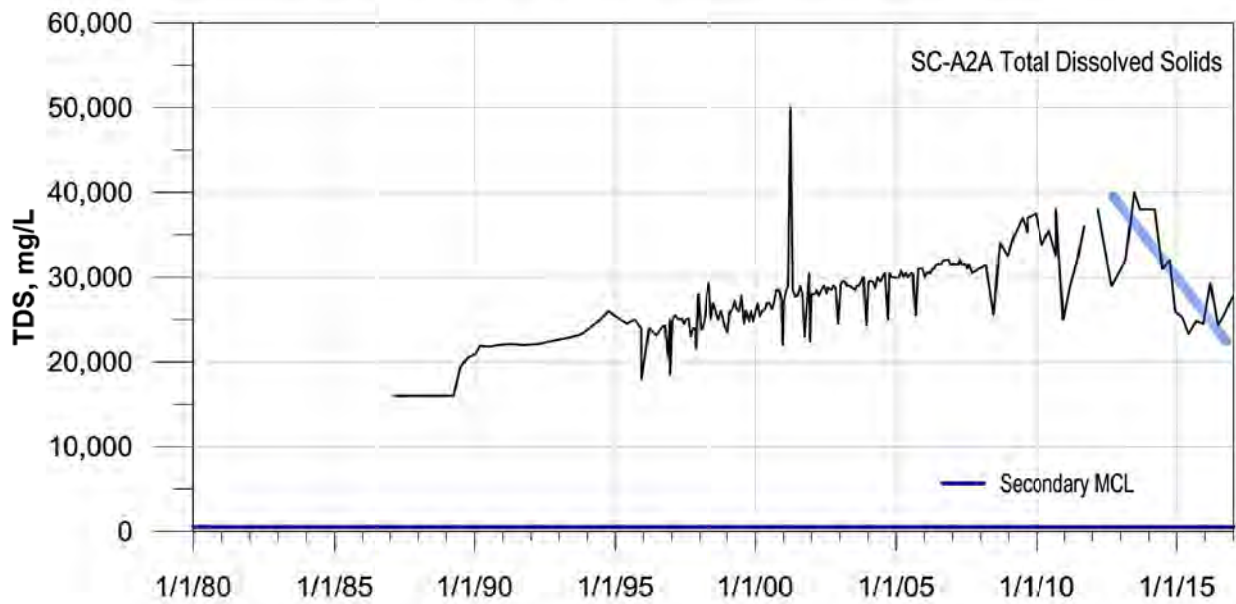
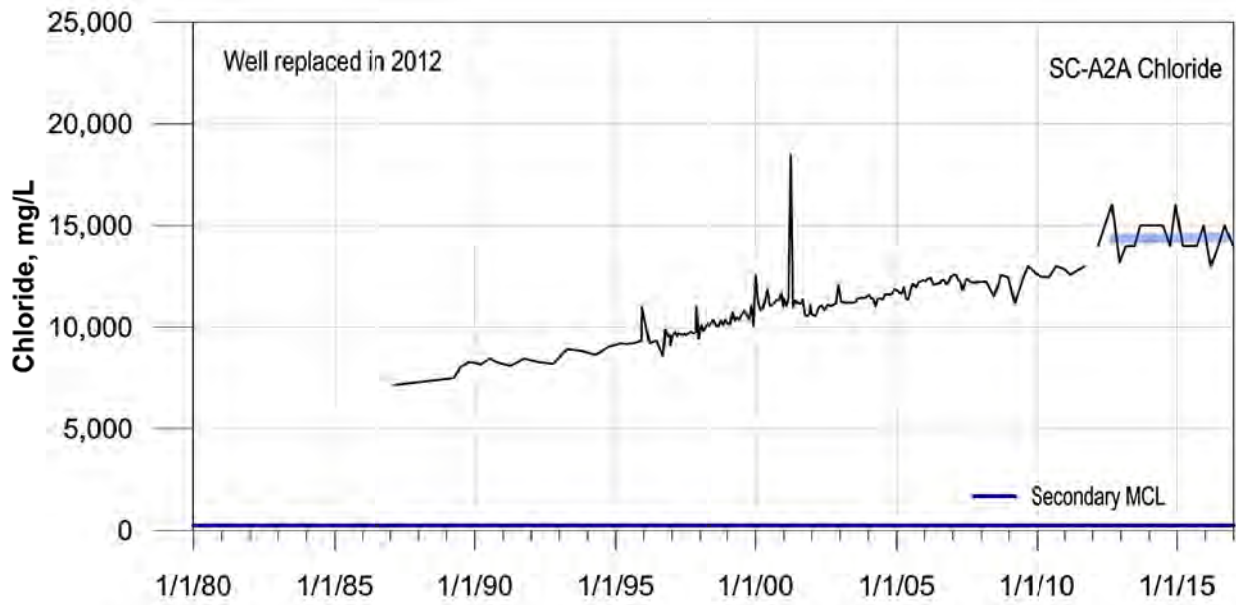
Figure 2-3: Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Pumping by Water Year in Acre-Feet

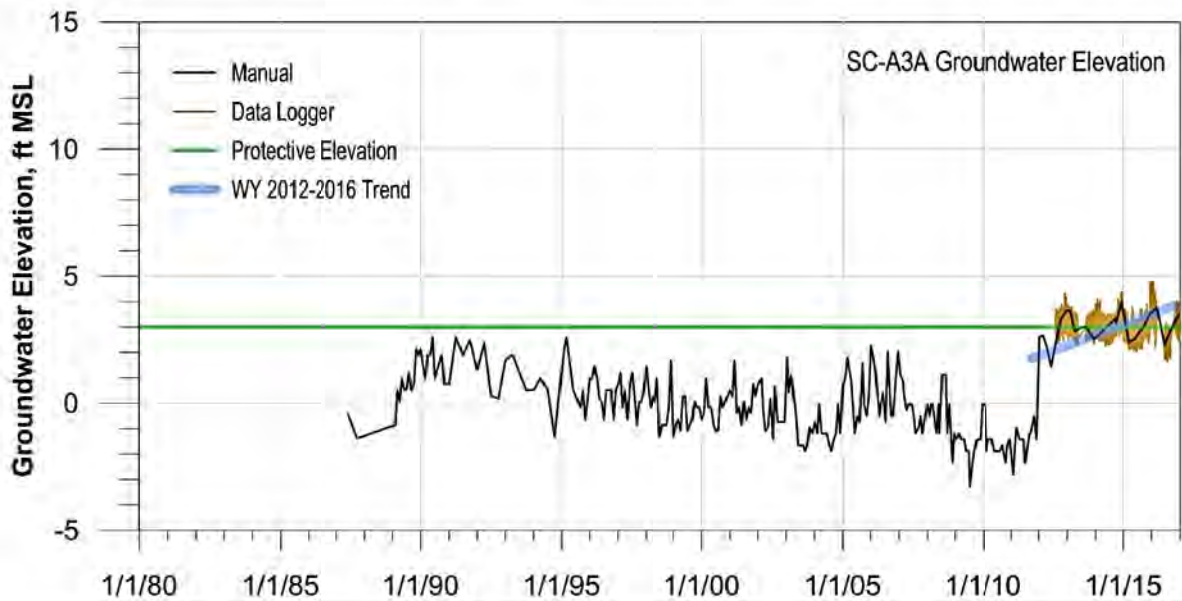
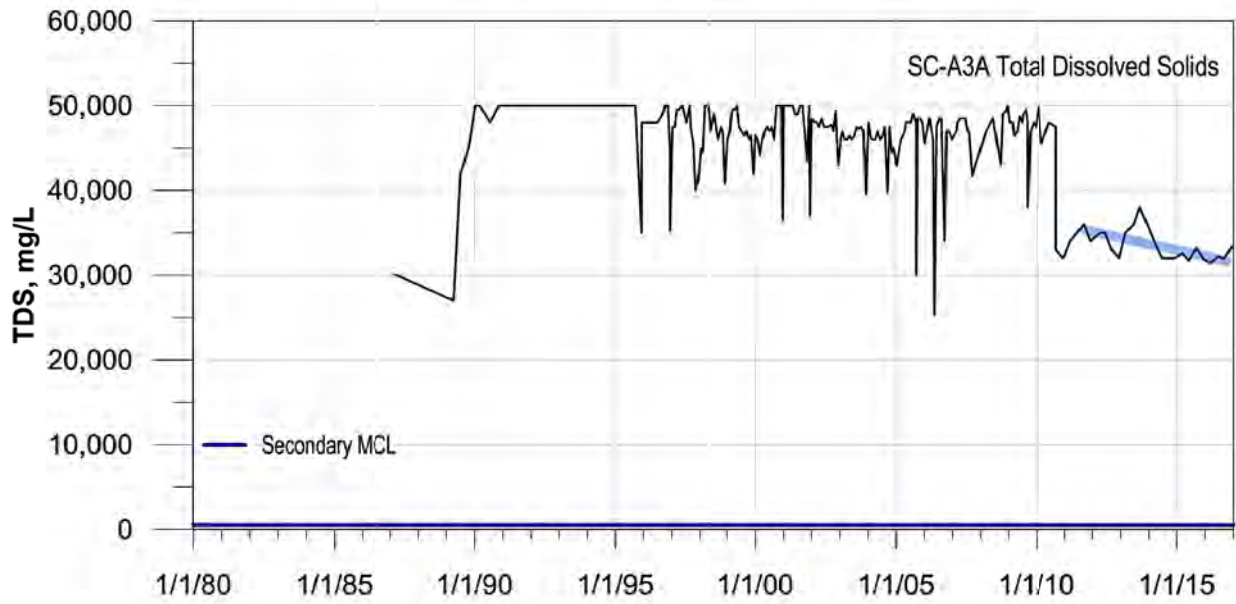
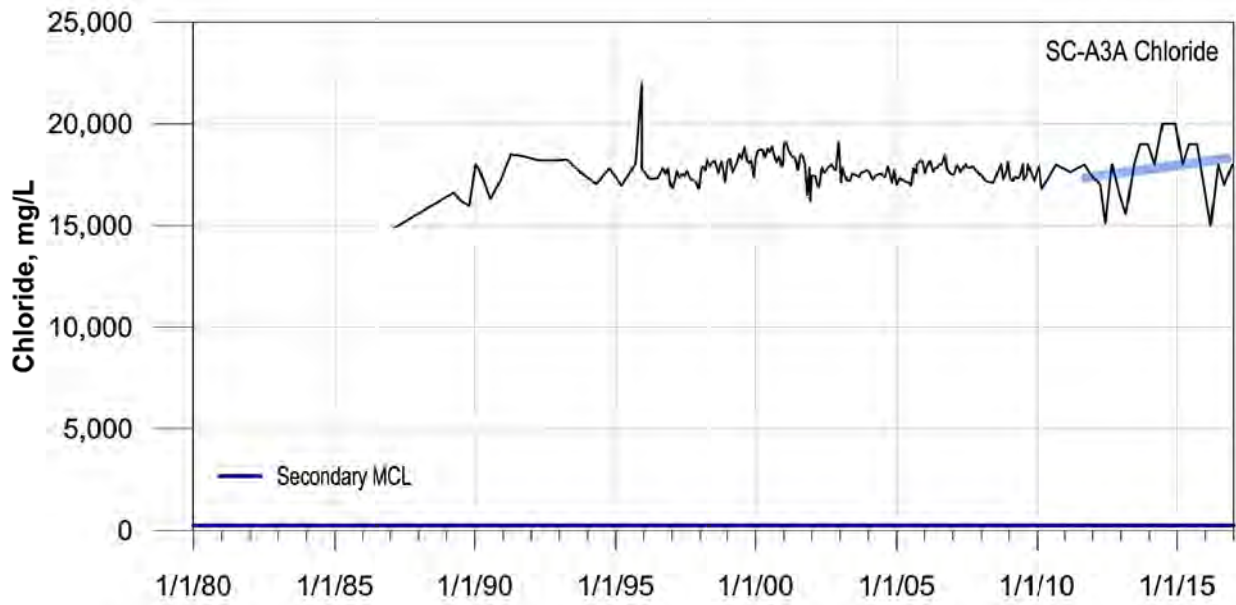




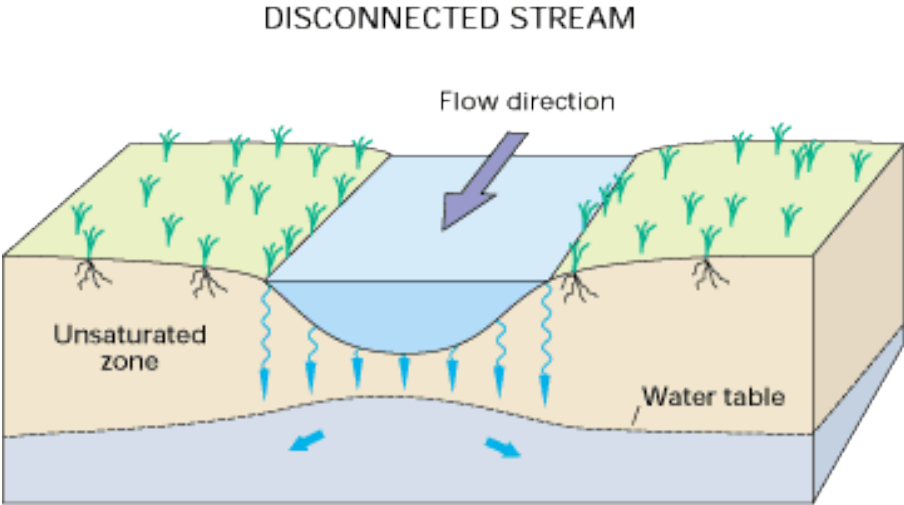
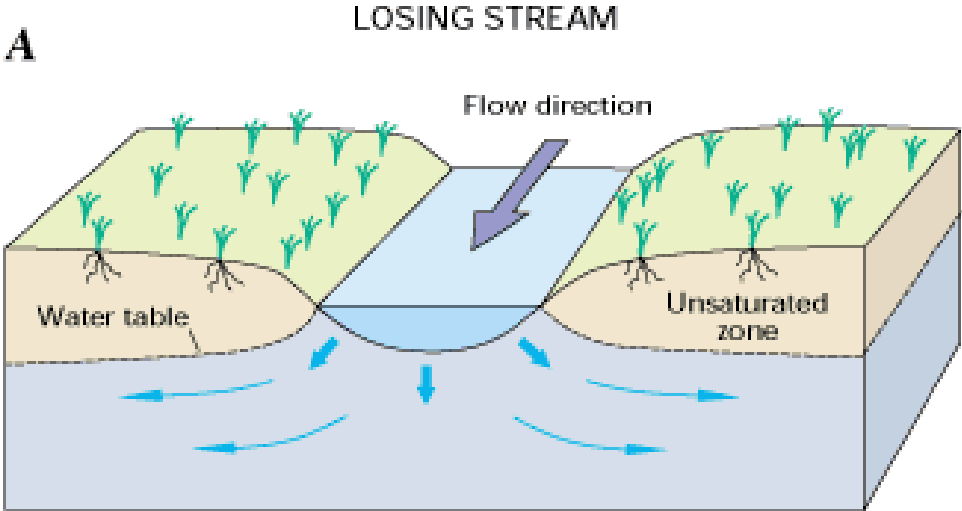
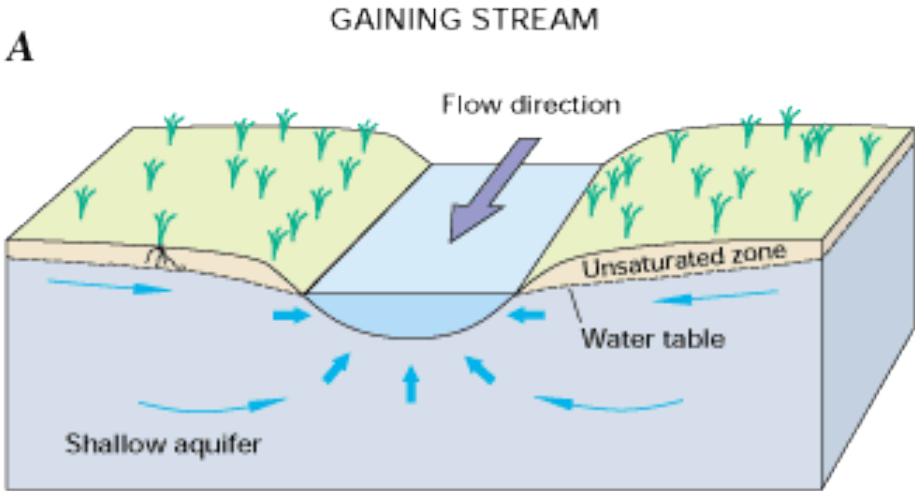








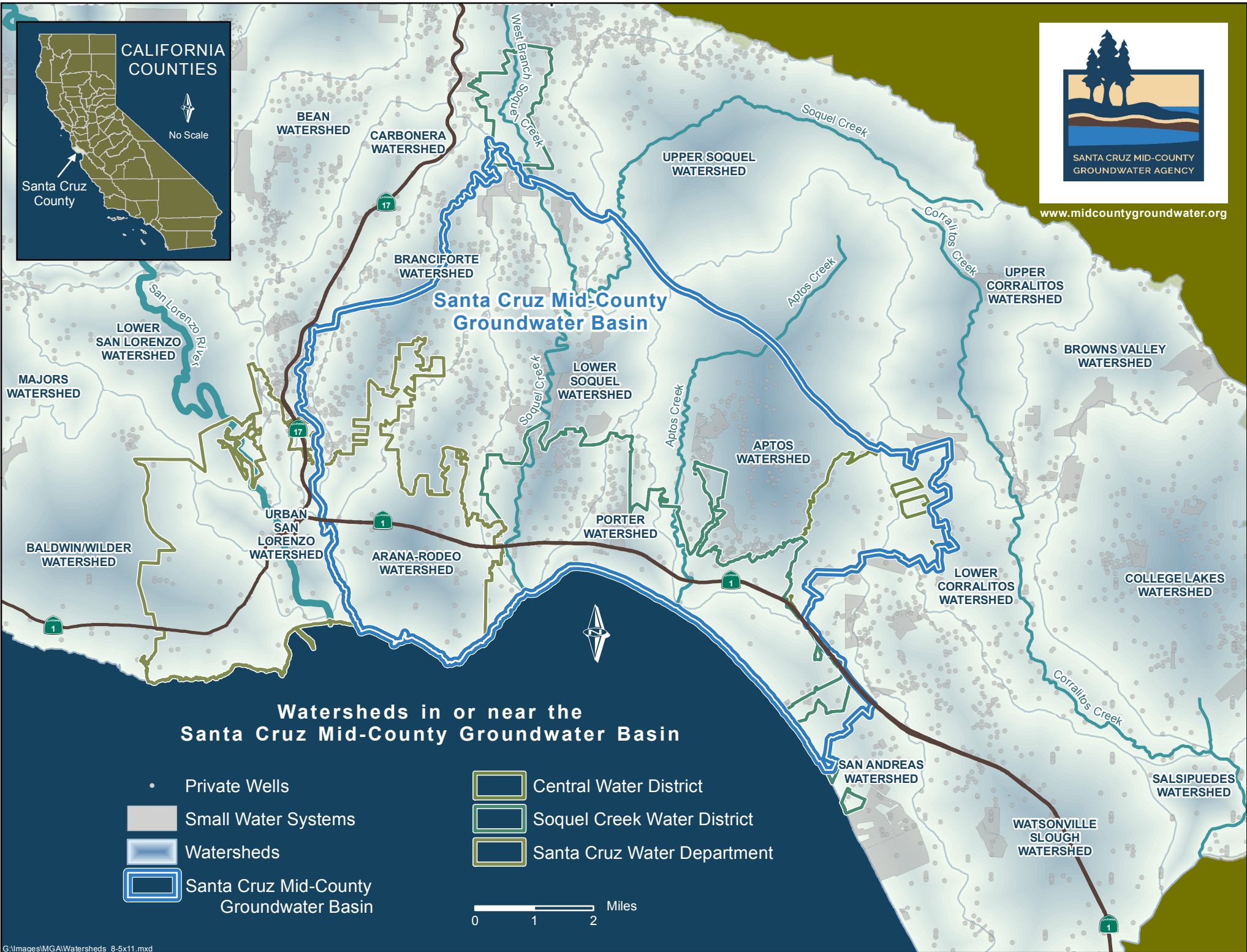
# Groundwater / Surface Water Interactions







[www.midcountygroundwater.org](http://www.midcountygroundwater.org)



### Watersheds in or near the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin

- Private Wells
- Small Water Systems
- Watersheds
- Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin
- Central Water District
- Soquel Creek Water District
- Santa Cruz Water Department



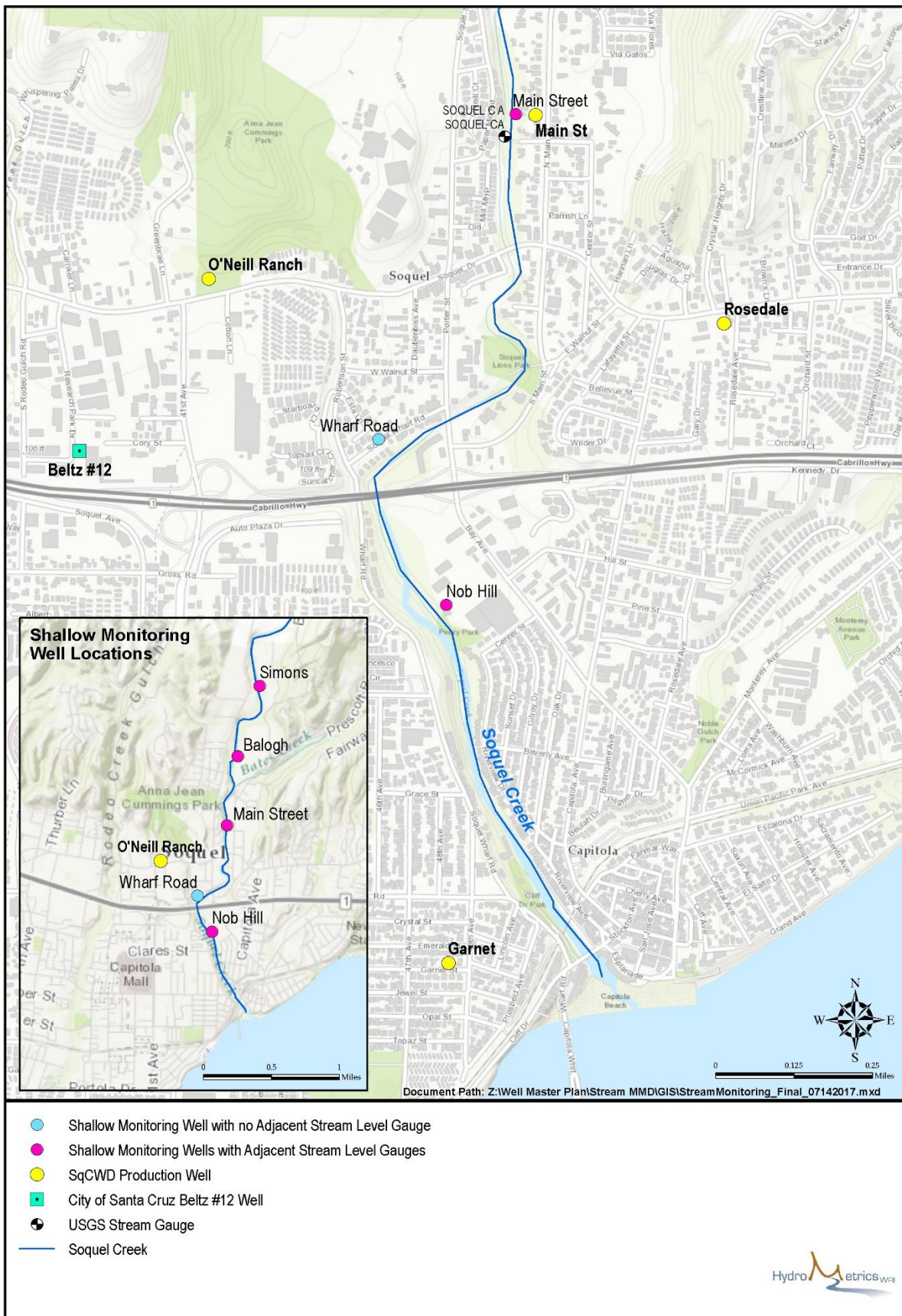


Figure 1: Monitoring Feature Locations



# NUMERIC EXAMPLE OF SETTING MINIMUM THRESHOLDS FOR SEAWATER INTRUSION

*Advisory Committee Meeting #5*

Presenter: Georgina King  
HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc.

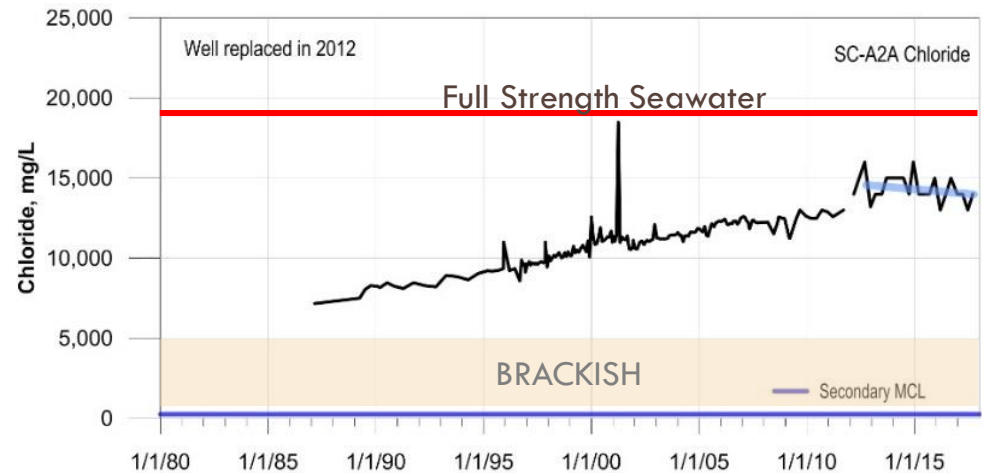
Wednesday, March 28, 2018





# Seawater Intrusion

- Mid-County Basin has intrusion into different aquifers
- Increase in chloride has been  $\sim 260$  mg/L per year in worst well
- Seawater intrusion in most cases causes irreversible damage to the aquifer



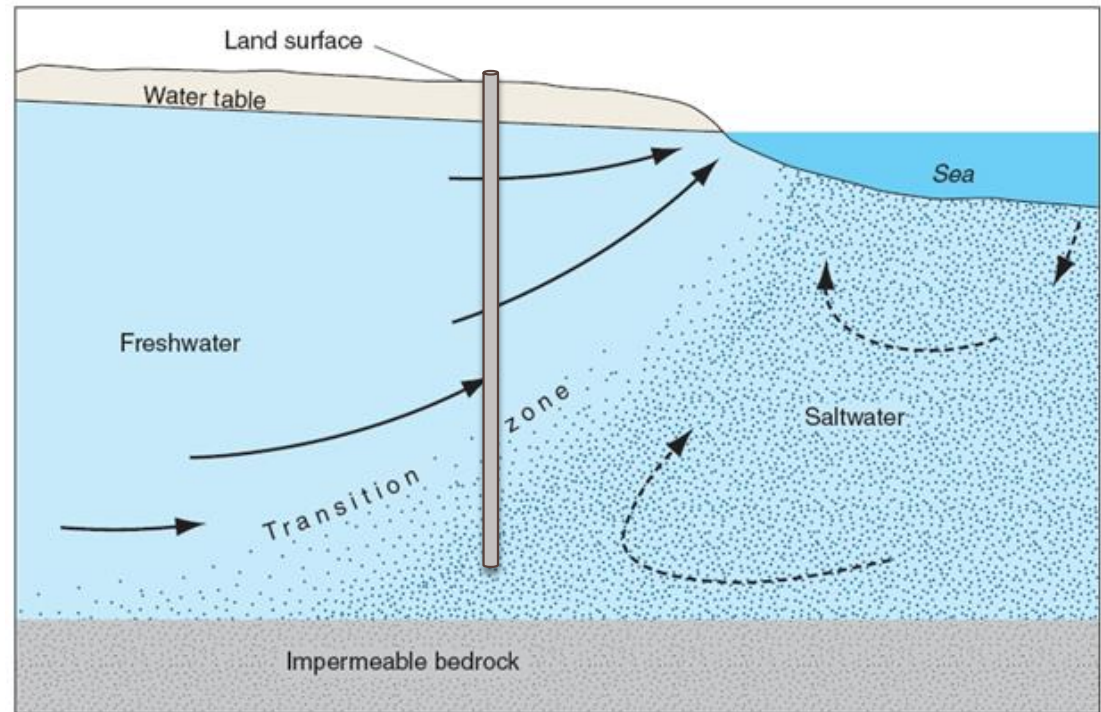
# Step 1 – Select Representative Monitoring Points

- Coastal monitoring wells where groundwater level proxies can be used
- May need inland wells to evaluate chloride concentration contour



# Step 2 – Describe what conditions you want to avoid having in the basin

- Seawater intrusion moving farther inland than it is now
- Municipal, Ag & Private wells impacted by seawater
- Ag land becomes unusable



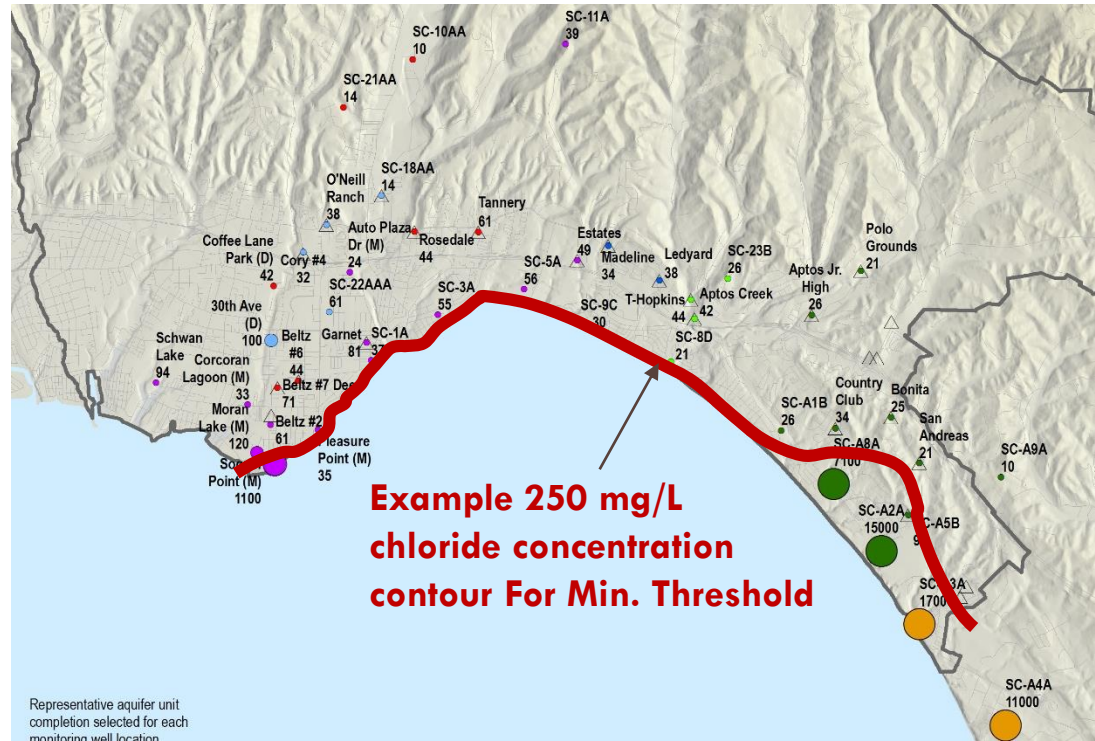
## Step 3 - Describe what an Undesirable Result would look like

- If any Coastal Representative Monitoring well with current intrusion has a chloride increase above its historic maximum in all 4 quarterly samples, and/or
- If any Inland Representative Monitoring or unintruded Coastal Monitoring Well has a chloride concentration greater than 250 mg/L in all samples taken during a year



# Step 4 – Establish Minimum Thresholds

- Quantitative value used to define an undesirable result
- GSP regulations require defining location of chloride contour
- Can also set concentrations at Representative Monitoring wells used for chloride contour



# Example Minimum Thresholds

- Example chloride concentration Minimum Thresholds at Coastal Monitoring wells

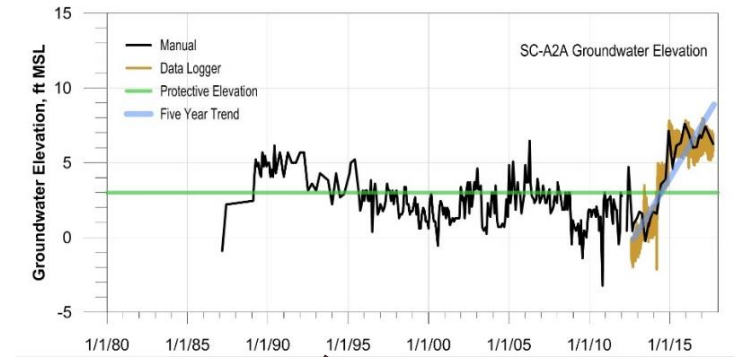
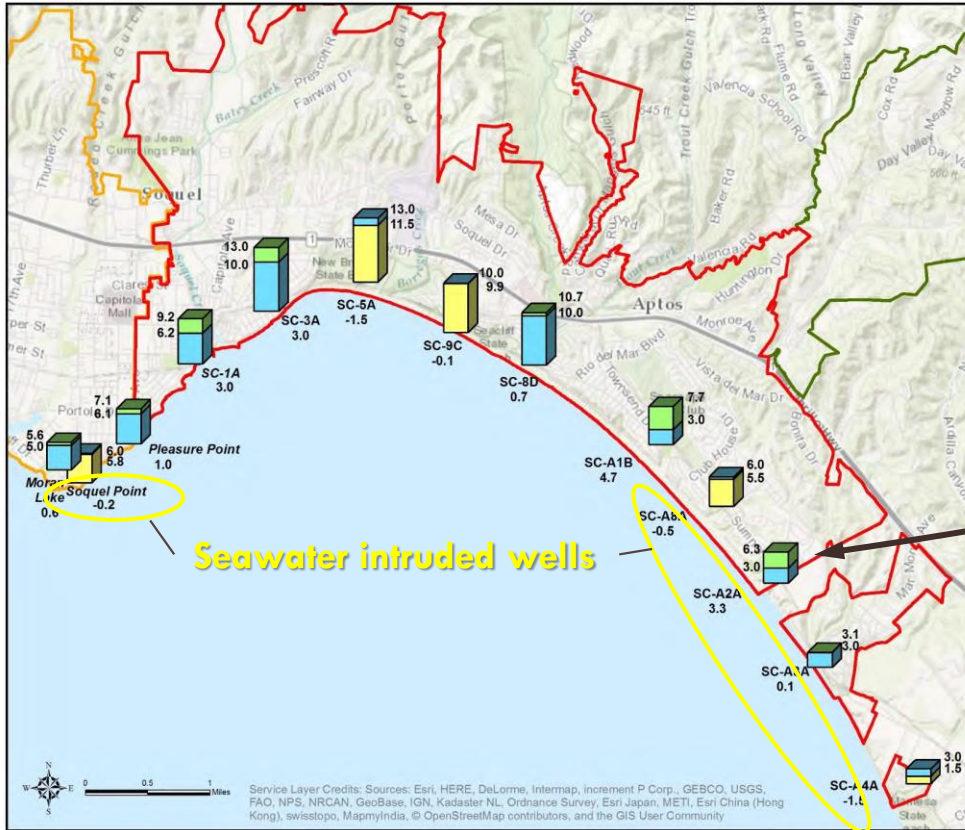


# Step 4 – Establish Minimum Thresholds

- Protective elevations are currently used to manage seawater intrusion
  - ▣ Much of the basin does not have intrusion so this method was developed to ensure further intrusion does not occur
  
- We recommend using both chloride concentrations and protective elevation minimum thresholds

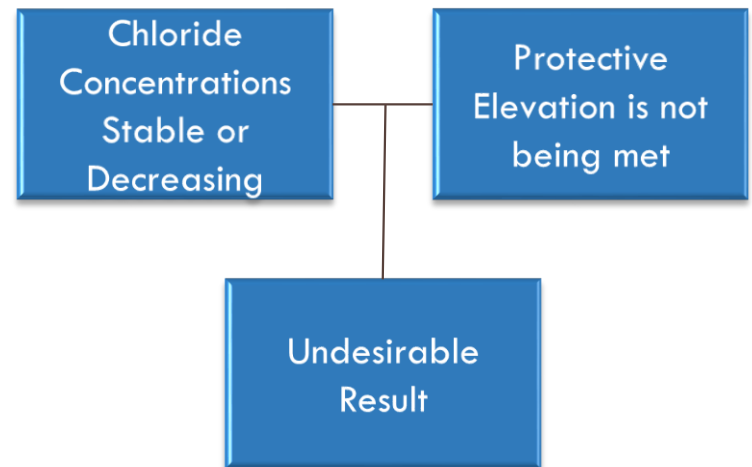
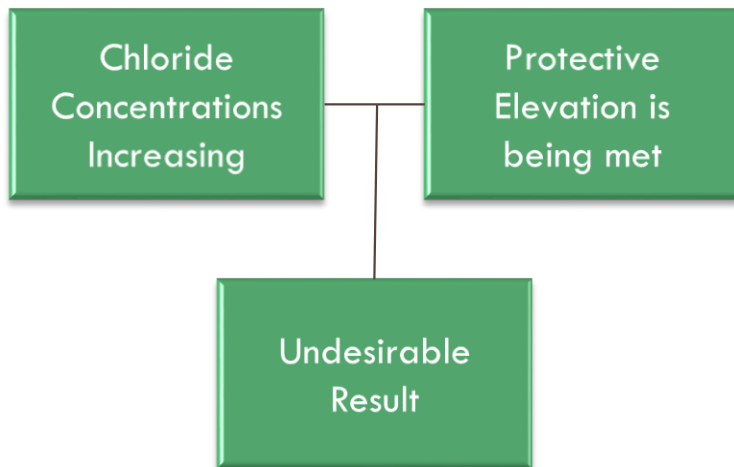


# Protective Groundwater Elevations



# Undesirable Results

- Combination of Chloride concentration and groundwater levels being below Protective Elevations





March 28, 2018

## **MEMO TO THE SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

From: Georgina King, HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc.

Subject: Introduction to Management Areas

### **Management Areas**

DWR definition from Draft BMP for Sustainable Management Criteria:

*A GSA may wish to define management areas for portions of its basin to facilitate groundwater management and monitoring. Management areas may be defined by natural or jurisdictional boundaries, and may be based on differences in water use sector, water source type, geology, or aquifer characteristics. Management areas may have different minimum thresholds and measurable objectives than the basin at large and may be monitored to a different level. However, GSAs in the basin must provide descriptions of why those differences are appropriate for the management area, relative to the rest of the basin.*

Hypothetical example: Using a land subsidence example, GSAs in a basin may decide that a management area in the vicinity of a certain canal is appropriate because the level of monitoring must be higher in that area to protect the canal from damage due to subsidence, relative to the rest of the basin. GSAs may also desire to set more restrictive minimum thresholds in that area relative to the rest of the basin.

### **Discussion on Management Areas for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin**

Currently there are different seawater intrusion goals set for different aquifers in the basin. Seawater intrusion in the Purisima F unit and Aromas Red Sands Formation is allowed only in monitoring wells in which it has been detected (no further advancement); while seawater intrusion in the rest of the Purisima aquifers is to be kept at the coastline. If this difference in protective goals continues, coastal areas underlain by the two different aquifers may warrant separate management areas.

For the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, management areas may also be implemented based on member agency jurisdictional boundaries and water use types. Agency oriented management areas would leverage existing MGA agency resources within their jurisdictional area for monitoring and management, while effectively implementing jointly agreed planning objectives specified by the MGA in the basin's GSP.

An example of a different water use type management area in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin may be the inland areas of the basin that are not supplied municipal water and who rely on privately pumped groundwater for domestic use. The amount of water pumped per square mile by these users is far less than within the municipal agency jurisdiction, and therefore they have a smaller impact on the groundwater resources. The level of monitoring for groundwater levels and amount pumped might be less than that required for the municipal areas. This different level of management might warrant these areas having their own management

March 28, 2018

**MEMO TO THE SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

From: John Ricker, Executive Team, Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

Subject: Formation of Ad Hoc Surface Water Working Group

**BACKGROUND:** The Advisory Committee Charter provides for the formation of working groups to address specific topic areas:

“As needed, Advisory Committee members can create ad hoc working groups to address particular issue areas to help drive their work forward. Working groups will have specific, bounded charges and work products; they will not make decisions or recommendations. Rather, they will explore and research scientific, technical and policy issues, and will bring their work products back to the full Advisory Committee for action. Working groups will not contain a majority of Advisory Committee members and are therefore not subject to the Brown Act. Within reason, the Advisory Committee can invite non Advisory Committee members to participate in these working group meetings. When deciding to convene a specific working group, Advisory Committee members will discuss and recommend invited participants to the full Advisory Committee for approval. When needed, the Advisory Committee may seek assistance from MGA board and staff to identify the people most knowledgeable to participate in specific issue area working groups. Working groups will not speak on behalf of the full Advisory Committee. Ad hoc working groups may be facilitated as needed. “

Tentative Topics to be considered:

1. Overview of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) in Mid-County
2. Overview of SGMA requirements regarding GDEs
3. General overview of universe of factors affecting streams and GDE's
4. Focus on effect of groundwater on GDEs in Mid-County, primarily streams, including flow and temperature:
  - a. Historical info
  - b. Model info
  - c. Current monitoring and need for future monitoring
5. Discussion of groundwater objectives to minimize impact on GDE
6. Development of recommendations and supporting information for consideration by full Advisory Committee
7. Consideration of recommended quantitative objectives for protection of GDEs

Suggested Participants

- Advisory Committee members with interest and expertise in streamflow, ecosystems and/or surface groundwater relationships (no more than 6 members)
- NOAA Fisheries
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- Resource Conservation District
- Technical consultants
- Staff, including City and County Fishery Planners

Tentative Schedule: The group will probably meet 2-3 times in April and May, with an initial report back to the Advisory Committee at the end of May, with potential for a further meeting prior to the June Advisory Committee meeting. Meetings will likely be 2-3 hours, with a recommendation to review background info before meetings.

Future Working Groups: Staff anticipates that additional ad hoc working groups may be needed to address the following topics:

- Land Use, Future Water Demand, Relative Impact of Groundwater Users: anticipated timing of formation is after June 2018
- Water Quality: May- June 2018
- Management Areas: Later date still to be determined

Recommendation: Approve the formation of Ad Hoc Surface Water Working Group, including scope, and participants. Identify Advisory Committee members who will participate.





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## ***Draft Meeting Summary***

### **Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee Meeting #4 February 28, 2018, 5:30 – 9:00 pm**

This meeting was the fourth convening of the Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee. It took place on February 28, 2018 from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. This document summarizes presentations to the Advisory Committee and discussion focusing on three Sustainability Indicators: groundwater levels, groundwater storage, and seawater intrusion. It also captures a staff report on additional information requested by Advisory Committee members, clarifying questions from Advisory Committee members, Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) staff responses and an overview of public comment received. It is not intended to serve as a detailed transcript of the meeting.

#### **Meeting Objectives**

1. Begin discussing three Sustainability Indicators: groundwater levels, groundwater storage, and seawater intrusion.
  - a. Decide whether these three are applicable Sustainability Indicators in the Mid-County Basin.
  - b. Discuss what are considered significant and unreasonable conditions for each of those three Sustainability Indicators.
  - c. Discuss what Undesirable Results may look like for the three Sustainability Indicators.
2. Share additional background information with Advisory Committee members.

#### **Action Items**

Key action items from the meeting include the following:

1. Kearns & West to revise the January 24 meeting summary based on comments provided.
2. Executive Team to transmit the January 24 meeting summary to the MGA Board for their information (per the Charter).
3. John Ricker to provide data on the number of wells in the Basin that are at risk of going dry, average depths of wells, and other well-related data.
4. Staff to help identify where the "management areas" should potentially be located in the context of measuring groundwater levels.



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5. Staff to consider how to better share background information and provide technically-based options and alternatives to which Advisory Committee members can respond.

### **Meeting attendance**

Committee members in attendance included:

1. Kate Anderton, Environmental Representative
2. John Bargetto, Agricultural Representative
3. David Baskin, City of Santa Cruz
4. Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District
5. Jon Kennedy, Private Well Representative
6. Jonathan Lear, At-Large Representative
7. Douglas P. Ley, Business Representative
8. Marco Romanini, Central Water District
9. Charlie Rous, At-Large Representative
10. Allyson Violante, County of Santa Cruz

Committee members who were absent included:

1. Rich Casale, Small Water System Management
2. Dana Katofsky McCarthy, Water Utility Rate Payer

### **Meeting Key Outcomes (linked to agenda items)**

#### **1. Introduction**

Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Mr. Duncan introduced members of the MGA Executive Team and staff, the MGA consultant support team, and he addressed members of the public in attendance. Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation, reported that staff has made a recommendation to the MGA Board on the process to replace Ned Spencer, At-Large Representative, who had withdrawn from the Advisory Committee. The Board is expected to make a decision at their next meeting on March 15, 2018.

Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda, meeting objectives, and the GSP process timeline.

#### **2. Confirm January 24th Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**



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A Committee member noted an edit to the January 24<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee meeting summary, and Mr. Poncelet stated that once the edit is made, the summary will be forwarded to the MGA Board.

### **3. Brief Update on Informational Requests**

Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz, provided the Advisory Committee with an overview of the *Relationship of Plan Elements Graphic* (Materials Item 4) and the *Cross-walk between GSP and information to inform Advisory Committee discussions* (Materials Item 5). She noted that the documents are intended to show relationships between the major Sections (2 and 4) of the GSP and the Sustainability Goal and Sustainability Indicators. Ms. Menard emphasized that the GSP process is intended to be an iterative process.

Key discussion points under this overview include:

- The distinction between groundwater in storage and groundwater levels is that the former is measured by a single volume for the entire Basin, and the latter is measured at specific wells in the Basin. Management criteria for groundwater storage and groundwater levels are set differently.
- When assessing future projects, factors that will help achieve sustainable management criteria will be considered.
- The feedback loop illustrated in Materials Item 4 will help determine the specific areas where water levels are sufficient.

Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF), reviewed the draft *Annotated Outline of the GSP* (Materials Item 6). She emphasized that the framework provided in the Outline is intended to support Committee conversations about the available information responsive to DWR's stated GSP content requirements. Ms. Pruitt informed the Committee that the Outline is most useful when referenced electronically, as the reference links can be more easily accessed. Darcy asked Committee members to email her any questions regarding the *Annotated Outline* at: [DPruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:DPruitt@cfsc.org).

Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, updated the Committee on the items which are still in the process of development and are to be shared with the Committee at a later meeting. These items include:

- *Matrix table of Water Supply Augmentation Options for the Basin*: this table will be shared with the Committee by the April or May meeting.
- *Example of setting Sustainable Management Criteria*: HydroMetrics is hoping to present an example at the March meeting.
- *Draft policy questions*: this list is intended to be a living document incorporating ongoing comments from Committee members.

Participants made the following general points and requests with respect to this information briefing:

- The *Annotated Outline* is currently only available in the e-packet. Staff is still figuring out how to best offer this resource as a living document to the Committee.





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- It is important for Committee members to know what information to sort through and focus on related to the discussion topics. As much as possible, staff should let Committee members know where to focus their time and attention.
- It would be helpful if staff would note when updates have been made to the living documents so that Committee members can track.

#### **4. Refresher on SGMA Terminology and Basin Conditions for the Three Focal Sustainability Indicators.**

Derrick Williams and Georgina King, HydroMetrics, provided a refresher to the Advisory Committee on SGMA terminology and basin conditions for three Sustainability Indicators: groundwater levels, groundwater storage and seawater intrusion. This session reviewed information that had been presented to the Committee in the public orientation sessions in fall 2017.

The following are key discussion points made on these Sustainability Indicators:

- Significant and unreasonable, and undesirable results statements and definitions are made and applied separately for each Sustainability Indicator.
- If projects and management actions cause flooding in an ecosystem, this should also be taken into account when developing management criteria.
- Staff needs to present information on Sustainability Indicators (especially groundwater in storage) to the Committee members more clearly so that the information is more easily understood and digested.
- DWR does not define critical overdraft; it merely provides examples of overdraft.
- It is important for staff to assist the Committee in identifying initial steps needed to stay on the path of achieving sustainability and to avoid regressing.

#### **5. Discuss and Decide on Applicability of Sustainable Indicators**

Ms. King explained that the default position under SGMA is that all six Sustainability Indicators apply to the Basin, unless an Indicator is determined not to be applicable.

Mr. Poncelet posed the key question for consideration by the Committee: *Does anyone object to including all three Sustainability Indicators being discussed at today's meeting?*

The Committee members all agreed that groundwater levels and seawater intrusion were applicable to and important for the Mid-County Basin, however, they wanted to better understand the applicability of groundwater storage for the Basin before weighing in.

As such, Committee members suggested that the meeting focus primarily on groundwater levels and seawater intrusion and that groundwater storage be deferred to a later meeting when more clarifying



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information is available. Further, the Committee asserted that covering these three Sustainability Indicators at different times should not preclude them from being “packaged” together for the purpose of technical analysis.

## **6. Significant and Unreasonable Conditions for the Focal Sustainability Indicators**

Mr. Williams provided an overview of Significant and Unreasonable Conditions for two of the focal Sustainability Indicators: groundwater levels and seawater intrusion. He asked Committee members to share their qualitative views on the significant and unreasonable impacts for Mid-County Basin, explaining that the technical team will use the Committee’s response to determine how to analyze the data and quantify the impacts.

Committee members emphasized that they needed more direction from the Executive Team and technical staff in order to more effectively respond to these questions. They suggested that staff provide guiding questions or a list of potential impacts for the Committee to consider and respond to.

The specific question posed to the Committee was: ***For each focal Sustainability Indicator, what would be significant and unreasonable impacts to the basin (i.e., what could we not live with?)***

### Groundwater Levels

Committee members shared the following input with regard to Significant and Unreasonable Impacts on groundwater levels:

- The average domestic well should not go dry.
  - The Committee needs more information on how many wells are at risk of going dry, the average depth of the wells, and other well-related data for Mid-County Basin.
- Consider groundwater levels as a source of stream flows.
  - What is the lowest level that is acceptable?
  - What point are we restoring to?
- Consider the cost of projects in determining return to levels of stream water flows required to support aquatic ecosystems.
- The Committee would benefit from expertise regarding impacts on supply wells when discussing stream flows.
- Consider groundwater levels as they apply to agriculture, which is as important as domestic and municipal interests in the Mid-County Basin.
- Assess whether unreasonable impacts criteria should be more stringent for average domestic wells.



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- Consider the issue of affordability of pumping from wells and accessibility to wells for all Basin groundwater users.
- Consider the number of sustainable wells needed to support a thriving economy.

### Seawater Intrusion

Committee members shared the following input on Significant and Unreasonable Impacts related to Seawater Intrusion:

- Stop Seawater Intrusion at the shore.
- Stop Seawater Intrusion where it is now.
- We cannot live with any Seawater Intrusion at the production wells.
- Identify contingency plans for drought periods.
- Identify a buffer for any further Seawater Intrusion.
- Stop Seawater Intrusion at the monitoring wells.

The following are some key points of discussion and clarification between Committee members and staff regarding Significant and Unreasonable Impacts related to Seawater Intrusion.

- Seawater Intrusion needs to be identified for each aquifer.
- Seawater Intrusion is represented by a line on the map, with a concentration of 250 mg/liter chloride (which could be set lower for agricultural areas).
- Consider impacts on aquifers.
  - Confirmation of the Seawater Intrusion line is dependent on results from monitoring wells.
    - Staff reported that SkyTem data (which will be presented at the next MGA Board meeting) can also be used to confirm this line.
  - More monitoring wells will help to maintain the certainty of the Seawater Intrusion line.
  - Measuring a Seawater Intrusion line set offshore would involve modeling.
- Consider the depth of Seawater Intrusion in addition to the extent.
- Seawater Intrusion limits can be set relative to production wells, with some buffer to guarantee sustainability.
- In assessing whether protection of municipal well fields from Seawater Intrusion should be prioritized over domestic, consider the following:
  - Domestic wells is the only source for individual properties.
  - Municipal wells serve more of the population.
  - Agricultural wells are also important.





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- Consider the contamination implications and risks of allowing Seawater Intrusion for any area.
- The idea that we have to push back the Seawater Intrusion line is a high standard.
- Consider adding to the management toolbox a contingency plan for Seawater Intrusion during drought periods.
- It is necessary to identify how many agricultural wells exist between the coast and the production wells.

## **7. Undesirable Results for the Focal Sustainability Indicators**

Mr. Williams presented on what undesirable results may look like for groundwater levels and seawater intrusion. Advisory Committee members shared their thoughts on how flexible they are if Minimum Thresholds were to be exceeded.

### Groundwater Levels

Committee members shared the following input on how flexible they were with Minimum Thresholds being exceeded with regard to groundwater levels:

- Assess the percentage of wells that have undesirable groundwater levels.
- It is good to have some flexibility in Minimum Thresholds by management area.
- Consider stricter Minimum Thresholds and more flexibility with exceedances.
- Identify the goal(s) of assessing Undesirable Results.

Committee members largely supported having flexibility if Minimum Thresholds were to be exceeded, with some requests from staff as follows:

- Consider splitting Minimum Thresholds in different areas by choosing monitoring wells carefully.
- We need help from staff on defining appropriate management areas..
- We need evaluation from staff as to whether management areas are the best way to measure Minimum Thresholds exceedance.

### Seawater Intrusion

Committee members shared the following input on how flexible they were with Minimum Thresholds being exceeded with regard to Seawater Intrusion:

- There should be no further Seawater Intrusion.



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- There is a need to allow flexibility during drought periods.
- Moving pumping inland would not be an undesirable result.

The following are some key points of discussion and clarification between Committee members and staff regarding Undesirable Results for Seawater Intrusion:

- Only one Seawater Intrusion contour line can be set for each aquifer, but wells can have specific Minimum Thresholds.
- Possibility of resetting the Seawater Intrusion line every year.
- Consider the cost and feasibility of measuring Seawater Intrusion offshore.

## **8. Public Comment**

Comments (C) offered by members of the public on the Advisory Committee's discussion of Sustainability Indicators and other topics included the following:

- C: Considering only monitoring wells with respect to setting Seawater Intrusion barriers will not allow us to look at what's happening inside the wells, which SGMA does not consider in the context of assessing Undesirable Results. Also, monitoring wells have to be placed throughout the Basin so there's no issue with water supply. There are some things we care about that will not be a part of the GSP.
- C: Consider holding public comment periods after each agenda topic. Holding one public comment session at the end of the meeting renders my comments "old and stale."
- C: I am concerned that we are restricted by legal aspects of this process, but if we do the work properly, we can find a way to satisfy the regulations in the end. We can do this by considering sustainability factors, as Minimum Threshold is not relevant. I'd like to hear more about the absolute capacity of the Basin. We need to find a way to increase infiltration (e.g., ways to store excess water). If the decision with respect to Seawater Intrusion is to shut down wells, who will pay for this action, and who will enforce it?

## **9. Next Steps**

In closing, Mr. Poncelet reviewed the anticipated meeting objectives for the March Advisory Committee meetings as well as action items from this meeting, noting that staff has heard the Committee's suggestions and requests and will consider different ways to more effectively engage the Committee on these GSP planning topics and objectives. Executive staff members closed the meeting by thanking the attendees for their participation.



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# Charter

## Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee

~~Amended~~ **approved** by the Advisory Committee: **March 28, 2018** ~~November 13, 2017~~

This Charter outlines the charge and operating protocols for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The purpose of this Charter is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee during the GSP process. In this GSP process, the Charter is being used to create common expectations about how the Committee will work together to foster and reinforce constructive interaction throughout their deliberations. Its intent is to emphasize clear communication, trust building, respect for divergent views, creative thinking, the pursuit of mutual gains, and use of best available information. The Advisory Committee can reconsider and revise this Charter if it appears not to serve the Advisory Committee process.

### Outline

- A. Introduction
- B. Charge and Responsibilities
- C. Membership and Participants
- D. Meeting Formats and Sub Groups
- E. Decision Making Process
- F. Protocols and Ground Rules
- G. Role of Support Staff
- H. Schedule and Work Plan

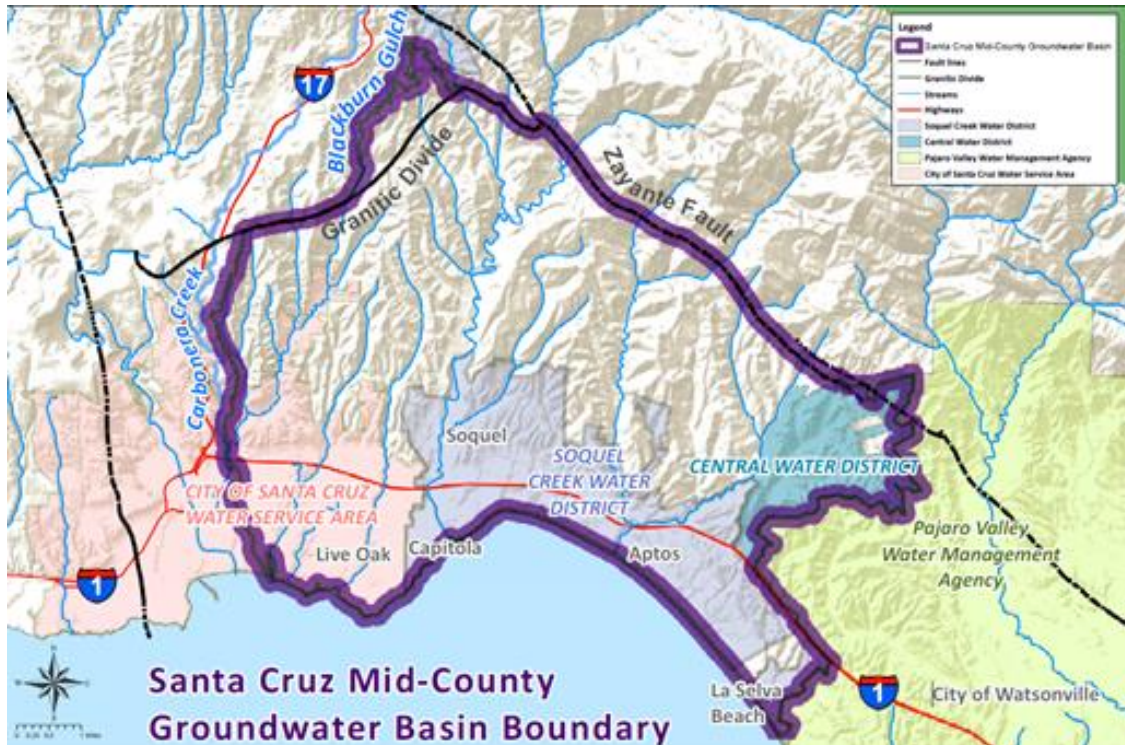
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### A. Introduction

1. **Problem Statement – from the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency** (adopted text in italics)

*Our primary source of drinking water in the Mid-County Basin (see map below) is groundwater. Our Basin has been in overdraft for over 30 years. Lowered groundwater levels have allowed seawater intrusion and pose the threat of more widespread saltwater contamination if left unabated. Local streams are losing water flow, which adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems. We need to ensure safe, reliable, and sufficient water resources to support our community and the natural environment.*





## 2. Background

California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became law on January 1, 2015. SGMA required the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to designate groundwater basins into High, Medium, Low and Very Low priority classifications. DWR’s Basin classifications are based on a variety of criteria, including the local population’s dependence on groundwater and local groundwater levels. All basins classified as medium and high priority must prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022. High priority basins that are also classified in critical overdraft must complete their GSPs by January 31, 2020. GSPs will replace groundwater management plans that were required under AB3030. Groundwater Management Plans had some of the features of a GSP, but did not include State mandated sustainability indicators or mandatory deadlines to reach sustainable groundwater management goals. In contrast, SGMA requires medium and high priority basins to make measurable progress toward sustainability, to report that progress annually, and to achieve ongoing sustainability. Basins in critical overdraft must achieve sustainability by 2040. The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is a high priority basin in critical overdraft.

During the work of the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee’s Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Subcommittee (GSA Formation Subcommittee), the Subcommittee considered several possible approaches to meeting the SGMA’s requirement for broad stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of GSPs.

The agencies that formed the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) Board purposefully included three positions on the Board as a first step to meeting the SGMA’s requirements for stakeholder involvement. However, the GSA Formation Subcommittee recognized that even with those Board slots, it would be desirable to expand the engagement of stakeholders in the GSP development process.

Under a grant provided by the State Water Resources Control Board, resources from the California State University and Sacramento's Center for Collaborative Policy were made available to the SAGMC to create a Community Engagement Plan. As part of the GSA Formation Subcommittee's process, it considered a range of options of broadening engagement of stakeholders in the development of the GSP. The recommendation included in the Community Engagement Plan was to create an advisory committee with expanded representation of key interests as well as MGA Board members. This committee would be tasked with working with staff and consultants to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and provide the Board with recommendations on how to address key policy issues that will need to be covered by the plan.

After considering the range of relevant stakeholders and interests that it would be desirable to include in a committee to advise the Board on the GSP, the MGA Working Group recommended that the Board create a committee representing the following interests: MGA Member Agencies, MGA Board Member Private Well Owners Representative, Institutional Users, Agricultural Users, Business Interests, Environmental Interests, Small Water System Management, Water Utility Rate Payers, and Representatives of the Community At Large. These particular interests were chosen for inclusion in the GSP Advisory Committee by the MGA Working Group because they cover the key user groups and interests. Tribal and state or federal fish and wildlife agencies were not included because the MGA Working Group provided for their involvement on an as needed basis through the use of short term working groups that would operate during the planning process.

As a committee that is advisory to the MGA Board, the GSP Advisory Committee is subject to the (State of California) Brown Act (see additional details below).

### **3. Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

Groundwater sustainability plans contain, among other things, the following information: a description of the plan area, a description of current and historical groundwater conditions in the basin, a descriptive hydrogeologic conceptual model of the basin, a water budget for the basin, a description of management areas, an articulation of sustainable management criteria and a sustainability goal, identification of undesirable results, a description of minimum thresholds, identification of measurable objectives to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin within 20 years of plan implementation, and description of a monitoring network.

## **B. Charge and Responsibilities**

### **1. Charge to the Advisory Committee from the MGA** (adopted text in italics)

*The Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee will provide guidance to staff and the Santa Cruz MGA Board for the creation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Committee will analyze and provide recommendations to the MGA Board on key policy issues that will form the Plan. The Committee's final presentation to the MGA Board will take place no later than the MGA's July 2019 Board Meeting.*

*Committee members will represent diverse interest groups within the Basin. They will deliberate based on scientific data to understand current and projected basin conditions. The Committee will work collaboratively in an open and public process to ensure community concerns are addressed within the Plan.*

*The Committee will recommend strategies to the MGA Board to achieve a sustainable groundwater basin by 2040. Responsibilities include:*

- *Evaluate scientific information and recommendations from staff on the impacts to the Basin, and assess various management approaches to reach sustainability,*
- *Consider the effect of changing climate and sea level on groundwater conditions,*
- *Establish objectives and thresholds for State mandated sustainability indicators,*
- *Analyze options and recommend supplemental water supply alternatives to meet projected demand,*
- *Promote public education about Plan decisions and the Basin’s sustainability, and*
- *Recommend approaches to funding projects and allocation of project costs.*

*The Advisory Committee will be tasked to work with staff and consultants to support development of the Plan. They will provide the MGA Board with recommendations on how to address key policy issues required by the State’s legal mandate. The Committee will make periodic reports to the MGA Board for input and feedback. They will report on key milestones in the development of the Plan, including: groundwater pumping impacts, key alternatives to reach groundwater sustainability, thresholds and measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator, possible program funding strategies, and recommendations for Plan implementation.*

## **2. Additional Objectives and Responsibilities**

The ultimate objective of the Advisory Committee is to contribute to the development of a GSP that satisfies the requirements of SGMA, that can be broadly supported by diverse stakeholder communities in the Mid-County Basin, and that can be successfully implemented.

Additional Advisory Committee responsibilities include:

- **Policy questions:** As part of their deliberations, Advisory Committee members will address policy questions associated with GSP development. Support staff will help in identifying these questions for Advisory Committee consideration and deliberation.
- **Interest-based discussions.** Advisory Committee members will be willing to express fundamental interests (rather than fixed positions)<sup>1</sup> and to clearly convey the interests of one or more constituent groups.
- **Collaborative Approach.** Advisory Committee members will be willing to work collaboratively with each other, seeking to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies.
- **Checking back with constituencies.** Advisory Committee members have been recruited based upon their ability to ably represent diverse interests within the Basin. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to coordinate with interested constituents as appropriate throughout the GSP process to bring their views into Advisory Committee discussions. Staff are available to support these coordination efforts as needed.
- **Report back to MGA.** Advisory Committee members may be asked to participate in MGA meetings through, for example, reports to the MGA at its board meetings, periodic joint-study sessions, and issue specific sub-committee meetings. Advisory Committee members

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<sup>1</sup> A “position” is a particular stance taken by a party—a preferred solution to an issue. “Interests” are the intangible motivations (fundamental needs, desires, concerns) underlying the preferred solution.



will make every effort to participate in these meetings when requested. Individual presenters to the MGA will be identified by the Advisory Committee as a whole when presentations are warranted.

- **Commitment to the Process.** Advisory Committee members will be committed to achieving all elements of their charge as described above.

## C. Membership and Participants

### 1. Committee Composition

The Advisory Committee was appointed by the MGA to represent a diversity of interests and expertise. The Committee consists of the following members (\*=MGA Board representatives):

- Kate Anderton – Environmental Representative
- John Bargetto – Agricultural Representative
- \*David Green Baskin – City of Santa Cruz
- Rich Casale - Small Water System Management
- Keith Gudger – At-Large Representative
- \*Bruce Jaffe – Soquel Creek Water District
- Dana Katofsky McCarthy - Water Utility Rate Payer
- \*Jon Kennedy - Private Well Representative
- Jonathan Lear - At-Large Representative
- \*Allyson Violante – County of Santa Cruz
- Douglas P. Ley – Business Representative
- \*Marco Romanini – Central Water District
- Charlie Rous - At-Large Representative
- Thomas Wyner for Cabrillo College – Institutional Representative
- ~~Ned Spencer – At-Large Representative~~

Committee members are expected to attend all meetings (to the extent feasible). There are no alternate members.

### 2. Committee Member Additions and Withdrawal

It is not anticipated that new members will be added to the Advisory Committee unless to replace another Committee member.

Advisory Committee members have made the commitment to participate for the duration of the groundwater sustainability planning process. In the event where a member must withdraw from the Advisory Committee, he or she may do so by providing a letter of resignation to the MGA Board Chair, with copies to the facilitators to be distributed to the other members. At that point, the MGA may elect to replace the Committee member to ensure balanced interest representation on the Committee.

If an Advisory Committee member consistently deviates from the operating protocols and ground rules established in this Charter and agreed to by all, that member will meet with the facilitation team and the Executive Team to discuss the transgressions and steps necessary to rectify them. If the behavior does not improve, the matter will be brought to the MGA Board.

## **D. Meeting Formats and Sub Groups**

### **1. Advisory Committee meetings**

The full Advisory Committee will meet twice during the fall of 2017 and then monthly between January 2018 and July 2019. During 2018-2019, Advisory Committee meetings will take place once a month, on a regular basis. The meeting times and locations will be posted on the MGA calendar of events and the Advisory Committee page on the MGA website. All Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public.

A majority of Committee members must be present to hold a meeting. Committee members who are not able to attend a meeting will inform project staff and facilitators in advance.

Membership on the Committee was designed to provide broad representation of the various interests that need to be considered in the planning process. In order to maximize the potential for all members to participate actively, fully, and equally in the process, Advisory Committee meetings will be organized and run by the Facilitation Team rather than a Committee chair/vice chair. This approach optimizes the opportunity for full participation by all Committee members in the group's deliberations.

As part of their ongoing work, the Advisory Committee will periodically take stock of the Committee's progress and discuss how best to achieve its charge and to stay on schedule. These discussions will take place either in regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meetings or in targeted working group meetings (see below) as appropriate.

### **2. Issue Area Working Groups**

As needed, the Advisory Committee can create ad hoc working groups to address particular issue areas to help drive their work forward. Working groups will have specific, bounded charges and work products; they may make recommendations to the Advisory Committee. They will explore and research scientific, technical and policy issues, and will bring their work products back to the full Advisory Committee for action.

Working groups will not contain a majority of Advisory Committee members and are therefore not subject to the Brown Act. Within reason, the Advisory Committee can invite non Advisory Committee members to participate in these working group meetings. When deciding to convene a specific working group, Advisory Committee members will discuss and recommend invited participants to the full Advisory Committee for approval. When needed, the Advisory Committee may seek assistance from MGA board and staff to identify the people most knowledgeable to participate in specific issue area working groups. Working groups will not speak on behalf of the full Advisory Committee. Ad hoc working groups may be facilitated as needed.

### **3. Brown Act Requirements**

As an advisory committee to the MGA, the GSP Advisory Committee process is subject to the Brown Act. As such, the following procedures (among others) will apply. For a more detailed guide to the Brown Act produced by the California League of Cities, see the [link](#) below.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/Open-Public-2016.aspx](http://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/Open-Public-2016.aspx)

- All meetings of the Advisory Committee will be open and public.
- Advisory Committee meetings will be preceded by a posted agenda that advises the public of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed. The agenda will be posted at least 72 hours before the regular meeting on the MGA website and in a location freely accessible to members of the public. The agenda must state the meeting time and place and must contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session.
- All meeting materials distributed prior to or during the meetings will be made publicly available.
- Serial meetings, which could be constituted by Advisory Committee members forwarding or replying all to an email string or referring to the project through social media, are prohibited.

#### **4. MGA Bylaws Requirements**

As a subcommittee to the MGA Board, the GSP Advisory Committee is also governed by the applicable sections of the MGA bylaws.<sup>3</sup> The bylaws require capturing of meeting minutes or summaries.

- Minutes of committee meetings shall be recorded by the facilitation team and shared with the Advisory Committee along with the meeting packet in advance of the next meeting. At the beginning of the next Advisory Committee meeting, the facilitator will ask if Advisory Committee members have any additions or refinements to add to the meeting minutes, at which point they will be considered approved and forwarded to the MGA Board. They will also be posted on the MGA website.
- For the GSP Advisory Committee, the minutes will be in the form of key outcomes-focused meeting summaries intended to capture the main results of the Advisory Committee meetings. These meeting summaries will summarize who participated, key decisions made, issues discussed, and the next steps identified for moving the project forward; these summaries are not intended serve as meeting transcripts.

#### **E. Determining Levels of Support and Committee Recommendations**

The GSP Advisory Committee will follow the general protocols established in this Charter; it is not required to follow specific rules of procedure.

The Advisory Committee will operate as a body seeking broad agreement in its preparation of advice for the MGA Board. Advisory Committee members will strive to achieve a high level of agreement in developing advice for the MGA Board. The intent is to strive for recommendations that can earn broad-based, cross-interest support from Advisory Committee members.

Formal proposed recommendations to the MGA Board will be presented verbally and/or in writing for consideration by the full Advisory Committee. Members will be allowed sufficient time to consider them before voting. Advisory Committee members will be invited to indicate whether they support, or not, an item under discussion. Support, here, is defined as “can live with”.

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<sup>3</sup> See sections 4.6.3 and 5.3.4.



- **Level of support.** Advisory Committee members will be invited to indicate their “level of support” for any proposed recommendation. Different levels of support include: general support (“I like it”), qualified support (“I have some issues with it, but I can live with it”), and fundamental disagreement (“I don’t like it and cannot live with it”).
- **Voting and recording levels of support.** The level of support for decision items will be recorded for each Advisory Committee member, along with a summary of areas of agreement and disagreement. If fundamental disagreement exists over a particular decision item, the group will be asked to continue working to reach agreement or until it becomes clear that a resolution is either not necessary or not attainable. At that time, project staff will note the nature of the disagreement, and in consultation with the group, decide how best to frame the issues to present to the MGA Board for consideration.
- **Recommendations.** A “recommendation” from the GSP Advisory Committee will be achieved if a majority of Committee members present expresses support for a particular decision item. Every recommendation that is brought to the MGA Board will contain context in terms of which Advisory Committee members voted for or against a particular item. The Advisory Committee will strive to ensure that particular interests or perspectives are not disenfranchised by being consistently left out of recommendations.
- **Use of “straw polls”.** Advisory Committee members recognize the need to make simple process agreements to move their work forward. A straw poll is a method used for surveying a group on a particular issue and typically involves asking each group member to indicate a preference on a particular issue.
  - Project facilitators may use “straw polls” to develop a sense of the group’s views, track progress, and help the group arrive at short-term decisions to propel the process forward in an efficient fashion. Straw polls should be considered interim results.
  - Project facilitators, support staff, or an Advisory Committee member can request a straw poll.
  - Project facilitators will check in with the group to confirm the appropriateness of conducting the straw poll. Straw polls will be preceded by adequate Advisory Committee deliberation.
  - Project facilitators will record the intent and outcomes of each straw poll taken.

## F. Operating Protocols and Ground Rules

### 1. Participation and Collaboration

- **Active, full participation.** Every Advisory Committee member is responsible for communicating his/her perspectives and interests on the issues under consideration. Voicing and actively listening to these perspectives is essential to achieving meaningful dialogue. Everyone will participate; no one will dominate.
- **Focused participation.** Advisory Committee members will come to the meetings prepared and will focus their discussions on the topics at hand. Everyone will help keep the meetings on track.

- **Respectful interaction.** Advisory Committee members will respect each other’s personal integrity, divergent viewpoints, values and legitimacy of interests. Advisory Committee members will listen courteously while others are speaking. Only one person will speak at a time. Advisory Committee members will refrain from using deliberate misinformation, personal attacks, or stereotyping.
- **Integration and creative thinking.** Advisory Committee members will seek to balance advocacy and inquiry. In developing, reviewing and revising work products, Advisory Committee members will strive to be open-minded and to integrate each other’s ideas, perspectives, and interests. Disagreements will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won. Advisory Committee members will attempt to reframe contentious issues and offer creative solutions to enable constructive dialogue. Where Advisory Committee members do not support a specific solution or proposal, they are encouraged to offer alternative solutions.
- **Satisfy mutual Interests.** Advisory Committee members will work to satisfy not only their own interests but also those of other Advisory Committee members. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to be clear about their own interests and to recognize the important distinction between underlying interests and fixed positions.
- **Cell phone/PDA courtesy.** While participating in meetings, Advisory Committee members will refrain from cell phone use, emailing, and text messaging. Except during breaks, cell phones and other electronic communications devices will be turned off or set to “silent” mode.

## 2. Commitment to the Process

- **Good faith effort.** Advisory Committee members will make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the project within the identified schedule.
- **Meeting attendance.** All Advisory Committee members will make every effort to attend all Committee meetings. Consistent attendance is critical to ensure the creation of shared knowledge and a common language. Meetings will start on time. Advisory Committee members who know that they will be absent, late, or have to leave early will inform project staff and facilitators in advance and coordinate with other Advisory Committee members to ensure that their ideas are brought to the table and that they are informed regarding Advisory Committee deliberations and decisions made. After a missed meeting, Advisory Committee members will work to get up to speed to keep the project from “backsliding.”
- **Come prepared.** Advisory Committee members will review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and come prepared to address the meeting objectives. If specific “homework” is assigned, Advisory Committee members are expected to have the homework completed by the start of the meeting.
- **Commitment to ground rules.** Once they are ratified, Advisory Committee members commit to adhere to these ground rules as a set of mutual obligations. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to uphold these ground rules. Advisory Committee members commit to bring concerns about adherence to the ground rules or other process matters to

the facilitation team rather than expressing such concerns in a manner that undermines the respect of any individuals or the process.

### 3. Advisory Committee Communication

- **Consistency with Brown Act.** Advisory Committee members will avoid oral or email communications with other Advisory Committee members outside of Committee meetings (e.g., serial meetings) that would be inconsistent with the Brown Act.
- **Representation.** Unless they have been appointed a spokesperson for a specific task, Advisory Committee members will always make it clear when they speak or write in public that they speak for themselves, and not as a spokesperson for the Committee or for other Committee members.

### 4. Involvement of Public

- **Public comment at Advisory Committee meetings.** Advisory Committee meetings will include opportunity for public comment on items within the purview of the Advisory Committee. Public comment will be keyed to specific Advisory Committee work product discussions and agenda items. Additionally, there will be an opportunity during the meeting for the public to raise items not on the agenda but within the purview of the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to consider public input in their deliberations.
- **Key purpose of verbal public comment.** Oral public comment provides an important opportunity for the broader public to inform Advisory Committee deliberations on the GSP development process. As such, to the extent possible, public comments should be directed toward the work effort, products, or process of the Advisory Committee. Comments on subjects external to the GSP development process should be directed to other forums.
- **Other opportunities.** Members of the public are encouraged to convey their comments to relevant colleagues who serve as Advisory Committee members. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit comments in writing (via email to: [dpruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:dpruitt@cfsc.org)). Written public comments will be distributed to Advisory Committee members on a regular basis as part of their meeting packets.
- **Facilitation of public comment periods.** Public comment will be facilitated by the meeting facilitator. The meeting facilitator will ask for a show of hands (or use speaker cards) to assess the number of attendees wishing to comment at any public comment period. The time allocated to each speaker will be based on the total available time and the number of individuals wishing to speak (with a maximum of three minutes and a minimum of one minute per speaker). In the case where a large number of public participants wish to comment, the facilitator may decide to extend the public comment period. When possible, the meeting minutes will identify the topic discussed and the speaker who introduced the topic.
- **Adherence to ground rules.** It is expected that members of the public will adhere to the same ground rules of focused interaction and respectful engagement as the Advisory Committee. Members of the public will be respectful of the Advisory Committee's time.



- **Advisory Committee response.** Advisory Committee members and support staff will typically not respond in detail to the public during public comment periods. Committee members are encouraged to consider public input into their deliberations after the public comment period is over.

## 5. Information Sharing and Joint Fact-Finding

- **Information gathering and sharing.** The GSP development process will include multiple opportunities for data sharing and joint fact-finding among the Advisory Committee. Joint fact-finding refers to a process where: stakeholders are able to provide their knowledge and identify information sources, needs, and questions for analysis; deliberations of scientific advisors are transparent; data are pooled to support better informed recommendations; and a serious effort is made to identify and narrow sources of scientific disagreement. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to be as specific as possible in identifying types of information they believe will support the development of work products. This information may include a mix of peer-reviewed studies, other scientific studies, field notes from researchers, and first-hand knowledge from resource users. Accordingly, Advisory Committee members are encouraged to contribute their own first-hand knowledge to support the work of the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members seeking to share written information or data should transmit this directly to Darcy Pruitt as a staff point person (rather than sharing data directly with each other).
- **Best readily available information.** Advisory Committee members recognize that the Mid-County GSP development process relies on using the best readily available information. Tentative information will be treated as such. Development of the GSP will not be delayed in order to fill any perceived data gaps.

## 6. Media Contact

- **Meeting recordings.** Advisory Committee meetings are public and will be audio recorded. Audio archives of meetings will be available on the MGA website within approximately one week of each meeting.
- **GSP media contacts.** Media contacts regarding the GSP process from a “big picture” perspective will be handled by the Executive Team. First contacts should go to John Ricker, Santa Cruz County.
- **Advisory Committee media contact.** On occasion, reporters may contact individual Advisory Committee members for comment about a particular issue. Advisory Committee members who are contacted by the media will speak only on behalf of themselves or their group or constituency. After commenting, the Advisory Committee member will provide the media entity with contact information for communications point persons Darcy Pruitt and Sierra Ryan and request that the media entity contact those individuals for further information.
- **Representation to media.** Advisory Committee members recognize the need to maintain a balance between providing timely information to constituents and making statements to the media that could undermine the success of the GSP process. Advisory Committee members agree to avoid: a) making statements to the media that may prejudice the

project's outcome, b) representing another group's point of view or characterizing others' motives, or c) stating positions on preliminary proposals while they are still being developed or refined by work groups or the Advisory Committee.

- **Use of meeting summaries.** In briefing constituents, Advisory Committee members are encouraged to rely primarily on the summaries to be produced for the GSP Advisory Committee meetings.

## G. Role of Support Staff

### 1. Executive Team

- The Executive Team is composed of:
  - Ralph Bracamonte, Central Water District
  - Tim Carson, Regional Water Management Foundation
  - Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District
  - Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz
  - John Ricker, Santa Cruz County
- The Executive Team is responsible for providing process guidance to the GSP [Advisory Committee process](#) and will assist in relaying Advisory Committee or public requests or inquiries to and from the MGA. Executive Team members will help determine when ideas brought up by the Advisory Committee or member of the public are outside of the scope of the Committee's charge; uncertain cases will be brought before the MGA. The Executive Team will provide periodic written reports to the MGA Board, pulling from Advisory Committee meeting summaries.

### 2. Other Key Support staff

- Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation: Darcy is responsible for compiling information and advice developed by Advisory Committee members and the technical team into a draft GSP. Darcy will also be the point person for receiving and coordinating GSP related inquiries from Advisory Committee members and the public. Darcy will draft press releases, provide text for the website, and support other outreach tasks.
- Sierra Ryan, Santa Cruz County: Sierra will provide support for public communication and outreach, website maintenance, and meeting planning.
- [Program Associate Julia Townsend](#), Regional Water Management Foundation: [Staff Julia](#) is responsible for meeting logistics and transmitting meeting materials and information to the Advisory Committee and general public.

### 3. Technical Team – HydroMetrics

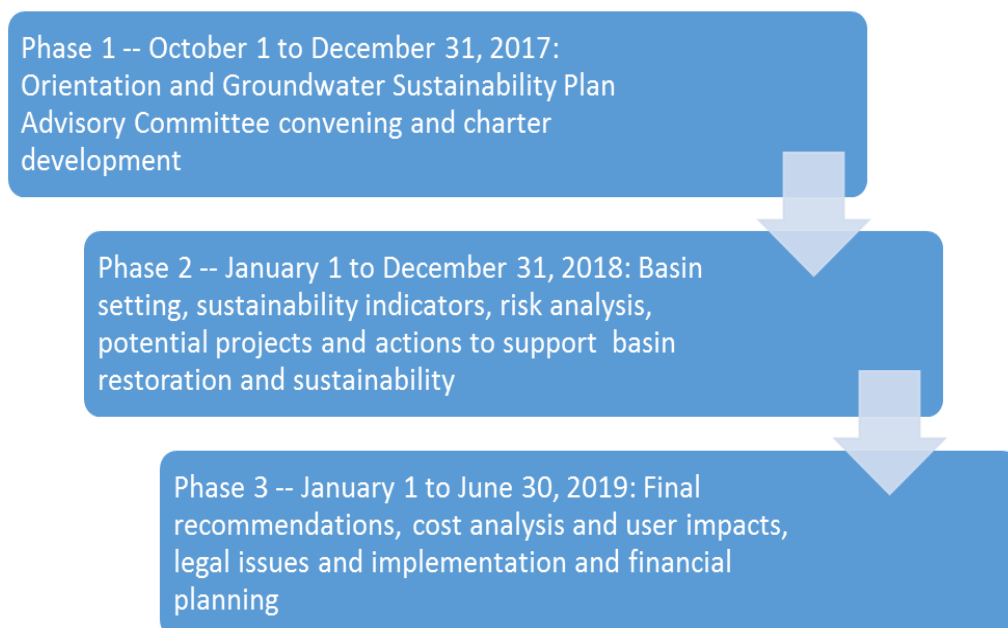
- HydroMetrics will be responsible for providing all technical analysis and support to the Advisory Committee. This includes presenting at orientation workshops, conducting groundwater modeling, and presenting and synthesizing other technical work that the Committee will need in its deliberations.

#### 4. Facilitation Team – Kearns & West

- **Neutral facilitators.** The Kearns & West facilitation team is non-partisan; the facilitators have no stake in any content of the GSP and will not act as advocates for particular outcomes. The facilitators will strive to ensure that the Advisory Committee completes its charge in a well-informed, respectful, and timely fashion.
- **Foster alternatives with mutual benefit.** The facilitation team will seek to foster approaches to meeting management and to the identification and consideration of advice on the GSP process that maximize joint gains and mutual benefit.
- **Efficient use of time.** The facilitators will strive to structure and manage meetings and discussion so as to make efficient use of Advisory Committee members' time. This includes providing materials in advance of meetings, keeping the discussion focused, and monitoring discussions so that no individual or idea dominates.
- **Facilitators' discretion.** The facilitation team will use its discretion in guiding meetings and may propose agenda adjustments. The facilitation team may also use straw voting to track a range of preferences on emerging issues and gauge the level of support for alternative options.
- **Meeting Summaries.** The facilitation team will prepare key outcomes-focused meeting summaries to capture the main results of the Advisory Committee meetings in accordance with MGA bylaws listed in section D.4 above.

#### H. Schedule and Work Plan

- The work of the Advisory Committee will proceed in three main phases according to the conceptual framework shown below.



- Project staff will work with the Advisory Committee to develop a more detailed work plan and approximate timing for key deliverables, and to update the process as appropriate. This will include early agreement about the form of work products. The Advisory Committee recognizes that its work developing advice on key policy issues will be an iterative process.
- The Advisory Committee will track its progress against this initial work plan and will discuss process adjustments as needed.
- The Advisory Committee will formally present its final recommendations to the MGA Board no later than at the July 2019 MGA Board meeting. At this meeting, the Advisory Committee will identify specific members to present to the MGA Board.
- It is anticipated that the process will move quickly and will need to make adaptations along the way.



**From:** Becky Steinbruner [<mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2018 12:01 AM  
**To:** Darcy Pruitt <[DPruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:DPruitt@cfsc.org)>  
**Cc:** Rob Marani <[rob@meritage-group.com](mailto:rob@meritage-group.com)>; Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Late Communication for MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board 3/15/2018 Agenda

Dear Ms. Pruitt,  
Thank you for your reply, which I am just now reading. Please include my communication in both the March 28 GSP Advisory Committee packet as well as the May, 2018 MGA Board meeting packet.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

On Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:29 AM, Darcy Pruitt <[DPruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:DPruitt@cfsc.org)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Steinbruner,

Thank you for your written communication to the MGA Board. Unfortunately, this material cannot be included in the March 15<sup>th</sup> MGA board packet.

The Brown Act, which addresses public meeting transparency, requires that public meeting materials be available to the public 72-hours prior to the meeting. MGA staff make every effort to provide the packet so that board members and the public have adequate time to review the materials before the meeting. The March 15<sup>th</sup> MGA board packet was finalized and posted to the MGA website on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

Here is a link to the MGA Board packet:

<http://www.midcountygroundwater.org/sites/default/files/uploads/meetings/board-packet/Final%20Board%20Packet%202018-0315rev.pdf>

If you would like to come to the MGA meeting this evening you can pass out written copies and discuss their content during public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

If you are unable to attend, I can save your comments and have these materials placed in the May 2018 MGA Board packet.

Here is a link to the MGA board communication policy:

<http://www.midcountygroundwater.org/sites/default/files/uploads/MGA%20Board%20Meeting%200Guidelines%20for%20Public%20Input.pdf>

I understand your concerns about the communication policy not allowing for last minute changes in plans. However, we must comply with the Brown Act, and we always read and consider your comments whenever we receive them.

If you prefer, your comments are timely for the March 28<sup>th</sup> GSP Advisory Committee packet. These issues are also relevant to their work.

Please let me know if you would like these comments included in the March 28<sup>th</sup> GSP Advisory Committee packet.

Thank you again for your ongoing interest in the GSP planning process.

Best,  
Darcy

**Darcelle Pruitt Senior Planner**

*Groundwater Sustainability Planning for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency*  
Regional Water Management Foundation  
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County  
7807 Soquel Drive | Aptos, CA 95003 | 831.662.2052  
[dpruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:dpruitt@cfsc.org) | [www.cfsc.org](http://www.cfsc.org) | [www.midcountygndwater.org](http://www.midcountygndwater.org)

**From:** Becky Steinbruner [<mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:58 AM  
**To:** Darcy Pruitt <[DPruitt@cfsc.org](mailto:DPruitt@cfsc.org)>  
**Cc:** Rob Marani <[rob@meritage-group.com](mailto:rob@meritage-group.com)>; Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Late Communication for MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board 3/15/2018 Agenda

Dear Ms. Pruitt,  
Please include the information below in tonight's Board packet and for the general public record. Thank you for placing the sign in the Aptos Village area to notify people about the meeting tonight.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

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Dear MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board,  
First of all, I respectfully request that your Board consider adding a GSP Advisory representative from the Cannabis cultivation community and place this matter on the next meeting agenda for discussion and action. This need became clearly evident to me yesterday while listening to Mr. John Ricker's presentation to the County Planning Commission about County water issues as related to the proposed Cannabis Cultivator Licensing program. While the GSP Committee presently includes an agricultural representative (Mr. Bargetto), he primarily represents the wine growers and may not have a working knowledge of the water needs regarding Cannabis cultivation. I feel the increased demand on water and resulting new wells in the MidCounty area will be significant into the future and the industry needs good representation for the success of the MidCounty Basin Sustainable Plan.

Secondly, I respectfully request that the Board discuss and direct staff to create individual e-mail addresses for each of the three Private Well Representatives on the Board and all of the GSP Advisory Committee members who are not publicly elected or government staff (with corresponding and established government e-mail accounts). Currently, there is no method for members of the public or specific interest groups represented by the various GSP members to communicate directly via e-mail addresses that are not private, but would be subject to public scrutiny via Public Records Act requests. In order that there be free and open communication and build trust during the creation of the Basin Sustainability Plan process, I truly feel these representatives of the public need to have an MGA e-mail account next to their name and biography on the MGA website. Please consider this and, if necessary, place it on the next Board agenda for action.

Lastly, I would like to make your Board aware of Senator Monning's proposed SB 623. Titled the "Safe Drinking Water Act Fee", it deceptively allows groundwater polluters to continue contaminating groundwater supplies with nitrates, and PROHIBITS State and regional enforcement of regulations that would protect the water quality by citing those who are polluting....as long as the polluters pay the SB 623

fees. There are other significant flaws in the proposed bill, and hope that your Board will accept and consider the following information.

I have read the text of the proposed SB 623 legislation, re-introduced this year, and have the following objections:

- 1) While the water tax is currently proposed to be \$.95 per month per household, the rate can be increased in the future if the State Board determines that the funding need is greater to assist communities with problematic water supplies. Water is a basic requirement for life...should it be taxed even more than what it costs to produce it (Prop. 218 stipulates water sellers cannot charge more than the cost of supplying the water). Any one who declares themselves impoverished (below 200% of the federal poverty limit which would be roughly \$98,000/year for an individual) is exempt, but must file with their local water agency for exemption. Will the poor all apply for exemption?
- 2) Public water agencies would be mandated to collect and administer the tax monies to the State but on page 19 of the SB623 text, Section 6 says the State is not required to re-imburse local agencies unless the Commission on State Mandates determines it necessary. SB 623 would ignore the California Constitutional mandate that local government be re-imbursed for collecting and administering state mandates.
- 3) Polluters would "not be subject to enforcement undertaken or administered by State Board or regional boards under Chapter 5 (section 13330) for causing or contributing to an exceedance of a water quality objective of nitrate in groundwater" if the proposed Fertilizer Safe Drinking Water Fee or Dairy Safe Drinking Water Fee gets paid within 90 days of the contamination determination. Why allow the polluters to continue contaminating the groundwater???? (see page 17 of the SB 623 text)
- 4) Again, in Section 5, SB 623 would erase the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act that mandates the State and regional boards oversee and enforce pollution control regulations to protect groundwater drinking supply safety for the public. This bill would PROHIBIT the State Board or a regional board, until January 1, 2035, from "subjecting an agricultural operation, as defined, to specified enforcement for causing or contributing to a condition of pollution or nuisance for nitrates in groundwater if that agricultural operation demonstrates that it has satisfied other requirements of the timely payment of the fertilizer safe drinking water fee or the dairy safe drinking water fee, as applicable, into the fund."
- 5) SB 623 states the money collected with all these new taxes must only be used for projects addressing problematic groundwater supplies, but COULD be transferred to other uses with a 2/3 vote of the legislature (section 116771 (f) on page 13 of the text). I do not trust legislators not to dip into this fund for other "public benefit projects"
- 6) SB 623 would allow community water systems to apply for exemption from collection of the per-household water tax, based on the finding that the amount that would be required to be remitted to the Board to be minimus, but the water company cannot appeal if the State denies their application. (116771 (d) on page 13. Under 116772 (a) a public water system can apply to use an alternate assessment method for charges imposed by SB 623, but that alternate method, if approved, could only be used for five years maximum.
- 7) SB 623 would require County Environmental Health Agencies to submit a list of all small water systems to the State Board by January 1, 2019. Again, this is requiring local government to spend time on meeting the State requirements but not getting re-imbursed. Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Agency staff does not have a comprehensive list of all small water companies but is working to collect that information for another State mandated program, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan, required to be submitted and approved by the State by January 1, 2020.
- 8) SB 623 would mandate all fertilizer manufacturers, handlers, transporters and sellers to allow State Board access to any and all accounting practices, facilities and related information. It would also

mandate all dairies allow State Board access to any and all buildings and facilities as well as accounting practices and information. NONE of this information however, including the audits of Safe Drinking Water Fees by the polluters, would be public information. (section 116772 (d) and (e)). I do not trust that big corporations that may be contaminating groundwater would be held accountable for money paid in order to continue polluting. Under SB 623, members of the public would not be able to file a Public Records Act request to find out.

9) How much of this new tax money would actually get spent on improving problematic groundwater drinking supplies? SB 623 allows the State Board to spend 25% of the fee money on administration.

10) How will the State determine who gets the money? SB 623 requires reports of problems by all water agencies to be submitted for consideration. The money can be spent for "settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies" (Section 116768(1c), and in Section 116768 (2) states : " funds shall be prioritized for CONSOLIDATIONS". SB 623 removes mutually-owned water companies from the list of eligible applicants for project money. These systems should also benefit from the possibility of grant assistance to improve water quality for safe potable use.

I hope that your Board will consider this information and contact Senator Monning with your thoughts.

Thank you for your good work.  
Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner