

Soquel Creek Water District

Central Water District

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Groundwater Management Plan -2007  
Soquel-Aptos Area

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

April 2007

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Santa Cruz County, California**

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### **3.2 Basin Boundaries and AB3030 Study Area**

Several different boundaries have been used to define the Soquel-Aptos area in terms of its geographical, jurisdictional, and hydrologic extents. There is no clear definition of the Soquel-Aptos area; the designation is often used to refer to the water bearing central coast portion of Santa Cruz County. Below are the various boundaries that have been used to describe this groundwater region.

#### **3.2.1 DWR, Bulletin 118 Basin Definitions**

As stated in the *AB3030 Ground-water Management Plan Soquel-Aptos Area* (Luhdorff and Scalmanini, 1996), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) does not define a Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Basin in Bulletin 118. Instead, this area comprises four DWR designated basins including:

- DWR Basin 3-1: Soquel Valley
- DWR Basin 3-21: Santa Cruz Purisima Formation Highlands
- DWR Basin 3-26: West Santa Cruz Terrace
- DWR Basin 3-2: Pajaro Valley

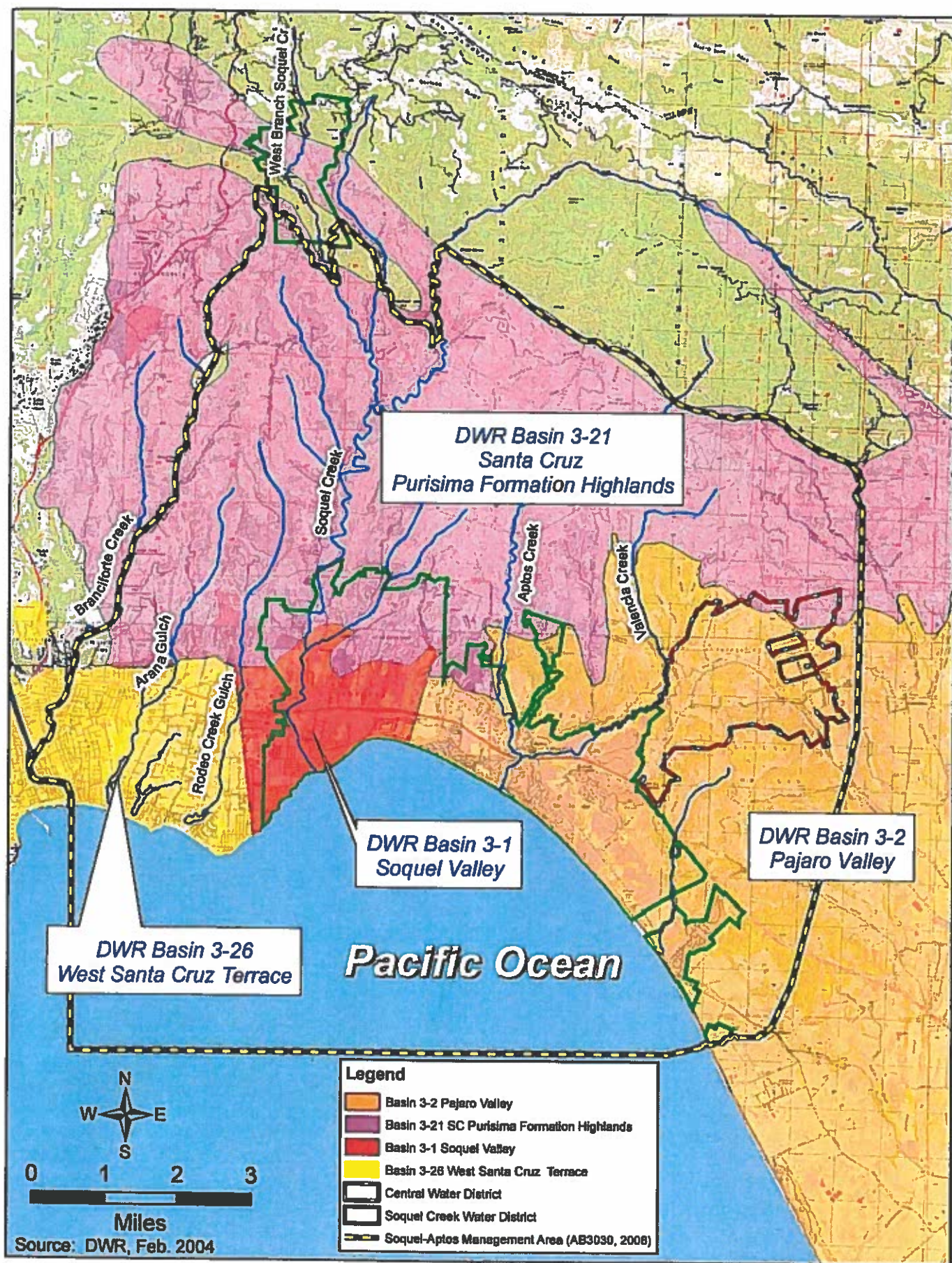
**Figure 3-3** shows the four DWR Basin boundaries, along with the outlines of the SqCWD and CWD service areas.

Bulletin 118 (DWR, 1975) defined a basin called the Santa Cruz Purisima Formation Highlands which included the area overlying the aquifers from north and east of Santa Cruz to a boundary with the Pajaro Valley as well as a separate basin named Soquel Valley. The 1980 update of Bulletin 118 (DWR, 1980) identified the Santa Cruz-Pajaro Basin, which included both the Santa Cruz Purisima Formation Highlands and Soquel Valley, and was classified as subject to critical conditions of overdraft. This finding, according to Bulletin 118-80, was “at the request of the City of Santa Cruz and a Supervisor of Santa Cruz County”.

DWR revised Bulletin 118-80 again in 1992 and better defined the boundaries for Soquel Valley, Santa Cruz Purisima Formation Highlands and the Pajaro Valley Basins. It also cited that the Soquel-Aptos area was not subject to critical conditions of overdraft. This finding was primarily based on the Groundwater Management Program and Monitoring that was implemented by SqCWD in 1981.

Bulletin 118 was most recently updated in 2003 and includes a written report and supplemental material consisting of individual hydrogeologic descriptions, maps, and GIS compatible data files of each delineated groundwater basin in California. Bulletin 118 (2003), however, still does not clearly and accurately describe the hydrogeologic conditions of the Soquel-Aptos area.





**Figure 3-3**  
DWR Groundwater Basins