SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY

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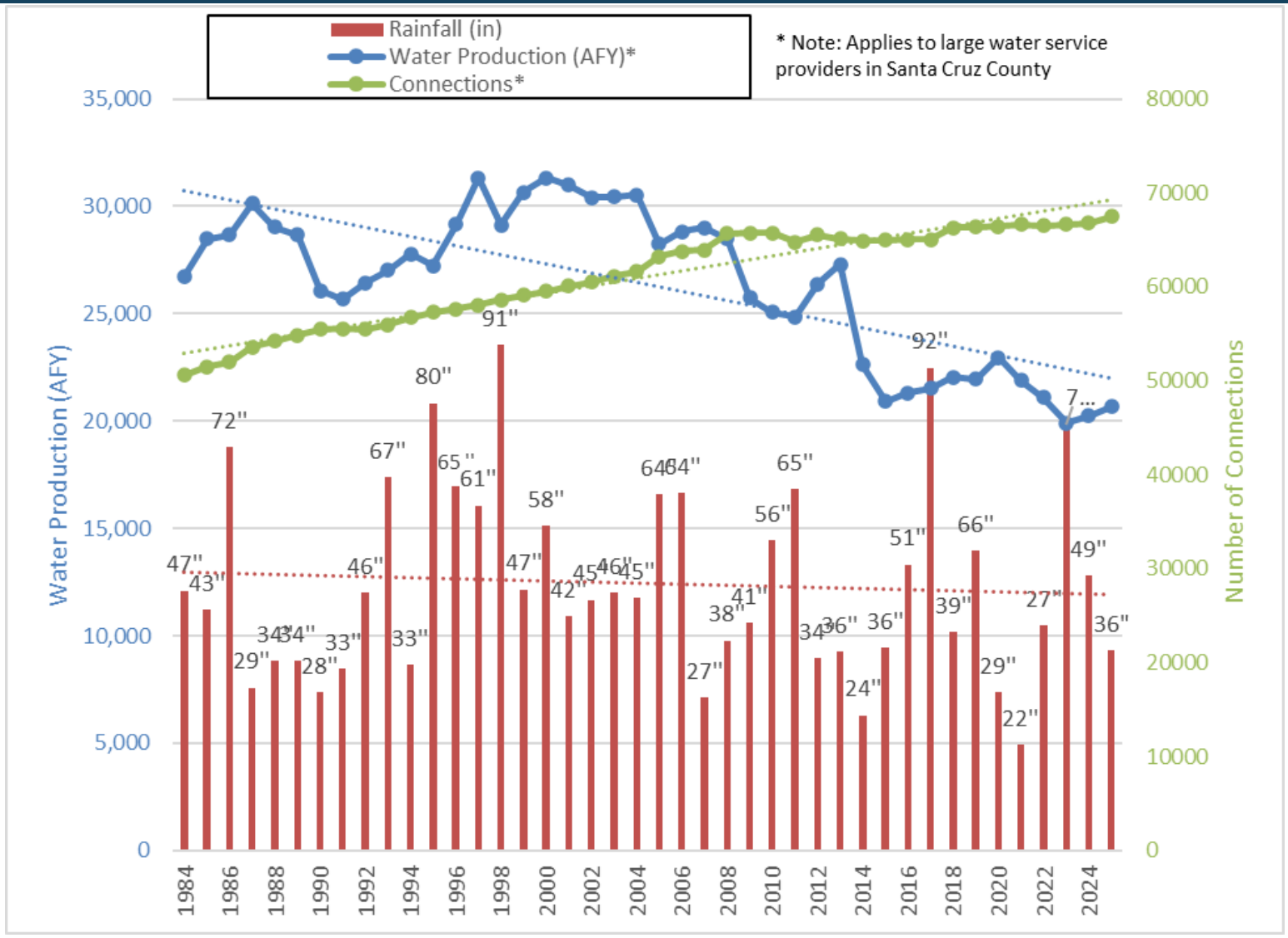
Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
Implementation Activities

Development in the Basin

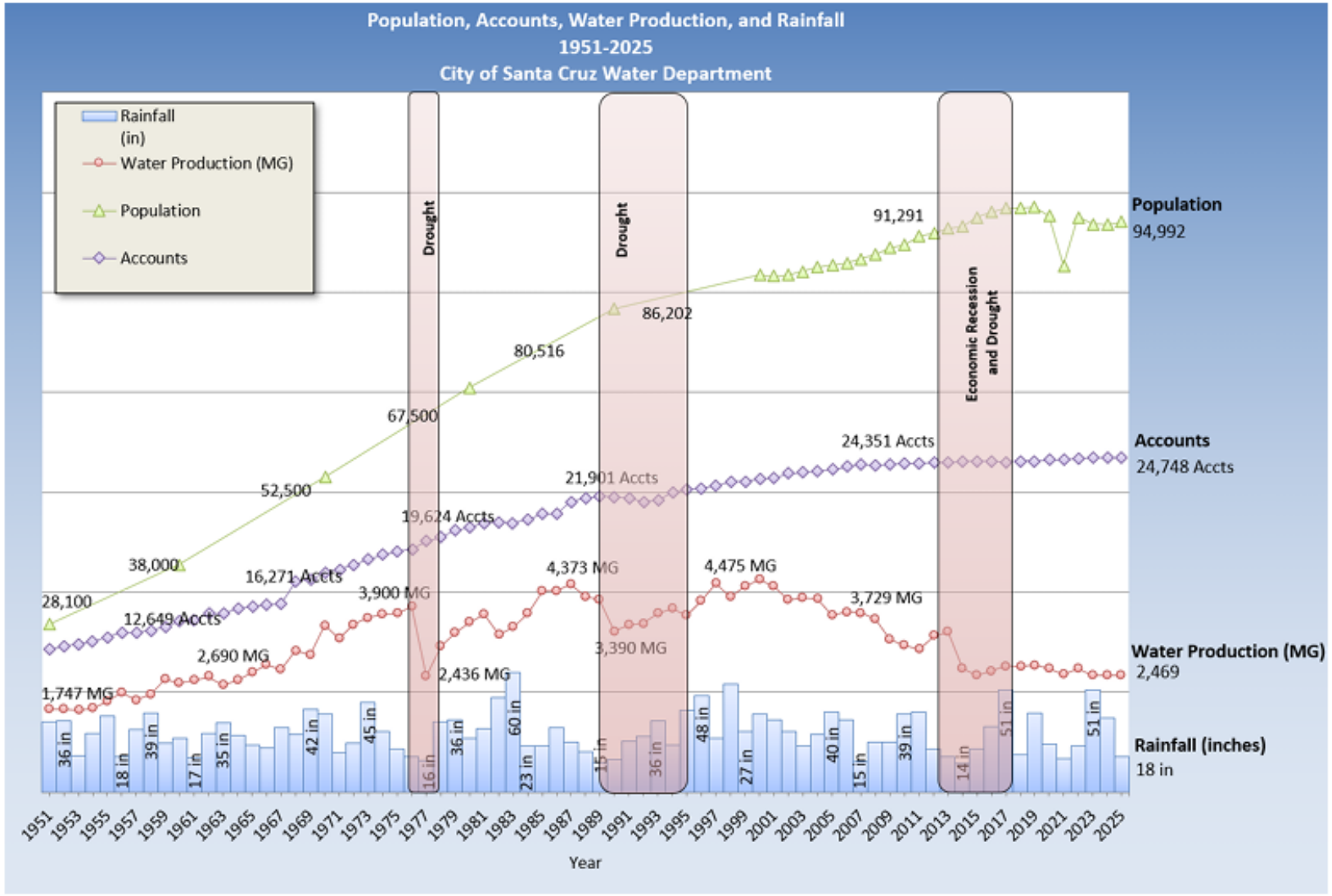
- Director Marani asked that MGA staff to work with County Planning staff to estimate the water impact of future required development, estimate number of units, and estimated locations of proposed developments.
- The question of impact fees as a funding source for the MGA has also been asked at several meetings.

Water Use and Population



Water Use and Population

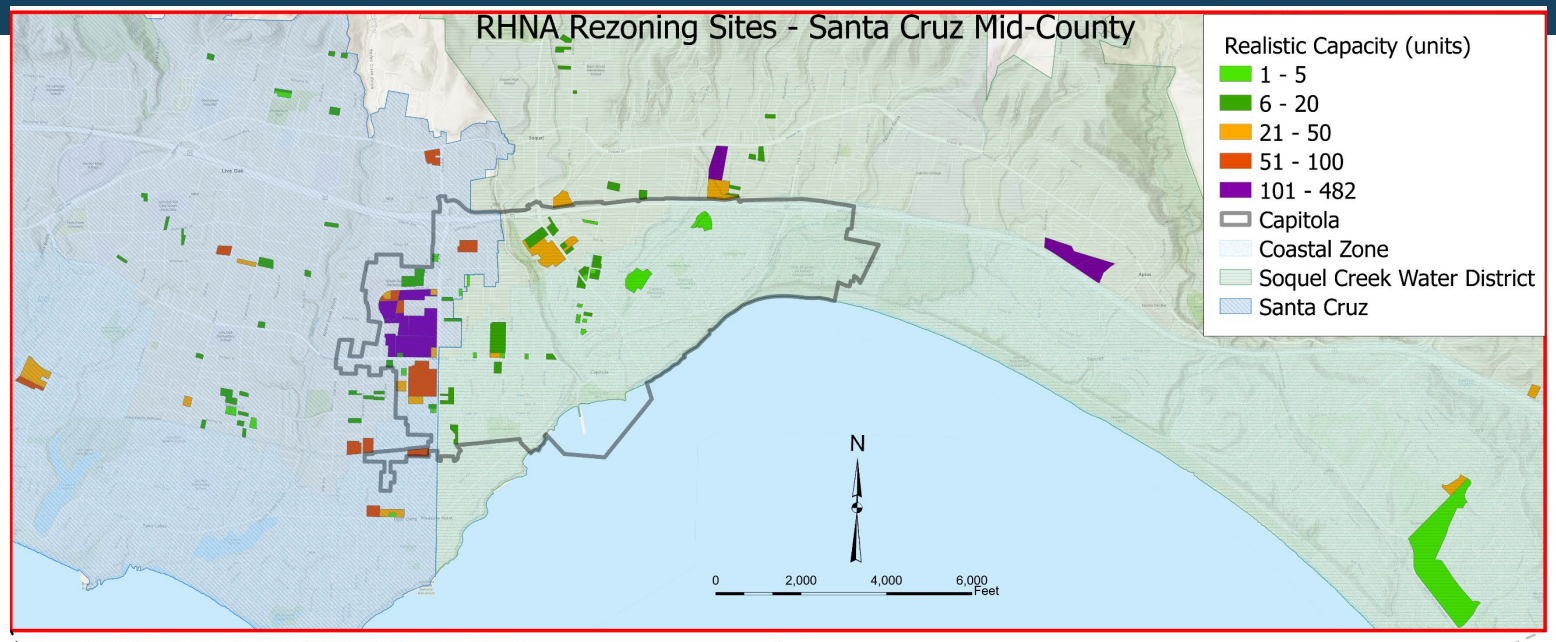
Figure 4-1: Historic Trends for City of Santa Cruz

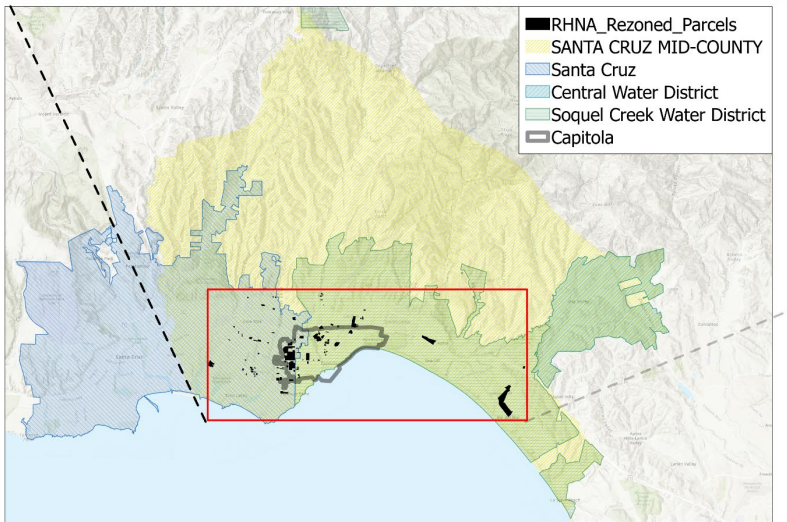


Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)

- RHNA numbers for 2023-2031 were assigned by jurisdiction:
  - County of Santa Cruz: 4,634 units
  - City of Santa Cruz: 3,950 units
  - City of Capitola: 1,336 (settled on 2,511) units
- Each jurisdiction was required to provide zoning changes that would facilitate this development.
- Rezoning does not guarantee a developer will be interested in any given site.

Map of RHNA Zoning





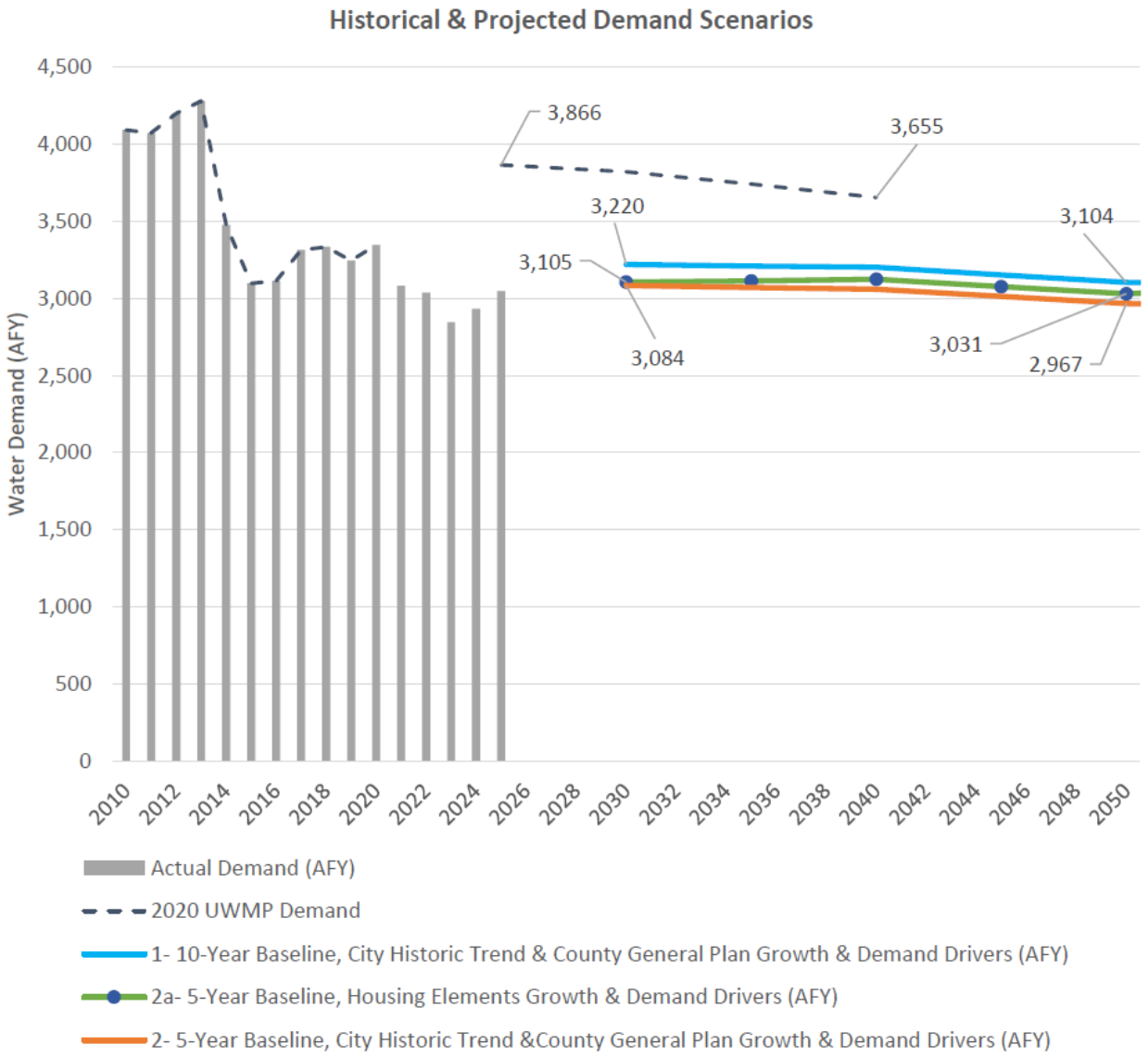
Within the MGA

- A total maximum of 4,199 units would be allowable in the MGA Basin based on the re-zoned parcels.
- All of these fall within the service areas of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department (2968 units) and Soquel Creek Water District (1231 units).
- The RHNA rezoning is multi-family with high efficiency fixtures and minimal landscaping.
- Single-family housing and ADUs will continue to be developed.
- These systems just finalized their Urban Water Management Plans, which looks at estimated supply and demand into the future. These plans are developed every 5 years.

Soquel Creek Water District

- Spoke with County and City of Capitola Planners to look at growth from 2025-2050.
- They evaluated several growth rates.
- Based on those discussions they estimated that 1,140 units will be developed through 2040.
- In all scenarios evaluated, total water use declines

SqCWD Demand Scenarios



Santa Cruz Water Department

- Spoke with County and City of Capitola Planners to look at growth from 2025-2050.
- Total projected water use increases by 900 AFY by 2050. Currently, 95% of water supply is from surface sources, so that equates to an increase of 45 AFY.

SCWD Demand Estimates

Table 4-2: Total Uses for Potable, and Non-Potable Water – Projected (submittal table 4-2R)

Use Type	Additional Description (as needed)	Projected Water Use (MG)				
		2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Single-Family	Individually metered dwellings	847	846	846	846	846
Multi-Family	2 or more dwelling units	663	730	792	856	919
Commercial	Business	451	437	436	442	447
Industrial	Industrial other than UCSC	38	39	40	41	42
Institutional/Governmental	Municipal	51	47	47	47	47
Landscape	Dedicated irrigation accounts	52	48	48	49	50
Landscape	Golf irrigation - potable water	40	36	35	35	35
Industrial	UCSC - Main Campus	199	245	292	292	292
Industrial	UCSC - Coastal Campus	15	21	26	26	26
Distribution System Water Loss		191	199	208	214	219
Agricultural	North Coast agriculture	12	12	12	12	12
Total		2,559	2,660	2,782	2,860	2,935
Total (Rounded)		2,600	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900

Impact Fees

- Staff have now spoken with County Counsel, SCI, and the County's CEO Principal Administrative Analyst
- All agree that Development Impact Fees are not an eligible funding source
- Those fees are restricted to funding capital expenditures that are needed to directly offset the impact of a development
- They cannot be used for operating expenses
- The MGA does not have plans to implement capital projects

QUESTIONS

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GROUNDWATER AGENCY

www.midcountygroundwater.org