County of Santa Cruz

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT
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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

October 18, 1999

AGENDA: October 26, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
70 1 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Members of the Board:

On June 15, 1999, your Board accepted a status report on the County's water resources management efforts and directed that a further report be presented on this date. Additional direction was given to place the item on the Board's agenda so as to promote discussion on the report's content and recommendations. This report is intended to respond to your Board's directive. An appraisal of the work program approved by your Board on June 9, 1998 is included. Also included is an update on environmental review guidelines for well permits, a discussion on ordinances which could be created to meter new wells and significant existing wells, and information on other well ordinance amendments. The report also includes a preliminary evaluation of whether to continue County participation on the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee. Evaluating the County's continued participation on the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee comes as a result of proposed changes directed at the Interagency Water Resource Working Group. Some discussion of activities of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and the Soquel Creek Water District are included in the report as they influence staff recommendations.

An Evaluation of the Water Resources Management Work Program

The June 9, 1998, Water Resources Management Report contained a matrix of Preliminary Recommendations, a listing of high priority recommendations for new or expanded programs , and preliminary work program elements. Progress on the main elements will be described in this section. A copy of the matrix of recommendations, the list of new and expanded programs and the preliminary work program elements are included as Attachment 1. Progress is being made on multiple fronts of water resources management including monitoring baseflows of critical streams, coordinating on erosion issues,

issues, and supporting on-going steelhead and habitat monitoring. Staff has been leveraging its' efforts 0288 by collaborating with the State Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G), with the local Resource Conservation District, and with other resource and water agencies. The timeline for some of the work program elements has slipped. Staff involvement on the septic tank task force initiated in the San Lorenzo Valley, on background work associated with the potential declaration of a groundwater emergency in the Pajaro Valley, and the delayed transition to full staffing of the Water Resources Management Program have all contributed to the slippage in some work program elements. Efforts to coordinate water resources monitoring and management will be discussed in the ensuing sections of this report. Other major elements are as follows:

Groundwater Monitoring

The water resources work plan presented to your Board on June 9, 1998, included a work element to monitor and evaluate groundwater levels and pumpage in wells outside water district jurisdiction. To that end, staff have completed a well inventory for the Pasatiempo/Camp Evers area and the Soquel/Aptos area. Work is ongoing for an inventory in the Bonny Doon area. Staff have assembled a list of 50 monitoring wells and are preparing to initiate fall and spring water level measurements in the Purisima Formation inland of the Soquel Water District.

Well pumpage data have also been calculated for private wells within the Purisima Formation in the Soquel-Aptos area. The County's geographic information system was utilized to calculate pumpage based on designated land use codes and acreage of irrigated land. Although there are few metered wells in the study area, water use factors were estimated for each land use type based on metered data from similar land uses in this general geographic area (Central Water District, Pajaro and Monterey). The results of this analysis indicate that the estimated volume of water pumped by private wells is significant, amounting to about 30-40% of the total pumpage from the basin. A summary of the analysis is included as Attachment 2. The actual impact of private wells on groundwater water levels and basin overdraft is probably somewhat mitigated by the dispersed nature of the pumping, by lesser pumping rates, and by the return of much of the water to the groundwater basin by septic system discharge and percolation of irrigation water. The effect of private pumping will continue to be monitored and evaluated in conjunction with new data collected within the Soquel Creek Water District service area boundaries.

Well Metering and Other Well Ordinance Amendments

The water resources work program includes an element for developing requirements for well metering and other amendments to the Well Ordinance, including potential restrictions on development of new wells within the Central and Soquel Creek Water Districts. These were described in a May 28, 1998 letter from the Health Services Agency Administrator and the Environmental Health Director that was also considered by your Board on June 9, 1998. The development of metering requirements has been deferred, pending the compilation of data on private well water usage described above. The compiled data indicates the significance of private well pumping and demonstrates the need for metering. The estimates of private pumping can be refined with metered data. Metered water use data will also provide well owners with a critical tool to monitor the efficiency of their water usage and the effectiveness of water conservation measures. Staff intends to develop specific recommendations and an ordinance for the metering of new wells and existing wells serving water systems under County jurisdiction and other

large users in critical groundwater basins. These recommendations will be developed in conjunction with the Interagency Water Resources Working Group and other interested parties and will be presented to your Board for consideration on March 28, 2000.

The Soquel Creek Water District has already expressed a direct interest in collaborating with County staff on this effort. An October 5, 1999 letter from the District Board of Directors soliciting coordinated development of well metering programs and water shortage contingency plans is included as Attachment 3. Staff would suggest that a collaborative effort in the mid-County area be given the highest work program priority for metering and other well monitoring. Your Board should note that significant wells are already metered in the Pajaro Valley area and to a lesser extent in the Santa Margarita area. The wells metered in these two areas are largely agricultural, municipal or wells used at quarries. New work programs in the mid-County area would be timely for assisting a collaborative understanding of basin conditions there and would help refine estimates of rural residential water use.

Staff has also been working with the Soquel Creek and Central Water Districts to develop ordinance amendments to limit new well construction within their service area. The Districts have an interest in restricting new wells at locations which are in close proximity to their main service lines. The well drillers association has raised some questions regarding the legality of such restrictions and the Districts are further considering the matter in consultation with their attorneys. Further work on this amendment awaits a response from the Districts acknowledging their authority and willingness to regulate wells within their service area.

Monitoring Stream Basejlow

Staff have been involved in a number of efforts to monitor and protect baseflows (dry season flows) in critical streams, including the following efforts:

Monitoring Bean Creek baseflow in the vicinity of Scotts Valley and Mount Hermon,

Monitoring Corralitos Creek flow and evaluating the causes and extent of drying;

Working with the Soquel Water District, Coastal Watershed Council, Department of Fish and Game, City of Capitola, and other entities to assess the magnitude and causes of declines in Soquel Creek baseflows,

Compilation of an inventory of stream diversions and shallow wells in and around Soquel Creek, and

Investigation of potential water rights violations along Soquel Creek.

This work is ongoing and will provide information to other water resource management efforts.

Watershed Management Activities

General watershed management activities that are being undertaken include the following:

Continuation of the San Lorenzo River Watershed Plan Update; additional grant funding assistance may be forthcoming from the EPA and the Coastal Conservancy.

Work with City of Capitola, Coastal Conservancy, the Resource Conservation District, and others to pursue grant funds for a Soquel Creek watershed plan.

Coordination with the Resource Conservation District, Coastal Conservancy and stakeholder groups to develop a grant funded management and restoration plan for Watsonville Sloughs watershed.

Erosion Control and other In-stream Issues

Coordination on erosion control and other in-stream issues is largely being handled by plan development and partnering between the Resource Conservation District and County staff on watershed projects and erosion related training tasks. Inventory of major erosion problems and development of recommended programs are presently taking place in the update of the San Lorenzo River Watershed Management Plan, in collaborative efforts in the Soquel Creek watershed and in the unincorporated area of Arana Gulch which is upstream from the small craft harbor. Staff are also collaborating with the CDF&G on stream inventories, sampling fish populations with consulting fishery biologists, and continuing active involvement with the Fishnet 4C program. The Public Works Department has recently added a Resource Planner position to assist in erosion control and water management issues. Public Works has made application for additional funding assistance for increased erosion control training and technical guidance.
The addition of a resource planner in the department of Public Works will also offer the opportunity for partnering on an expanded array of erosion control programs.

Interagency Water Resources Working Group

Two recent actions have helped to renew the focus of the Interagency Water Resources Working Group (IWRWG). The first action originated in the Final Report of the 1998-1999 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury which recommended the creation of a County wide task force to address regional water supply shortages. Most water agencies agree that the IWRWG is already positioned to address regional water resource issues and that this group is an appropriate entity to address the Grand Jury's concerns about water. The second action was an August 23, 1999 letter to the County Administrative Officer suggesting both scheduling and format changes for the IWRWG. The letter, signed by staff from the City of Watsonville and the PVWMA, expressed agreement by the managers of the other water agencies, offered support for continuation of the IWRWG, and proposed the following three changes: a bi-monthly meeting schedule; rotating meeting locations among water agencies and the County; and that the host agency be responsible for preparing meeting agendas. County staff agree with the first two proposals but wish to maintain control over preparation of the agenda. At the request of the CAO, a response was prepared. A copy of the response letter is included as Attachment 4.

Recognizing the IWRWG's expressed intent to focus on water supply shortages throughout the County is significant. To the extent this group makes progress on addressing specific issues throughout the County, your Board may choose in time to transfer County staff involvement and activity at the Santa

Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee to an expanded work program at the IWRWG. To the extent that this group does not progress to address specific issues, additional implementation of the County's authority may become necessary. 0291

Your Board should also note that a subcommittee of the IWRWG continues to meet and discuss collaborative outreach and public education on water conservation issues. Accelerating conservation strategies is being discussed in many water agencies throughout the County. Staff will be making recommendations about conservation including revisiting and expanding landscape and household retrofitting ordinances later in this report.

Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee

The June 15, 1999 report, stated that no real cooperative interjurisdictional efforts have come forward in the Committee's four year existence. Aside from collaborative efforts associated with providing a customer base for tertiary reclaimed wastewater, efforts of the member agencies to either evaluate or increase water supplies continue to be singular. However, the Committee recently held a public information forum on a proposal for creating reservoir storage in a mining pit at Olympia Quarry.

County staff continue their involvement with the Bay Area Shared Information Consortium (BASIC) on a regional project to identify groundwater recharge sites and other lands worthy of special protection for their natural recharge characteristics. It is notable that BASIC has access to NASA officials through their community assistance programs. A meeting and tour was held on September 3, 1999 between County staff and members from NASA's Earth Science Information Partnership program. The meeting brought members of NASA's hydrology cluster group from George Mason University in Virginia and from the University of New Mexico.

Despite recent activities, many disputes occur within the Committee's member agency's about how the Committee should function. The disputes largely relate to whether the Committee should act simply as a clearing house for information or whether it should address regional policy level issues. It is staff's opinion that until the Committee addresses regional policy level issues, it will remain ineffective in its efforts to cooperatively manage the regional groundwater basin.

Area disputes could also be resolved with better cooperative water resource planning and management. For example, in the Scotts Valley area, concern exists over voter initiatives regulating proposed development, over the provision of extra territorial water service agreements that had not been evaluated by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and whether the Scotts Valley Water District has adequate groundwater resources to provide for additional demands. (LAFCO will hear issues concerning extra territorial service for Gateway South at their meeting on November 3, 1999). The issue of Manana Woods Mutual Water Company's request for service has not yet been adequately resolved. In the Pasatiempo area, concern continues over the sustainability of groundwater resources in the Lompico formation, over how to address water resource issues at Mt. Hermon, and on requiring Kaiser Quarry to use tertiary reclaimed wastewater in their sand washing operations. Conditions throughout the basin require cooperative management for water supply and water quality protection, yet, the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee has steadfastly refused to address basin wide policy level issues.

Given the lack of meaningful progress by the Committee on common groundwater management issues, we believe it is time to transfer the County's efforts on specific water issues to the Interagency Water Resources Working Group. Staff would also suggest involving LAFCO to review the present organization of governmental structures attempting to manage common groundwater resources. LAFCO made similar recommendations in a Sphere of Influence Study for the Scotts Valley Water District, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the Lompico County Water District in a February 1985 report. It might be appropriate for LAFCO to revisit the issue and investigate whether some reorganization of existing governmental structure might result in a more efficient operating entity to manage common groundwater resources.

Your Board should be reminded of the recommendations for establishing management of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin water resources contained within the Final Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Management Plan, a plan your Board adopted in 1992. The Basin Management Plan presented a possible sequence of alternatives to consider based upon political acceptability and competent legal advice. Those alternatives were as follow:

1) Mutual cooperative agreement between major water users (with the technical advisory committee continuing in an advisory capacity).

2) Establish a sub-district within the existing Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and obtain specific water management powers through legislation.

3) Merge and expand the existing water districts to cover the San Lorenzo watershed and give the new district adequate groundwater and surface water management powers. The existing districts could continue to operate the supply, storage and distribution systems as sub-districts.

4) Create an entirely new water management district covering the San Lorenzo River Basin by special legislation.

5) Adjudication.

The existing entities agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding in 1995. The first alternative approach towards implementing management of the areas water resources has not worked. Staff suggests that another form of management structure should be considered and will make a recommendation along these lines later in this report.

Environmental Review Guidelines for Well Permits

As your Board will recall, County Code Chapter 7.70 requires environmental review of well permits. The Farm Bureau and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency have expressed concerns regarding whether the County can legally regulate well water extraction and use through environmental review of well permits without conflicting with state water law. A particular concern has focused on Environmental Health's administrative guidelines for determining whether a permit for a replacement or supplemental well is exempt from CEQA review.

The County typically receives 30-40 applications per year for replacement or supplemental wells, half of which are for agricultural wells. All but one of those applications in the past year has qualified for an exemption from environmental review. Environmental Health's current guidelines for CEQA Review of Well Permit Applications specify that replacement and supplemental wells for large uses, including agriculture, are exempt from environmental review if : 1) they draw water from the same aquifer as the existing well, and 2) there will be no increase in water use.

In order to determine that a proposed well will be in the same aquifer, county staff typically evaluate the underlying geology and specify a limit on the depth of the replacement/supplemental well. Although the restriction on going to a deeper aquifer is of significant concern to farmers and well drillers, staff does not believe it is appropriate to relax that restriction at this time. Deeper aquifers are typically not replenished as rapidly as shallow aquifers, and the long term impacts of deeper water extraction may be significantly different than extraction from a shallower aquifer. The issue of wells penetrating a deeper aquifer is particularly important in the Pajaro and Scotts Valley Groundwater Basins, but is of less importance in the north coast and mid-county areas. The impacts of deeper wells may be best addressed for an entire groundwater basin through the preparation of a basin management plan. Once such a plan is completed and has been subject to CEQA review, it is proposed that construction of deeper wells which are consistent with the basin management plan could be exempt from further CEQA review. Staff have requested the PVWMA to provide a basin-wide evaluation of the impacts of additional wells penetrating deeper aquifers in their pending update of their Basin Management Plan.

The current Environmental Health criteria for a CEQA exemption also specify that there shall be no increase in water use. However, upon review of the State CEQA guidelines for Class 2 exemptions, it would be more appropriate to specify that there should be no or negligible increase in the capacity for water extraction. This is typically determined by well diameter, pump size and pumping capacity. This reduces the concern that the County is directly regulating or restricting water use through CEQA review of wells. Staff does believe that is appropriate to ensure that water is used efficiently, and would suggest that your Board consider adding provisions to the well ordinance to require use of water conservation measures as a condition of approval for new, replacement and supplemental well permits. This could be included with the provisions for metering, or your Board could direct staff to return sooner for adoption of these measures as an emergency ordinance for immediate implementation. Water conservation is also addressed during CEQA review for any proposed well that does not meet the requirements for an exemption.

In order to clarify the CEQA process for wells and to address the concerns identified above, staff have developed revised guidelines for environmental review of proposed well permits. A strike-over/ underscore copy of the revised guidelines is included as Attachment 5. The revised guidelines allow an exemption for replacement and supplemental wells that will tap water from the same aquifer, with no overall increase in extraction capacity, in order to support an existing, allowed use. The guidelines no longer attempt to regulate extraction. Staff recommends that your Board authorize use of the revised guidelines for environmental review of wells following circulation to the Environmental Coordinator and other interested parties for review and comment. It is also proposed that these guidelines be returned to your Board for inclusion in the County's Environmental Review Guidelines.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board: 0294

1) Accept and file this progress report on Water Resources Management, and

2) Direct staff to revisit County Water Conservation Ordinances regarding landscape demand and plumbing retrofit requirements upon re-sale or re-model of homes and report back on March 28, 2000 with potential draft revisions, and

3) Direct the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to write LAFCO and request that it prepares its 2000-2001 budget to include investigating the present organization of governmental structure attempting to manage water resources in the greater San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley areas, and

4) Direct staff to circulate the revised guidelines for environmental review of wells to the Environmental Coordinator and other interested parties for review and comment and to bring them back to your Board for inclusion in the County's Environmental Review Guidelines by December 14, 1999, and

5) Direct staff to report back on Water Resources Management and to present a draft ordinance on well metering and water conservation for new, replacement and supplemental wells to your Board on March 28, 2000.

Sincerely,

RECOMMENDED

ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

for CHARLES MOODY
HSA Administrator

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Blc/WRM99-11

cc: Interagency Water Resources Working Group
Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee
LAFCO

ATTACHMENT 1

Date: June 1, 1998

Santa Cruz County Water Resources Management
Summary of Preliminary Rccommendntions and Estimated Costs for Implementation

Preliminary Recommendations (Described in more detail in the body of the report)	Current Effort FTE's	Approx. Proposed Effort FTE's	Capital/ Contract Cost	Added Initial/ Annual cost	Agency	Nor Coast	SLR s v	Soquel Aptos	Paj	Prior- rfty	Effect	P x E	FY 98- 99	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
A. Water Supply Management																
1. Increase County support of coordinated water resources development and management.	0.7	1.5	150,000	200,000	Planning (EHS)	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	x	x	x	
2. Promote regional water supply planning.	-	0.5	100,000	150,000	Pln,Board Districts	3	1	1	2-1	2-1	3-1	6-1	x	x		
3. Promote coordinated water conservation efforts.	-	0.1	-	10,000	Pln,EHS, Districts	3	1	1	2	2	2	4		x	x	x
4. *Consider formation of a countywide water management agency, if other efforts fail.*	-	0.2	10,000	30,000	Board	3	2	3	3	3-2	3-2	9-4		x		
5. Increase County monitoring and management of non-district water use, including inventory of large users, requirement of meters and adoption of specific conditions for wells in critical groundwater basins.	-	0.25	-	20,000	EHS (Planning)	3	2	1	2	2	2	4	x	x	x	x
6. Ensure impacts of water consumption is adequately addressed in development review.	0.1	0.2	-	10,000	Planning Cities	3	1	1	2	2	3	6	O	x	x	x
7. *Promote use of reclaimed water.*	-	0.1	-	10,000	Pln,Dists+	3	1	3	2	2	3	6	-	x	x	
B. Streamflow Monitoring																
1. Maintain and enhance ALERT flood warning system.	0.6	0.6	15000	0	Pln	3	2	2	2	O	2	4	x	x	x	x
2. Maintain current USGS stream gages.	-	-	11000	0	Pln,Dists	-	1	1	1	O,1	2	2				
3. *Assess data on water rights and diversions.*	0.05	0.2	-	7,000	Pln,State	1	3	2	3	2	2	4		x		
4. Assess extent and causes of Soquel Cr. flow decline.	-	0.05	10,000	15,000	Pln,Dist+	-	-	2	-	E,2	2	4	x			
5. Monitor and investigate baseflows of critical streams.	0.05	0.25	-	8.000	Pln,EHS	2	1	1	2-1	E,1	2	2	x	x		
6. Ensure groundwater models address baseflow.		0.05	20,000	15,000	Pln,Dists	-	1	1	2	E,2	3	6	x	x		
C. Groundwater Monitoring																
1. Monitor and evaluate water levels and pumpage outside water districts and nondistrict uses within districts.	-	0.5	-	40.000	EHS,Pln	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	x	x		
2. Consider evaluation of groundwater resources in other rural areas (Bonny Doon, Summit, Glen Canyon).	-	0.05	-	5.000	Pln, EHS	2	3	2	3	3	3	9			x	x
3. Evaluate and resolve quarry impacts on groundwater and surface water quality and quantity.	-	0.05	-	5,000	Pln+	1	1	3	3	2-3	2-3	4-9		x	x	x

Santa Cruz County Water Resources Management
Summary of Preliminary Recommendations and Estimated Costs for Implementation

ATTACHMENT 1 Date: June 1, 19

Preliminary Recommendations (Described in more detail in the body of the report)	Current Effort FTE's	Approx. Proposed Effort FTE's	Capital/ Contract cost	Added Initial/ Annual Cost	Agency	Nor Coast	SLR s v	Soquel Aptos	Paj	Prior- rity	Effect	P x E	FY 98- 99	3 yr	5 yr	10 y
D. Erosion Control																
1. Implement a comprehensive erosion control program with other agencies.	0.05	0.2	-	15,000	Pln,RCD, NRCS+	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	x	x	x	x
a. Inventory major erosion problems.	0.05	0.5		30,000	Pln+					1	2	2	x			
b. Provide education, outreach, and technical assistance	0.5	1.5		80,000	Pln, RCD					1	1	1	x			
c. Provide cost-sharing incentives.		0.2	100,000+	120,000	Pln,NRCS					1	2	2		x		
d. Increase enforcement of erosion problems	0.5	1.0		50,000	Pln					2	2	4		x		
e. Strengthen timber regs and reduce county oversight.	1.2	0.6	-	-40,000	Pln, BS					2	2	4	x			
2. Provide improved erosion control along public roads.		1.0	100,000+	180,000	DPW					1	1	1		x	x	
3. Monitor stream bed conditions and sedimentation.		0.2	15,000	25,000	Pln, EHS?	2	1	2	1	1	3	3	x	x		
E. Watershed Management																
1. Support watershed management efforts in the following areas: - San Lorenzo Watershed Management Plan - Water Qual. Protec. Program - Water supply protection programs (DHS) - Soquel Cr. Corralitos. North Coast Streams	0.4	0.8	-	40,000	Pln,EHS RCD NOAA Districts DHS	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	x	x		
2. Establish mechanisms for interdepartmental and interagency coordination.		0.1	-	10,000	Pln,EHS, DPW,+					1	1	1	x			
3. Provide education and outreach on watershed protection and water resources management.	0.05	0.2	20,000	35,000	Pln,EHS RCD+					1	2	2	x			
4. Develop funding mechanisms for increased watershed and water resources management efforts.	0.05	0.2		20,000	Pln,EHS, RCD,+					1	1	1	x			
F. Fishery Habitat																
1. Support ongoing steelhesd and hahitnt tnonitoring.		-	20,000	20,000	Pln,Dist+	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	x	x	x	x
2. Work with CDFG, USNMFS, USFWS io evaluate stream clearance practices and develop measures for hshitnt protection and improvement..	0.4	1.0	-	60,000	Pln,DFG, NMFS, Dist,+	1	1	2	2	1	2	2		x	x	x
3. Consider preparation of a habitat conservation plan forlisted aquatic species.	0.05	1.0	50,000	90,000	Pln					2	2	4		x	x	

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Preliminary Recommcndalions (Described in more detail in the body of the report)	Current Effort FTE's	Approx. Proposed Effort FTE's	Capital/ Contract Cost	Added Initial/ Annual Cost	Agency	Nor Coast	SLR s v	Soquel Aptos	Paj	Prior- rity	Effect	P x E	FY 98- 99	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
G. Water Quality																
1. Maintain nitrate monitoring in San Lorenzo Walershed.	0.05	0.05	-	0	EHS	-	1		-	O	2	2	O			
2. Evaluate groundwater data for additional water quality monitoring and management needs.		0.05	-	5,000	EHS,Pln, PVWMA	2	3	2	1	2	2	4	x	x		
3. Expand bacteria nnd nitrate monitoring in rural areas.	0.5	0.7	-	8,000	EHS	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	x			
4. Expand bacteria monitoring of storm drains.	0.1	0.2	-	4,000	EHS,DPW	-	2	1	2	2	2	4	x			
5. Characterize sources of bacteria.	0.05	0.15	10,000	20,000	EHS	3	2	2	2	2	2	4			x	
6. Consider additional urban runoff quality monitoring.	0.05	0.2	-	15,000	EHS,DPW	4	3	2	3	3	2	6			x	
7. Consider additional coastal lagoon monitoring.	0 . 0 5	0 . 2	-	IS.000	EHS,State	4	4	2	3	3	3	9			x	
8. Expedite upgrade of sewage collection systems.	1.0	?	?	?	DPW	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	x	x	x	
9. Evaluate stormwater management measures.	0.05	1.0	?	100,000	DPW,Pln	4	3	2	3	2	2	4		x		
IO. Work with growers and agencies to improve quality of agricultural runoff and percolation.	0.05	0.2	-	20,000	Pln,State, EHS,NOAA	2	4	3	1	2	2	4		x		
1 1. Expand bacteria monitoring of public beaches.	0.2	0.3	-	5,000	EHS	3	2	1	3	1	2	2	x			
12. Review available information on overall ocean health.	0.05	0 . 0 5	-	0	EHS,NOAA					O	2	2	O			
H. Data Management and Coordinnlion																
1. Improve current county databases and GIS.	0.15	0.3	-	15,000	EHS,Pln					1	2	2	x			
2. Coordinate data gathering with other agencies.	0.05	0.3	-	15,000	EHS					2	2	4		x		
3. Provide a biannual review of data.	0.05	0.2	-	15,000	EHS,Pln+					2	2	4		x		
4. Prepare and maintain nnnotnted bibliography.		0.2	-	8,000	Pln,EHS+					1	2	2	x			
TOTALS	7.15	17.2	631000	1075000												

Notes: Priorities: 0- Ongoing; E- Could be done with existing staff:; 1 - High Priority; 2- Medium Priority; 3 - Lower Priority, Multiple priorities may be shown if there are several stages.

? - Indicates undetermined capital costs.

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several key aquifers are in stages of advanced overdraft and water quality is being compromised by seawater intrusion and pointlnonpoint pollution. While many individual water agencies are taking steps to address issues within their jurisdictions, an effective coordinated county-wide solution is lacking and sorely needed. Many of the issues, because of their complexity, their impact on multiple jurisdictions and the high cost of resolution, best lend themselves to regional solutions.

The management/monitoring needs and recommendations identified in the WRMM would cost many millions of dollars to implement. While all of the recommendations are important, some are more time critical and/or provide a greater potential return in the form of improved water resources quality and quantity for both water supply and ecological needs. Since sufficient funding is not available to address all needs at this time, the working group developed a method to prioritize the recommendations contained in the WRMM Report.

The working group prepared the "Summary of Preliminary Recommendations" included as Attachment 7, in order to prioritize recommendations according to urgency and actual effectiveness. This summary presents recommendations derived from the WRMM report in a matrix format. Each recommendation was ranked by the working group on a scale of 1 (high priority) to 3 (lower priority), within each surface/groundwater basin. The estimated effect of the recommendation was then ranked, also on a scale of 1 (high effectiveness) to 3 (lower'effectiveness). These numbers were then multiplied together (and averaged between basins) to arrive at a ranking for each recommendatiori of 1 (high priority/high effectiveness) to 9 (lower priority/lower effectiveness). These rankings are reflected in the matrix column labeled "PxE".

Based on this ranking process, the recommendations related to new or expanded programs listed below scored most highly:

Matrix No.	WRMM Report Recommendation	Priority x Effect
A.1.	Increase County support of coordinated water resources development and management	1
A.2.	Promote regional water supply planning.	1
B.5.	Monitor and investigate baseflows of critical streams.	2

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Matrix No.	WRMM Report Recommendation	Priority x Effect
C.1.	Monitor and evaluate water levels and pumpage outside water districts and nondistrict uses within districts (including well metering).	2
D.I.	Implement a comprehensive erosion control program with other agencies.	1
D.I .a.	Inventory major erosion problems.	2
D.1.b.	Provide education, outreach, and technical assistance.	1
D.1.c.	Provide cost-sharing incentives.	2
D.2.	Provide improved erosion control along public roads.	1
E.1.	Support watershed management efforts in the following areas: - San Lorenzo Watershed Management Plan - Water Quality Protection Program - Water supply protection programs (DHS) - Soquel Creek, Corralitos, North Coast Streams	2
E.2.	Establish mechanisms for interdepartmental and interagency coordination	1
E.3.	Provide education and outreach on watershed protection and water resources management	2
E.4.	Develop funding mechanisms for increased watershed and water resources management efforts.	1
F.1.	Support ongoing steelhead and habitat monitoring.	2
F.2.	Work with CDFG, USNMFS, USFWS to evaluate stream clearance practices and develop measures for habitat protection and improvement.	2
G.8.	Expedite upgrade of sewage collection systems.	1

PRELIMINARY WORK PROGRAM ELEMENTS ATTACHMENT 1

(Approximate Allocation of Time)

Task (from Table)	Total FTE	Environmental Health FTE			Planning Department FTE				DPW Work	Contract	Priorty x Effect	Possible Grant Funded Effort
		Current WQ Manager	Current Prof/Tech Staff	New Aide	Current Hydrolgist	Current Planners	New Planner	New. Manager				
A. 1 Coord, Water Mgt.	0.65	X			X	X		X		75,000	1	Yes
A.2 Regional Water Planning	0.5				X			X			1	Yes
A.5 Well Meters	0.45	X	X	X	X						3	Yes
B.5 Monitor Streamflow	0.3		X	X	X						2	
C. 1 Monitor well levels, usage	0.3		X	X	X						2	Yes
D. 1 Erosion Control Program	1.1					X	X	X		TBD	1	Yes
D.2 Roadside Erosion Control	0.63						X	X	X	TRD	I	Yes
D.3 Monitor Streambeds	0.12	X	X				X			15,000	3	Current Grant
E. I Watershed Mgt.	0.6	X				X	X	X			2	Yes
E.2 Agency Coord.	0.1	X						X	X		I	
E.3 Outreach	0.15	X					X	X			2	Yes
E.4 Develop Funding	0.2	X					X	X			I	Yes
F. I Salmonid Monitoring	0.05						x			20,000	2	
F.2 Salmonid Protection	0 . 4					X	X	x			2	Yes
G.2 Evaluate WQ Data	0. I	X	X								4	
G.3,4 Bact. Monitoring	0.3		X	X							4	Yes
G.8 Upgrade of Sewer Systems	0									TBD	1	
II. 1,2 Data Mgt	0.45	X	X	X	X	X					2	Yes

Last updated: 10/06/99 jmw DRAFT

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS

PURISIMA AQUIFER

All Water use figures are rough estimates for discussion purposes only. The percentages assigned to recharge from septic systems and irrigation are meant to show only general trends. Actual recharge percentages would vary for site-specific cases.

		Water Use				Water Use Minus Septic System and Irrigation Recharge				
						Residential Use		Ag. Use		
		Annual Water Use (Acre-Feet/ Year)	Percent of Total Water Use	# of Active Wells	# of Developed Parcels	Septic Systems. RURAL Area ONLY: (50% of Residential Water Use) House Use 100% Goes to Septic System, of that, 75% to Recharge	Backyard Irrigation. RURAL and URBAN: (50% of Residential Water Use) Landscape Irrigation: 80% ET, 20% Recharge	Irrigation. AGRICULTURAL ONLY: 100% Irrigation: 80% ET = 20% Recharge	Annual Water Use After Recharge Is Subtracted (Acre-Feet/ Year)	Percent of Total Water Use After Recharge Is Subtracted
	Urban Private Wells: Residential, and Commercial	124	2%	184	217	0	-12	0	112	2%
	Urban Private Wells: Agricultural, and Golf Course	264	4%	8	15	0	0	-53	211	4%
	Rural Private Parcels: Residential & Commercial	1,099	15%	670	2,223	-412	-110	0	577	10%
	Rural Private Parcels: Agricultural	661	9%	11	34	0	0	-132	529	9%
*1	**TOTAL PRIVATE PARCELS**	**2,148**	**29%**	**873**	**2,489**	**-412**	**-122**	**-185**	**1429**	**24%**
	3 Urban Small Water Systems: All, Not Including Cabrillo	29	0%	4	68	0	-3	0	26	0%
	1 Urban Small Water System: Highest User, Cabrillo College	263	4%	3	5	0	0	-34	229	4%
	13 Rural Small Water Systems: All	187	3%	23	326	-70	-19	-3	95	2%
*2	**TOTAL SMALL WATER SYSTEMS**	**479**	**7%**	**30**	**399**	**-70**	**-22**	**-37**	**350**	**6%**
*3	**CENTRAL WATER DISTRICT**	**124**	**2%**	**2**	**(779)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**124**	**2%**
*4	**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ** Includes water service to unincorporated Live Oak.	**790**	**11%**	**3**	**13,174**	**0**	**-79**	**0**	**711**	**12%**
*5	**SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT** Includes water service to the City of Capitola.	**3,780**	**52%**	**11**	**13,749**	**0**	**-378**	**0**	**3,402**	**57%**
	TOTAL :	**7,321**				**-482**	**-601**	**-222**	**6,016**	

NOTES:

*1 Private Parcels' water use calculation by SC County EHS; based on Water Use Factors, and Assessor's land use codes in Year:1 999.
For agricultural parcels, it was estimated that 42% of total acreage was actually cultivated,
based on analysis of 31 parcels within Lower Soquel Creek Watershed which had 145 out of 344 agricultural acres cultivated,

*2 Small Water Systems (SWS) water use calculation by SC County EHS; based on Water Use Factors, and Assessor's land use codes in Year:1999.
Cabrillo estimation by SC County EHS: 1 ,000,000 gal/day for two months (917,500 of which is irrigation and 82,500 is drinking water.) + 82,500 gal/day 10 months/ yr for drinking.

*3 Central Water District pumpage calculation by Central Water District; based on total pumpage of 538 AF/yr from 23% Purisima & 77% Aromas Red Sands in FY: 1997-98.
SC County EHS estimated recharge into the Purisima aquifer as zero since most parcels recharge into the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer.

*4 City of Santa Cruz pumpage calculation by Soquel Creek Water District; based on metered readings in Year: 1992.
1992 data is used in place of 1999 data because 1992 is the most recent period that includes opertion of the Beltz wells.
SC County EHS estimated recharge only for irrigation; service area is on sewer.

*5 Soquel Creek Water District pumpage calculation by Soquel Creek Water District; based on metered readings in Year 1997.
SC County EHS estimated recharge only for irrigation; service area is mostly on sewer.

0301

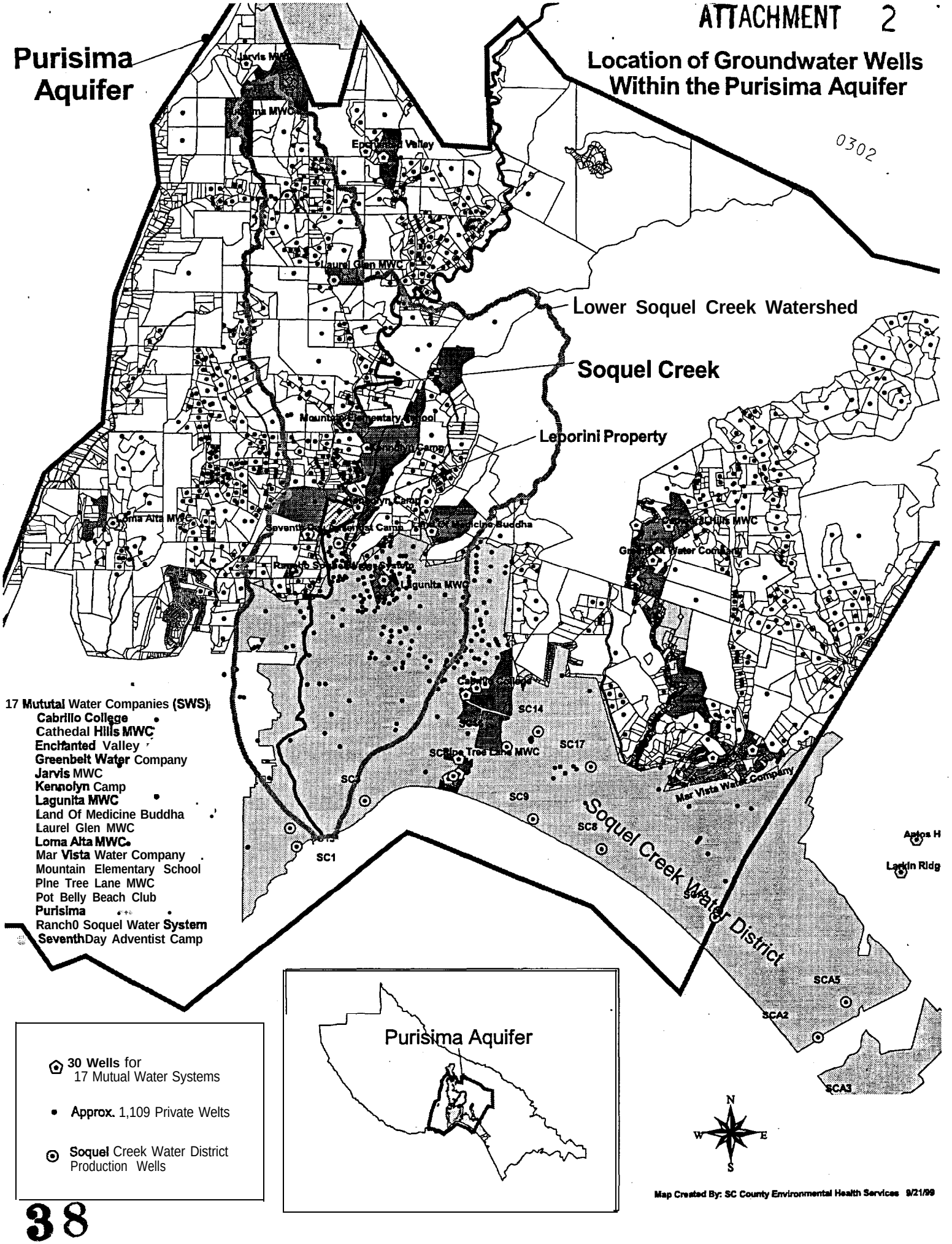
ATTACHMENT 2

ATTACHMENT 2

Purisima Aquifer

Location of Groundwater Wells Within the Purisima Aquifer

0302



17 Mututal Water Companies (SWS)
- Cabrillo College
- Cathedal Hills MWC
- Enchtanted Valley
- Greenbelt Water Company
- Jarvis MWC
- Kennolyn Camp
- Lagunita MWC
- Land Of Medicine Buddha
- Laurel Glen MWC
- Loma Alta MWC
- Mar Vista Water Company
- Mountain Elementary School
- Pine Tree Lane MWC
- Pot Belly Beach Club
- Purisima
- Ranch0 Soquel Water System
- SeventhDay Adventist Camp

- **30 Wells** for 17 Mutual Water Systems
- **Approx.** 1,109 Private Welts
- **Soquel** Creek Water District Production Wells

Map Created By: SC County Environmental Health Services 9/21/99

ATTACHMENT 3

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

5180 SOQUEL DR.
P.O. BOX 158
SOQUEL, CA 95073-0158
TEL 831-475-8500 / 831-688-2288
FAX 831-475-4291

0303

October 5, 1999

Board of Supervisors
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 950604069

Subject; Coordinated Development of Well Metering Programs & Water Shortage Contingency Plans

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Soquel Creek Water District and Central Water District have assumed responsibility for groundwater management within our jurisdictions under the legislative authority granted by AB3030. However, the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Basin extends well beyond the Water Districts' boundaries. The County currently is the only agency with authority for groundwater management activities in that portion of the basin. We believe it is important for all three of our agencies to cooperate and collaborate in developing consistent and equitable groundwater management programs. In this regard, we are requesting the County to work together with us in two specific areas.

First, effective groundwater management requires a clear understanding of the pumping activity within the. basin. Unmetered wells account for about one-third of the pumping from the Purisima aquifer. Given the concerns about potential overdraft, it is important to gather accurate pumping data. Soquel Creek Water District is interested in developing a Metering/Monitoring Program for non-District wells within our jurisdiction, but that would only cover a small percentage of the total number of unmetered wells. A large majority of these wells are located within the County's area of jurisdiction. We request that direction be given for our respective Staffs to work together to develop consistent recommendations for metering criteria and monitoring programs throughout the basin.

Second, we believe it is important that synchronized and consistent actions be taken throughout the basin in the event of a declared water shortage. The District will be revising its existing "Drought Contingency Plan" to have a more appropriate water shortage contingency plan that defines various stages of declining groundwater conditions and establishes the actions that may be taken to limit demand until the situation is resolved We believe that any actions to restrict water use should apply to all those who have contributed to the shortage or who may

ATTACHMENT 3

0304

want to develop property within the basin. This will more fairly distribute the burden of reducing water use and increase the ability to effectively manage groundwater levels. In this regard, we request that the Board of Supervisors direct County Staff to collaborate with Water District Staff in developing a groundwater shortage contingency plan that would apply to all areas of the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Basin.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests for our agencies to cooperate in the interest of groundwater management. We look forward to working with the County on these projects.

Sincerely,

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

John W. Beebe, Vice President
Board of Directors

JWB:LDB:jjy
cc: Board of Directors, Central Water District

County of Santa Cruz

030

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 4543580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123
ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

September 21, 1999

Mr. Charles McNiesh, General Manager
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
36 Brennan Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Dear Mr. McNiesh:

The County has received your letter addressing proposed changes in format and scheduling of the Interagency Water Resources Working Group (working group). Susan Mauriello has asked that I respond to you on her behalf. It should be acknowledged up-front that the County Board of Supervisors recognizes the urgency of resolving regional water supply imbalances to the point of potentially declaring a groundwater emergency in the Pajaro Valley. Their instructions to County staff are to maintain a focused direction to resolve these broad water resource issues.

County staff does perceive the utility of the working group to be more than the exchange of information and ideas. It is our view that the Committee's basic purpose is to foster progress towards resolution of the water resource issues addressed in the consensus fact sheet on countywide water resources. Work programs have been established and staff hired to coordinate a cooperative response to the water resource problems noted throughout the County. We have set a structure in place to support the working group and collaborate with various purveyors on common issues. Our response to your proposal must consider that the County is the only government agency represented on the working group that has some level of policy or program responsibility throughout all the jurisdictions represented on the working group and therefore, our interests are broad and may differ from others.

Notwithstanding, County staff would agree to the changes in format and scheduling proposed. The proposed changes in format and scheduling do not distract from the emphasis on the immediacy of the problem, and upon the regional perspective which should guide potential solutions to our water resource problems. However, I believe that the County should maintain the responsibility to frame meeting agendas. I am heartened that all parties represented wish to take ownership for the success of the working group. Its great that others want to contribute to the agenda and towards hosting the meetings.

In closing, I should note that others have recognized the need for a broader, more regional approach to resolving the County's water resource issues. The working group effectively serves the purpose of a countywide taskforce such as recommended by the 1998-1999 Civil Grand Jury. The recommendations of the Grand Jury report are another independent indicator of the need to maintain a focused yet broad, regional perspective on matters of enhancing water supply. The continuing investigation of the Civil Grand Jury also

underscores the level of continuing commitment and perspective required to effectively address the issues which confront us throughout the region.

0306

In closing, we thank you for your suggestions and look forward to working closer with everyone at the next meeting and to discussing this matter further at that time. I remain available to assist you in any way you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Bruce Laclergue

Bruce Laclergue
Water Resources Manager

cc: Susan A. Mauriello, County Administrative Officer
Gayland Swain, Senior Engineer, City of Watsonville
Erik Schapiro, County Administrative Office
Alvin James, Planning Director
Charles Moody, Health Services Agency Administrator
John Ricker, Environmental Health
Dwight Herr, County Counsel
William Kocher, Water Director, City of Santa Cruz
Jon Sansing, General Manager , Scotts Valley Water District
Laura Brown, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District
James Mueller, General Manager, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
Michael Eggleston, General Manager, Lompico County Water District
Clarke Wales, General Manager, Central Water District

POLICY MEMORANDUM ATTACHMENT 5

DATE: **DRAFT: October 12, 1999** Changes are shown as underline/strikeout

TO: Staff, Division of Environmental Health

FROM: Diane Evans, Director of Environmental Health 0307

SUBJECT: **CEQA REVIEW OF WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

REFERENCE

Santa Cruz County Code, Chapter 7.70.
Policy Memo WATER-5, issued August 8, 1998

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Memorandum is to update the procedures and policy for review of well permit applications in relation to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

CANCELLATION:

Previous memorandum, Water 17, dated December 16, 1988, is hereby canceled and may be removed from your Policy Manual.

BACKGROUND

Permit applications for the construction of new wells, replacement of an existing well or repair of an existing or abandoned well are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Policy Memo, along with the Santa Cruz County Environmental Review Guidelines, establishes the procedure for compliance with CEQA when processing well permit applications under Chapter 7.70 of the County Code.

Definitions

The definitions contained in County Code Section 7.70.020 are supplemented by the following;

Replacement Well means a well which will replace an existing well ~~and which meets all of the four following criteria:~~

~~1) the existing well~~ which was operational within the past twelve months immediately proceeding the date of filing of the permit application.

~~2) the replacement well will draw from the same aquifer as the existing well;~~

~~3) there will be no increase in water usage; and,~~

~~4)~~ The existing well will be properly abandoned, sealed, and capped pursuant to a permit to abandon issued concurrently with the replacement well permit.

Supplemental Well means a well which will supplement water from an existing well, but which is not intended to support any ~~increase in the intensity of~~ change in type of ~~an existing~~ land use. The existing well may be operational or inactive but in all cases must be maintained under the provisions of County Code Chapter 7.70.

POLICY

ATTACHMENT 5

030R

PRELIMINARY REVIEW

The completeness and adequacy of the well permit application shall be initially reviewed following the procedure of Policy Memo WATER-5. The well permit application shall then be reviewed to determine if the proposed well is exempt from CEQA. If the proposed well is a replacement or supplemental well which will be used for agricultural, commercial or industrial purposes, or serve more than two single family dwellings, the applicant will be required to submit the "Checklist for Preliminary Review of Well Permit Applications" and additional information as needed to determine whether or not the well is exempt from CEOA. EHS staff will review the information provided, with the assistance of Planning Department staff as needed.

INITIAL STUDY

If the permit application is not exempt from CEOA, then an Initial Study shall be conducted according to the County's Environmental Review Guidelines and shall be submitted for review and a determination by the Environmental Coordinator. Each Public Water District shall be given written notification and an opportunity to comment in writing during the Initial Study process of all non-exempt permit applications within their respective County area. County areas are the San Lorenzo Valley, Pajaro Valley and Mid-Central urbanized area. Any public water district which could be affected by the proposed well shall be given a copy of the proposed environmental documents within the periods specified in the Environmental Review Guidelines for public and agency review of such documents.

Environmental Health Services shall make available on a quarterly basis a list of all water well permit applications to all entities and persons who request in writing and pay the established fee for such lists.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS:

The following types of projects are categorically exempt from CEQA.

1) Replacement or supplemental wells for agricultural use, industrial use, large commercial use, or residential use larger than two single family dwellings are exempt if all of the following criteria are met (Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction):
   a. The replacement/supplemental well will draw from the same aquifer as the existing: well(s): and
   b. ~~There will be no increase in water usage~~ The water produced will only be used to support an existing allowed land use; and the capacity of the well(s) to extract water does not exceed the capacity of the existing well(s). ~~being replaced~~. Capacity means the maximum rate of water extraction possible based on well diameter, pump size, and/or yield.

2) New, replacement, or supplemental wells designed to serve no more than two (2) single family residences or small commercial uses are exempt, provided that such uses will not result in water usage exceeding that which is normally associated with two single family dwellings. Water wells proposed to supply in part or in whole industrial, agricultural or larger commercial projects or operations are not exempt (except for supplemental or replacement ~~agricultural~~ wells as provided for herein). This exemption ~~shall~~ may not apply in areas where a ground water emergency under County Code Chapter 7.70 has been declared by the Board of Supervisors, depending on the specific provisions of the declaration of groundwater emergency. ~~In addition, this exemption shall not apply where available information indicates that the cumulative effects of additional groundwater withdrawal will result in exceeding the safe annual yield of the aquifer from which the new well will draw, as determined by the Environmental Health Services Director.~~ (Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

~~3) Supplemental well for agricultural water supply, the installation of which is necessary because of a substantial and sudden decline in production of an existing agricultural well. This exemption applies and the existing well need not be abandoned only if overall water usage from the combined supplemental and existing wells does not exceed that of the existing well. (Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction, Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).~~

4) Test wells, cathodic protection wells or monitoring (observation) wells, provided that such wells are not intended to be or are converted to production wells. (Class 6: Information Collection).

0309

5) Any well for which the construction and use is consistent with an approved project or a groundwater basin management plan for which CEQA review has already been completed.

6) Water well permit applications that are part of a development project which has or will be subject itself to CEQA review by the County of Santa Cruz or any city within the County of Santa Cruz need not undergo separate environmental review unless the proposed water well is altered in design, source aquifer or capacity subsequent to the initial CEQA review of the development project.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for processing of well permit applications for CEQA compliance are as illustrated on the flow chart attached as Exhibit #1. Additional attachments are, the "Notice of Exemption", form HSA-470 (Exhibit 2), "Notice of Preparation of Initial Study", form EHS-1 (Exhibit 3), and the "Checklist for Preliminary Review of Well Permit Applications" (Exhibit 4).

IMPLEMENTATION:

These procedures shall be observed by the Land Use Program staff in the review of well permit applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.

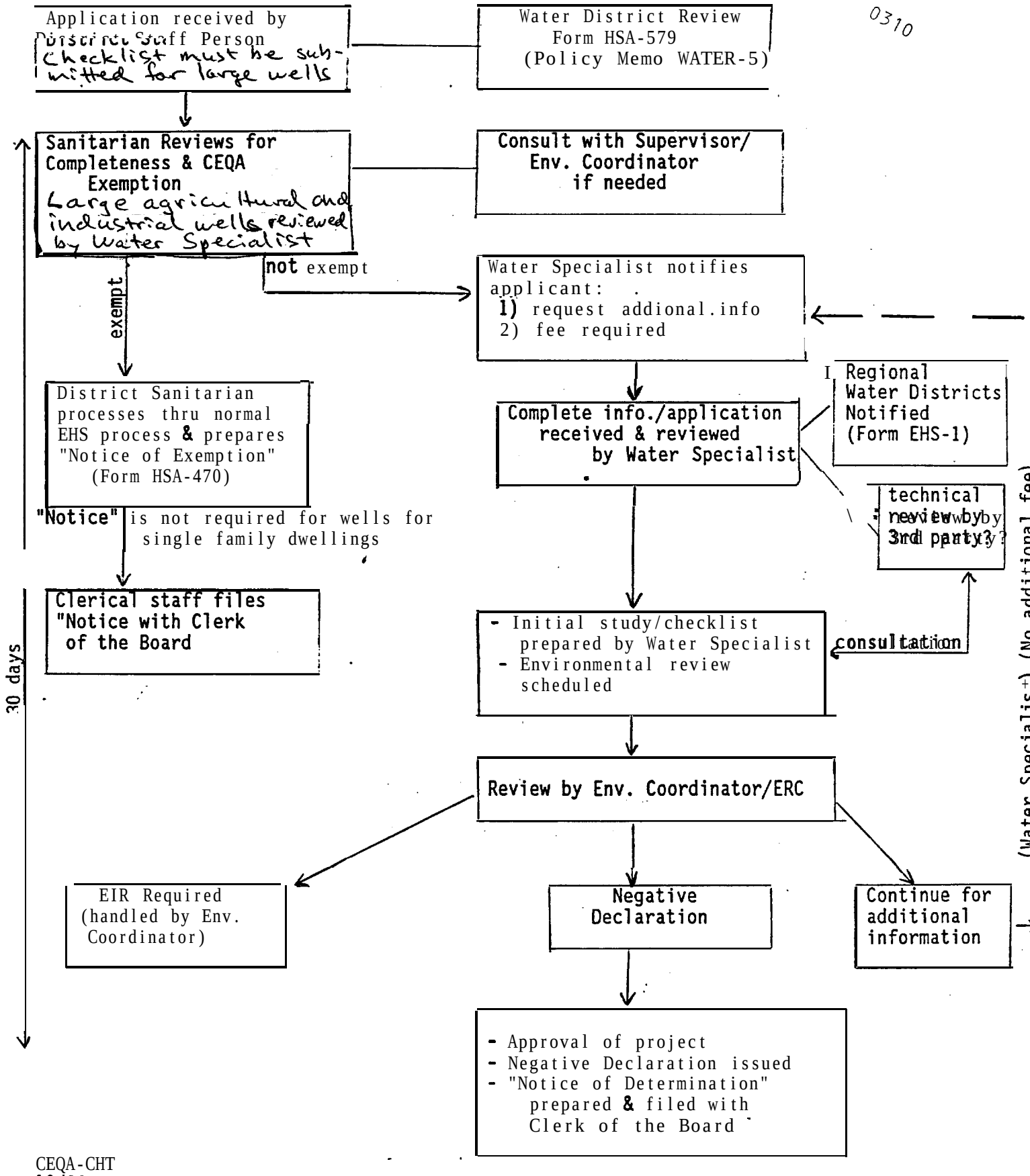
DIANE L. EVANS, R.E.H.S.
Director of Environmental Health

G:\DATA\WP51\WASTWATR\RICKER\WATER\WATER17s.WPD

ATTACHMENT 2

EXHIBIT 1

WELL PERMIT REVIEW FOR CEQA



CEQA-CHT
12/88

ATTACHMENT 3

EXHIBIT 2

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

0311

TO: Santa Cruz County Clerk
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FROM: Environmental Health Services, County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 425-2341

Application Number _____ Assessor's Parcel Number _____

Project Location _____

Project Description _____

Person or Agency Proposing Project _____ Phone Number _____

==========

Finding: The above -referenced project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA under the Categorical Exemption Class indicated below:

____ Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction).
This permit authdrizes replacement or reconstruction of an existing well with no substantial increase in capacity.
(County Guidelines Section 1802; C.C.R. Section 15302)

____ Class 3 (New Construction of Small Structures).
This permit authorizes a new or supplemental well designed-to serve residential or small commercial uses not involving water use greater than that associated with two single family dwellings: or

This permit authorizes a supplemental agricultural well where production has declined in the existing well(s) and no significant increase in overall water usage will occur.
(County Guidelines Section 1803; C.C.R. Section 15303).

____ Class 6 (Information Collection).
This permit authorizes a test well, monitoring well or cathodic protection well. Conversion to a production well is not authorized.
(County Guidelines Section 1806; C.C.R. Section 15306).

— Construction of BMP -

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

HSA-470 [LAND]
12/88

ATTACHMENT 5

Checklist for Preliminary Environmental Review of Well Permit Applications

0313

The Santa Cruz County Well Ordinance (Section 7.70.030) specifies that all well permit applications must be consistent with Chapter 16 of the Santa Cruz County Code. Chapter 16.01 requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of permit issuance, including well construction/replacement and groundwater extraction resulting from the well construction.

Well permits are exempt from environmental review if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. The well serves two or fewer single family dwellings (or a comparable water use), or
2. The well is a supplemental or replacement well that meets all of the following criteria:
   a. Does not utilize water from a different aquifer than that used by the existing well (s), and
   b. There will be no increase in capacity for water extraction and the water produced will only be used to support an existing allowed land use; and

If a well permit is not exempt, it is subject to preparation of an initial study for further evaluation of potential environmental impacts. This is done with the Planning Department at a cost of $925 (1998-99 cost).

In order to speed up review of the well application and to allow a determination of whether or not a proposed supplemental/replacement well is exempt from environmental review, **the applicant must provide in writing the following information:**

The proposed well is a: replacement supplemental new

Water is used for: Residential: Number of Units
Commercial or Industrial (Describe)_____
Irrigation: acreage and crop type:_____
Other: _____

Reasons for Needing Proposed Well (circle one):
declining production1 declining water quality| sanding| casing collapse| other

Number of other wells on property and/or serving the property:
For each well provide the following information:
Location/Description/APN: Depth: Diameter: Pump Size: Metered Water Usage: Status:
1.
2.
3.

Provide a plot plan showing all existing wells on the properties to be served by the existing and proposed well. Provide well logs for existing wells or other information on depth and perforations of existing wells. If the existing well(s) are metered, submit water meter readings from the past two years .

Name of Person Preparing Checklist Signature Date