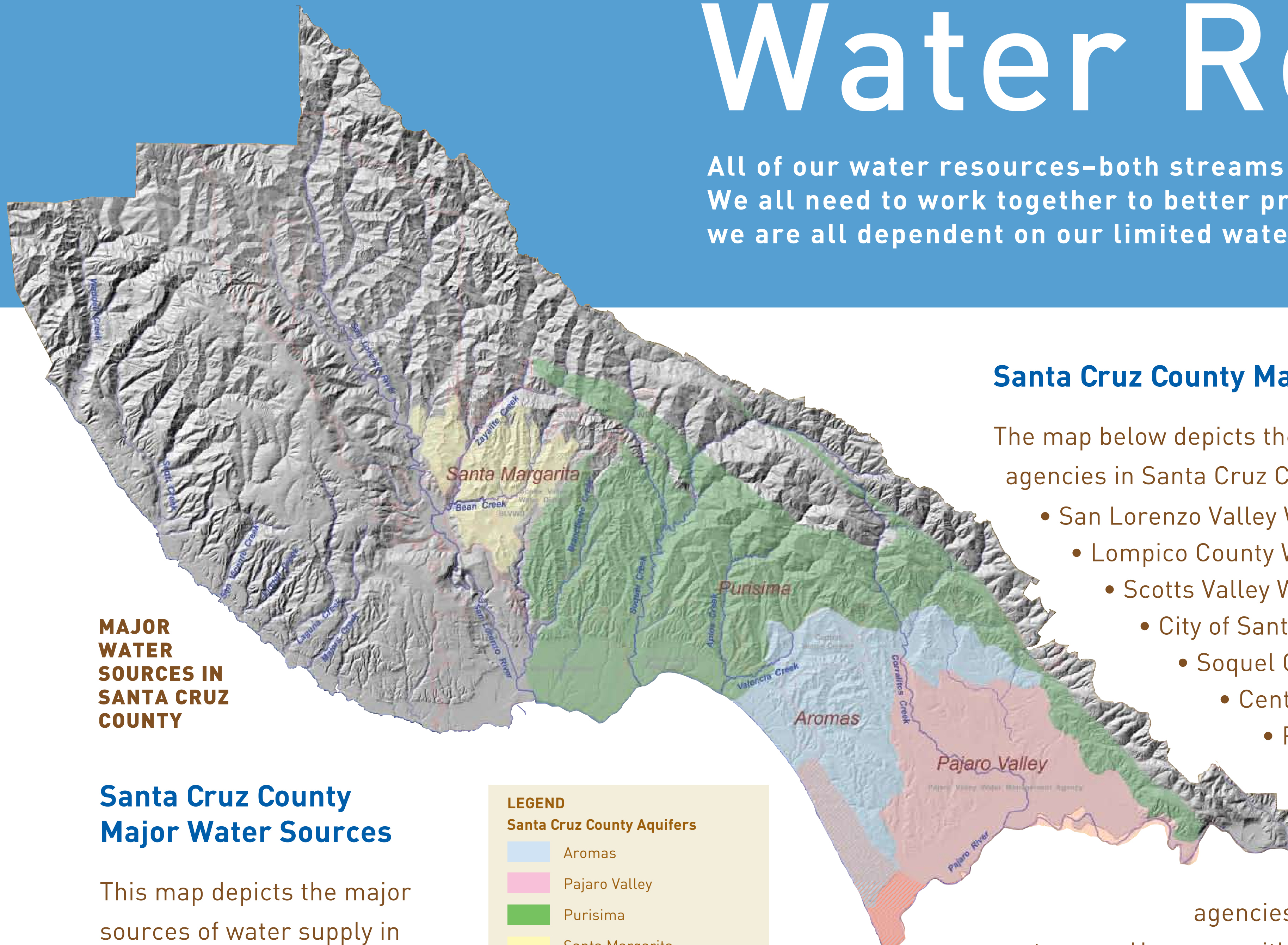


Water Resources

All of our water resources—both streams and groundwater—are shared resources. We all need to work together to better protect and manage our water resources because we are all dependent on our limited water supply.



MAJOR WATER SOURCES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz County Major Water Sources

This map depicts the major sources of water supply in our county. In Santa Cruz County, nearly 100% of our water supply comes from our streams and groundwater aquifers, which are fed entirely by local rainfall. Approximately 80% of our water supply comes from groundwater within permeable geologic basins called aquifers. There are four major groundwater aquifers in the county: the Santa Margarita, Purisima, Aromas, and the Pajaro Valley. The other 20% of our water supply comes from water diverted from local streams. While numerous small water diversions exist throughout the county, stream water is diverted primarily from the San Lorenzo River Watershed, North Coast streams, and Corralitos Creek.



Santa Cruz County Major Water Purveyors

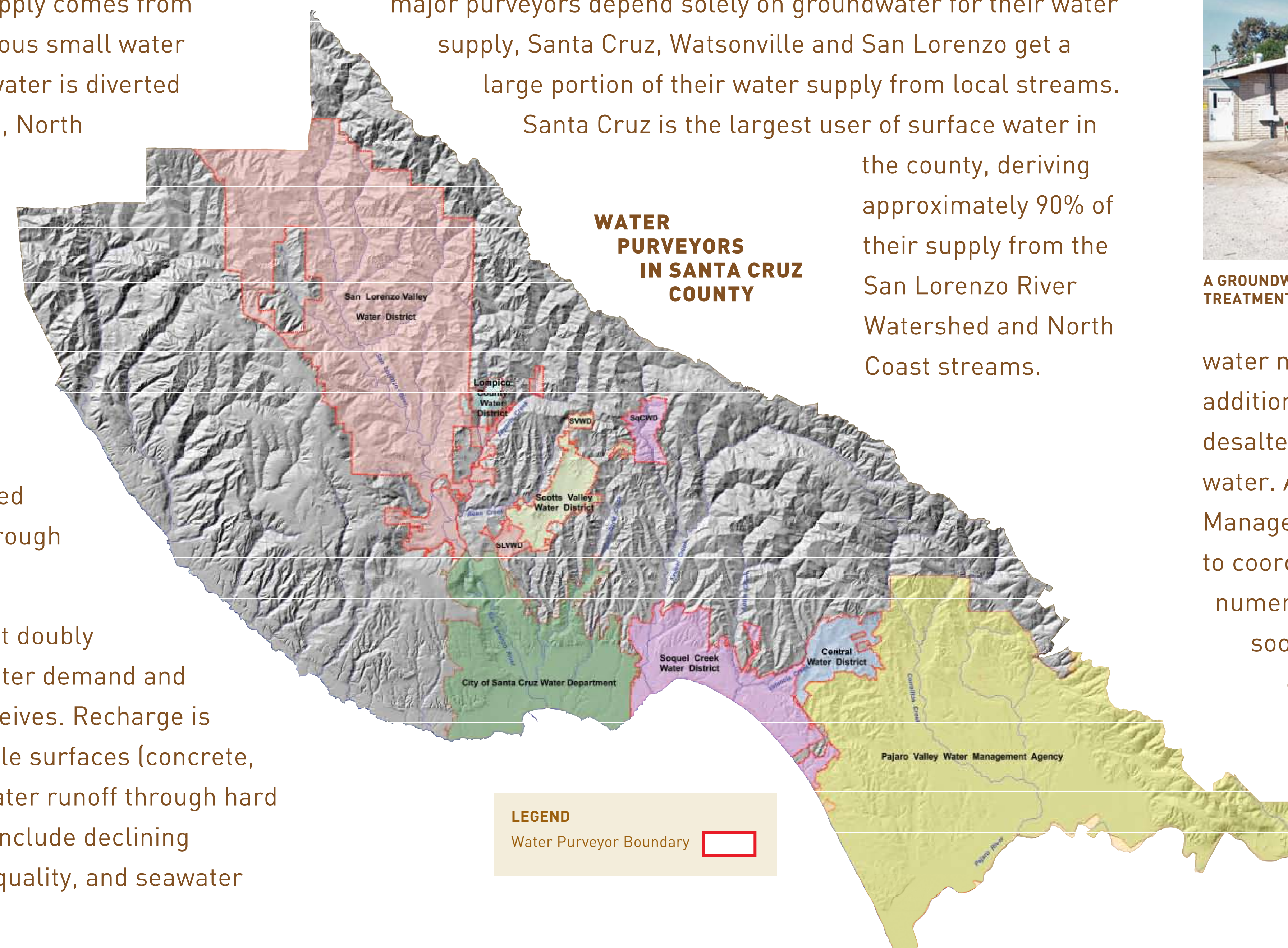
The map below depicts the service areas of the major water agencies in Santa Cruz County. These agencies include:

- San Lorenzo Valley Water District (San Lorenzo)
- Lompico County Water District
- Scotts Valley Water District
- City of Santa Cruz Water Department (Santa Cruz)
- Soquel Creek Water District
- Central Water District
- Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (Pajaro-PVWMA)

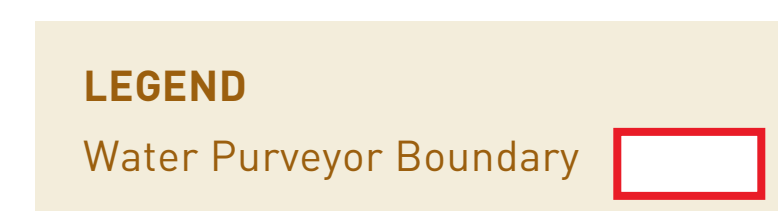
With the exception of the Pajaro-PVWMA, all the other agencies directly obtain and supply water to their customers. However, within the Pajaro-PVWMA service area, the City of Watsonville Water Department (Watsonville) provides water to its residents and surrounding areas. Pajaro-PVWMA is currently developing projects to supply water to coastal farmers within its service area.

As with private well owners and stream diverters, the major water purveyors share the water resources in the county and most purveyors obtain water from multiple sources. While most of the major purveyors depend solely on groundwater for their water supply, Santa Cruz, Watsonville and San Lorenzo get a large portion of their water supply from local streams. Santa Cruz is the largest user of surface water in

the county, deriving approximately 90% of their supply from the San Lorenzo River Watershed and North Coast streams.



WATER PURVEYORS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Water Resources are Limited in Santa Cruz County

In Santa Cruz County, stream flow is inadequate to meet demands during a drought and all the major groundwater basins in Santa Cruz County are in some level of overdraft. Overdraft means that more water is being pumped from the aquifers than is naturally recharged through the soils and stream valleys.

Housing, commercial and industrial development doubly contributes to the overdraft by increasing the water demand and reducing the amount of recharge the aquifer receives. Recharge is reduced by covering the ground with impermeable surfaces (concrete, asphalt and buildings) and diverting the stormwater runoff through hard piping. The negative consequences of overdraft include declining groundwater levels, a decrease in groundwater quality, and seawater intrusion along the coast.



A STREAM DIVERSION TAKES DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY DIRECTLY FROM A CREEK OR RIVER

Water Purveyors Work Together for the Future

Water purveyors are working together to make our limited water resources sustainable for the current and future generations of Santa Cruz residents. Some of the most progressive water conservation programs in the country have been implemented by our local agencies. Water purveyors are working cooperatively and individually to use



A GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION SITE INCLUDES A WELL AND TREATMENT AND STORAGE FACILITIES

water more effectively and to develop additional sources of water, such as desalted sea water and recycled waste water. An Integrated Regional Water Management Plan has been prepared to coordinate agency efforts and numerous water projects will begin soon to implement the priority components of the plan (funding from Proposition 50, State Water Resources Control Board).

Photography: Mike Cloud (wells); Kristen Kittelson (diversion, stream, landscaping)
Maps: Mike Cloud

WATER CONSERVATION

Water is a precious natural resource that is limited in Santa Cruz County. The most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water is through water conservation. Water conservation includes both how people use water and the technology that reduces water use.

Conserving water is key to making our water resources sustainable for the future. The sustainable use of water means that the withdrawal of freshwater from our streams and groundwater aquifers does not exceed its natural replacement rate.

Water conservation protects stream and wetland habitats and reduces energy used for water pumping, delivery and wastewater treatment.

Water Conservation Tips

Replace old water wasting fixtures with:

- High efficiency toilets
- Low-flow shower heads
- Aerators on sink faucets
- High efficiency clothes washing machines
- Automatic shut-off hose nozzle

In the garden:

- Install native and drought tolerant landscape plants
- Group plants according to water needs
- Use mulching material
- Use drip irrigation

More water conservation information can be found at: www.h2ouse.org and www.watersavingtips.org

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