

Water Quality

Quality Ranking of County Ground Water

Water Table	Sq. Miles	1989	1994	Comments
Ano Nuevo	2	Intermediate	Unknown	-
Pajaro Valley	120	Intermediate	Intermediate	Severe over drafting Nitrate problems Drinking water impairment
Scotts Valley	60	Impaired	Impaired/ Unknown	Drinking water impairment Excessive nitrate concentrations Industrial solvents contamination
Soquel Valley	7	Unknown	Unknown	-
West Santa Cruz	6	Unknown	Unknown	-

Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, California 303 (d) List and TMDL Priority Schedule, 1998.

The State has used four categories to catalogue the health of local waterways; good, intermediate, impaired, and unknown. Percentages above reflect the extent to which are for those waterways have a portion or all of its area/length listed as “impaired”.

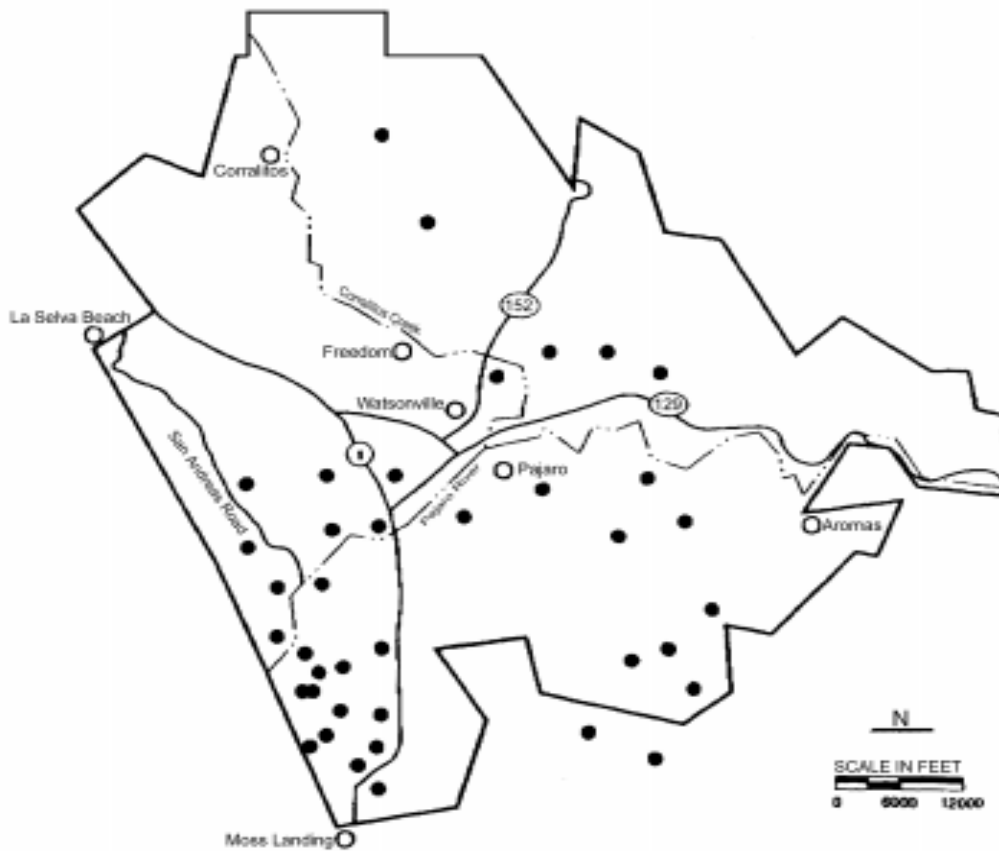
In 1994, all of Pajaro Valley’s 120 square miles of water were moderately impaired, earning a ranking of “intermediate”.

 **New data not available**

Quality of Life Indicator 110

Water Quality


Location of Monitoring Wells Exceeding Nitrate Drinking Water Standards, 1993



Source: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, 1999

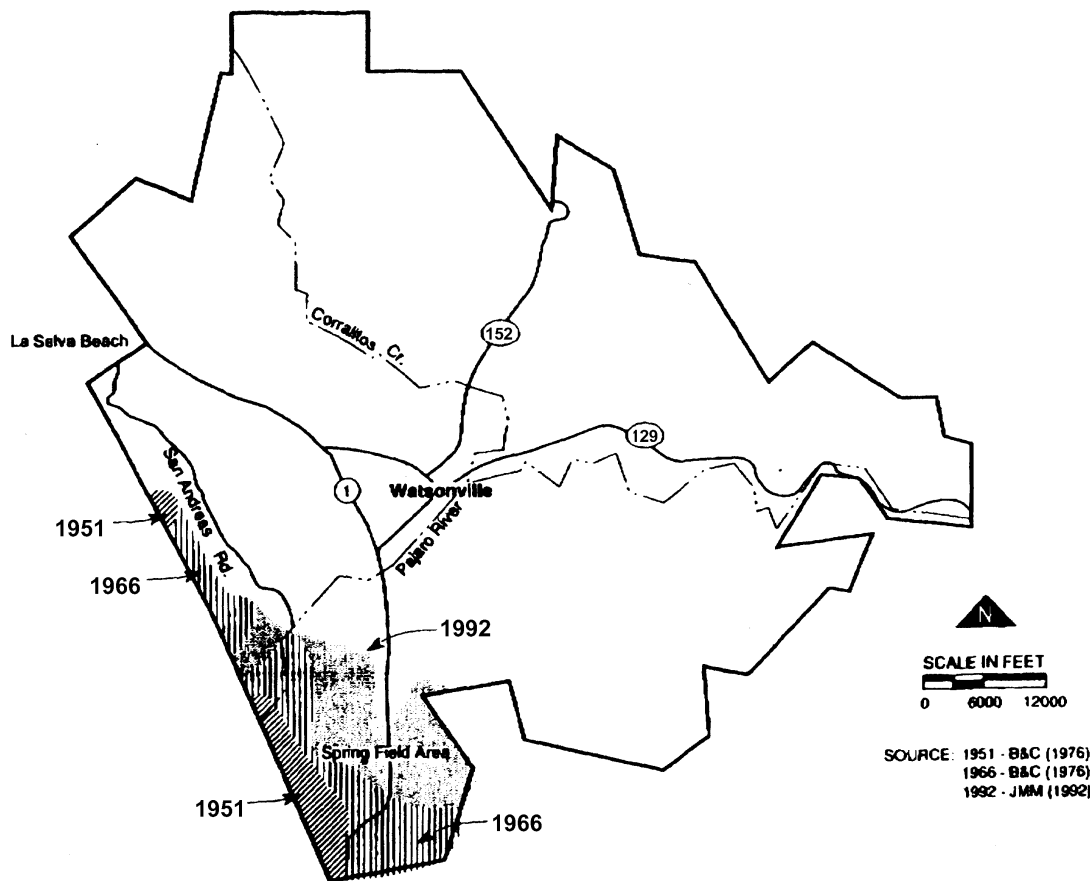
Any presence of nitrates greater than 45 mg/liter exceeds state standards, and can be detrimental to health. Nitrates are most often due to septic tanks, fertilizer and wastewater runoff.

The PVWMA's boundaries consists of approximately 120 square miles. Of that area, two-thirds is in Santa Cruz County, and about one third lies in Monterey County. A small corner in the Aromas area also falls into San Benito county.

 **New data not available**

Water Quality

Areas of Elevated Chloride Levels Due to Seawater Intrusion, 1993



Source: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, 1999.

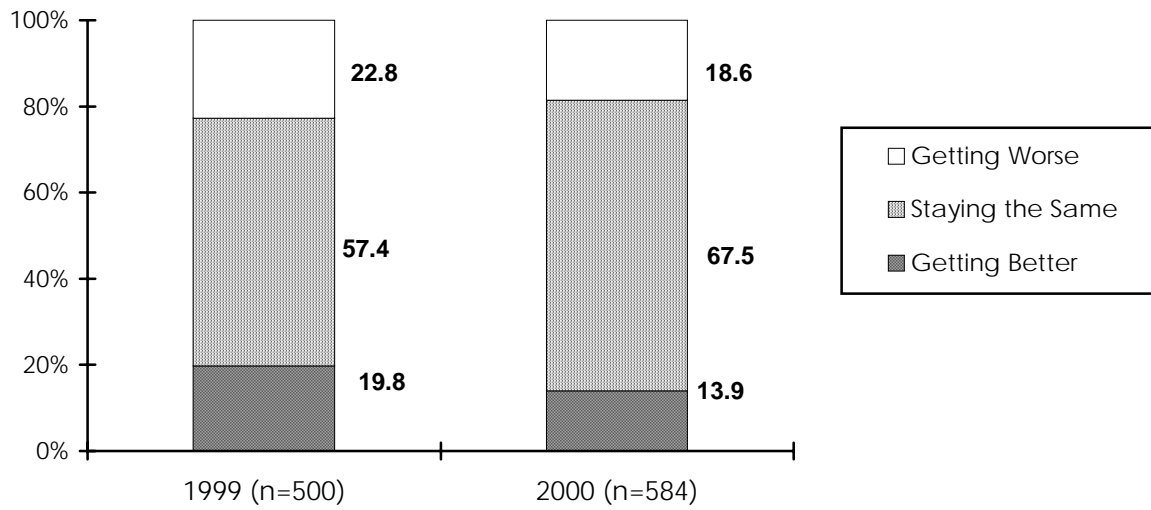
Chloride contamination is a proxy indicator for a condition known as seawater intrusion. If an area is pumping more water than is being recharged (i.e., being over pumped), the inland water table drops to below sea level. Over time, seawater displaces areas once filled by ground water in a process called seawater intrusion. Elevated chloride levels serve as one of the indicators of seawater intrusion. When conditions continue unabated, wells will have to be bored deeper and in severe cases, new sources of water will need to be brought in.

 **New data not available**

Quality of Life Indicator 110

Water Quality

How are we doing as a County to address drinking water quality?





Source: Santa Cruz Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.


Water Quality

Respondent Profile

Percent of respondents who think the county is “getting better” at addressing drinking water quality:

 By Ethnicity	1999	2000
Caucasian	16.3	9.7
Latino	39.0	29.0

 By Region	1999	2000
North County	14.0	8.6
South County	31.8	26.5
San Lorenzo Valley	16.1	7.5

 By Age	1999	2000
18-24	29.3	21.2
25-44	19.1	15.5
45-64	17.9	11.0
65 and older	16.2	6.0

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

By Gender	1999	2000
Male	17.0	13.2
Female	21.9	14.4

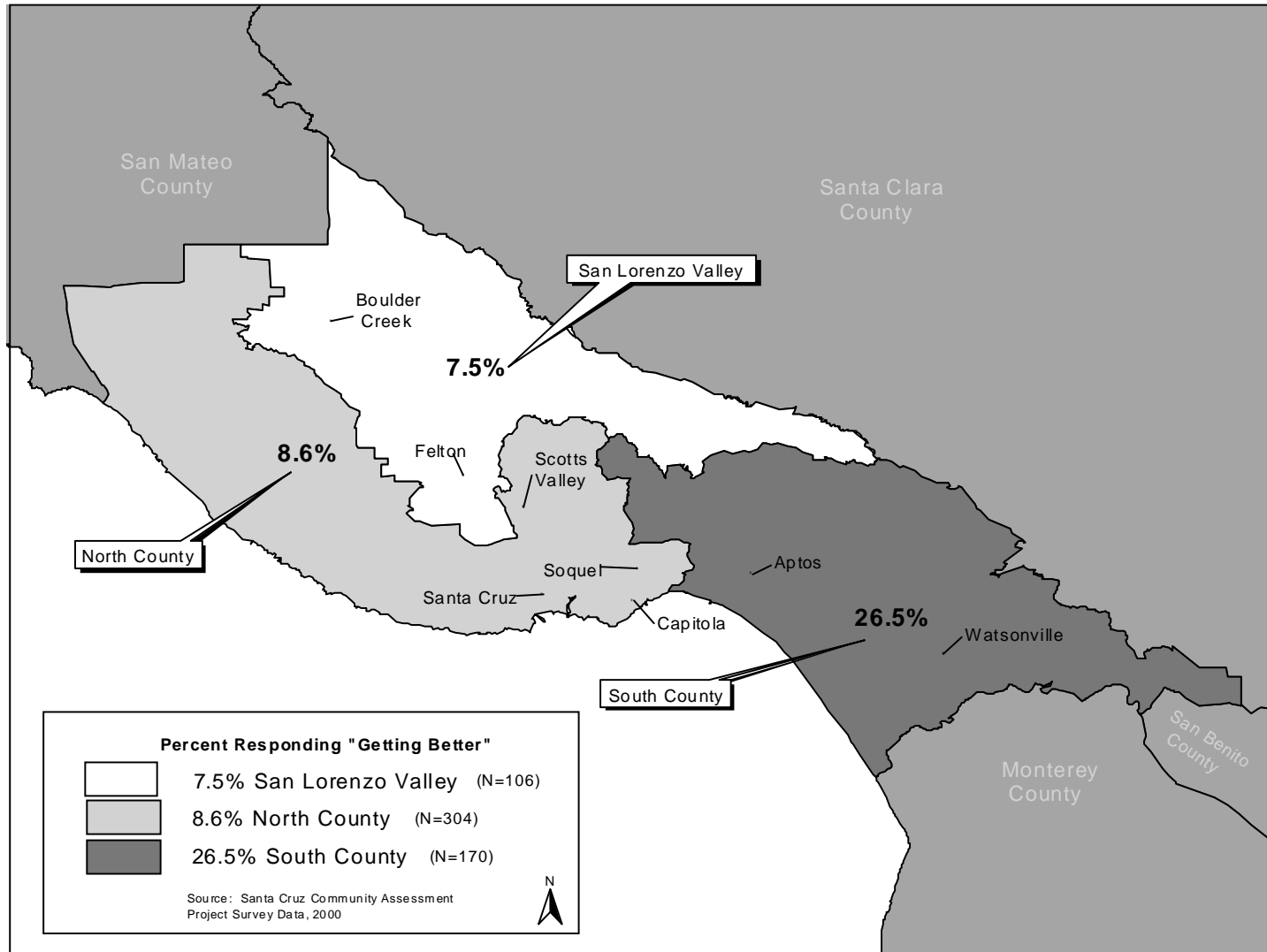
By Income	1999	2000
Under \$15,000 per year	33.3	23.7
\$15,000 - \$34,999 per year	22.3	15.3
\$35,000 - \$64,999 per year	14.6	12.7
Over \$65,000 per year	14.6	8.4

Total Respondents	500	584
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Quality of Life Indicator 110

Water Quality

How are we doing as a County to address drinking water quality?



Beach Closures

Beach Closures - Number of Days Closed

Beach Name	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Capitola	24	-	4	-	3	-
Corcoran	-	-	-	-	1	4
Corcoran Lagoon	-	-	-	-	-	102
Cowell	-	-	-	-	-	7
Davenport	-	-	-	-	1	-
Moran Lake	-	-	-	-	-	20
Pajaro River Beach/Sunset	-	14	-	-	-	-
Pelton Avenue	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rio Del Mar	6	-	-	-	-	17
Seabright	-	-	-	-	1	-
County Total	30	14	4	0	8	150

Source: County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services, 2000.

Beaches are often closed in response to elevated bacteria levels triggered by sewage spills, storm drain overflows, animals and waterfowl, and agricultural activities. Rain water infiltration in the lagoons can cause sewage overflows which cause a beach closure. Elevated bacteria levels are sometimes from unknown sources.

An increase in closures in 1999 is directly related to a change in State standards for monitoring and posting closures.

Quality of Life Indicator 112

Non-Agricultural Water Use

Annual Production, in Millions of Gallons*

Water District	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Central (rural Aptos)	-	146	147	166	189	175
San Lorenzo Valley	600	620	663	674	607	654
Soquel Creek	1,751	1,717	1,763	1,917	1,665	1,762
Santa Cruz	3,863	3,728	4,069	4,257	3,861	4,031
Scotts Valley	530	538	624	682	614	612
Watsonville	2,196	2,200	2,264	2,362	2,325	2,472
Unincorporated areas	-	-	-	-	-	-

✓ Key Indicator

A measure of how much water is being produced and used per year for non-agricultural purposes such as residential and commercial uses. The average use per residential household is 300-500 gallons per day.

Annual Usage, in Millions of Gallons*

Water District	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Central (rural Aptos)	-	125	148	171	184	175
San Lorenzo Valley	509	531	562	600	533	576
Soquel Creek	1,563	1,581	1,638	1,740	1,571	1,641
Santa Cruz	3,412	3,510	3,731	4,022	3,603	3,764
Scotts Valley	532	537	592	680	607	610
Watsonville	2,102	2,071	2,180	2,318	2,164	2,372
Unincorporated areas**	-	-	-	-	3,019	3,308
County Total	-	-	-	-	11,681	12,446

Source: Central, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Soquel Creek Water District, Santa Cruz Water Department, Scotts Valley Water District, City of Watsonville, County Planning Department, 1999.

* Excludes Lompico Water District- Data not available.

** Includes some large institutional parcels.

Non-Agricultural Water Use

Number of Service Connections*

Water District	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Central (rural Aptos)	-	760	763	772	787	804
San Lorenzo Valley	5,496	5,696	5,704	5,714	5,729	5,735
Soquel Creek	13,223	13,318	13,402	13,594	13,746	14,077
Santa Cruz	22,214	22,433	22,557	22,694	23,024	23,061
Scotts Valley	2,991	3,143	3,266	3,319	3,432	3,502
Watsonville	12,354	12,445	12,529	12,614	12,706	14,119
Unincorporated areas**	-	-	-	-	11,184	11,066
County Total	-	-	-	-	70,608	72,364

Daily Usage per Connection, in Gallons*

Water District	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Central (rural Aptos)	450.6	531.4	606.9	640.5	596.3	450.6
San Lorenzo Valley	253.7	255.4	269.9	287.7	254.9	275.2
Soquel Creek	323.8	325.2	334.9	350.7	313.1	319.4
Santa Cruz	420.8	428.6	453.2	485.6	428.8	447.1
Scotts Valley	487.3	468.1	496.6	561.3	484.6	477.2
Watsonville	466.0	455.9	476.7	503.4	466.5	460.2
Unincorporated areas **	-	-	-	-	739.6	818.9
County Total	-	-	-	-	453.2	471.2

Source: Central, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Soquel Creek Water District, Santa Cruz Water Department, Scotts Valley Water District, City of Watsonville, County Planning Department, 1999.

Calculation for usage per day, per connection: annual usage/ total connections/ 365 days

Excludes Lompico Water District- Data not available.

** Includes some large institutional parcels. However, residential water use in the unincorporated areas is about 375 gallons per day.

Quality of Life Indicator 113

Endangered Species

Plants

Biodiversity is a sign of the extent to which natural ecosystems are changing, artificially or otherwise. The following plant and animal species appear on State and Federal lists of threatened or endangered species found within Santa Cruz County.

Common Name	State Status	Enlist Date	Federal Status	Enlist Date
Blasdale's Bent Grass	Rare	1978	Species of concern	-
Santa Cruz Manzanita	-	-	Species of concern	-
Schreiber's Manzanita	-	-	Species of concern	-
Pajaro Manzanita	-	-	Species of concern	-
Bonny Doon Manzanita	-	-	Species of concern	-
Marsh Sandwort	Endangered	1990	Endangered	1993
Swamp Harebell	-	-	Species of concern	-
Ben Lomond Spineflower	-	-	Endangered	1994
Monterey Spineflower	-	-	Threatened	1994
Scott's Valley Spineflower	-	-	Endangered	1994
Robust Spineflower	-	-	Endangered	1994
Santa Clara Red Ribbons	-	-	Species of concern	-
Santa Cruz Cypress	Endangered	1979	Endangered	1987
Coast Wallflower	-	-	Species of concern	-

Source: California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Database, 1999.

 **New data not available**

Common Name	State Status	Enlist Date	Federal Status	Enlist Date
Santa Cruz Wallflower	Endangered	1981	Endangered	1994
Sand Gilia	Threatened	1987	Endangered	1992
Congdon's Tarplant	-	-	Species of concern	-
Santa Cruz Tarplant	Endangered	1979	Threatened	2000
Kellogg's Horkelia	-	-	Species of concern	-
Dudley's Lousewort	Rare	1979	Species of concern	-
White-Rayed Pentachaeta	Endangered	1992	Endangered	1995
Monterey Pine	-	-	Species of concern	-
San Francisco Popcorn-Flower	Endangered	1979	Species of concern	-
San Francisco Champion	-	-	Species of concern	-
Santa Cruz Microseris	-	-	Species of concern	-
Caper-Fruited Tropidocarpum	-	-	Species of concern	-

Endangered Species

Animals

Type	Common Name	State Status	Enlist Date	Federal Status	Enlist Date
Snails	California Brackishwater Snail	-	-	Species of concern	-
Spiders and Relatives	Empire Cave Pseudoscorpion	-	-	Species of concern	-
	Dolloff Cave Spider	-	-	Species of concern	-
Crustaceans	Mackenzie's Cave Amphipod	-	-	Species of concern	-
Beetles	Globose Dune Beetle	-	-	Species of concern	-
	Mount Hermon (=Barbate) June Beetle	-	-	Endangered	1997
Butterflies and Moths	Smith's Blue Butterfly	-	-	Endangered	1997
Fish	Tidewater Goby	-	-	Endangered	1994
	Coho Salmon	Endangered	1995	Threatened	1996
	Steelhead	-	-	Threatened	1997
Amphibians	California Tiger Salamander	-	-	Threatened	1996
	Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander	Endangered	1967	Endangered	1971
	California Red-Legged Frog	-	-	Threatened	1996
	Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	-	-	Species of concern	-
Reptiles	Black Legless Lizard	-	-	Proposed Endangered	-
	Western Pond Turtle	-	-	Species of concern	-
	Southwestern Pond Turtle	-	-	Species of concern	-
	San Francisco Garter Snake	Endangered	1967	Endangered	1971
Birds	Tricolored Blackbird	-	-	Species of concern	-
	Burrowing Owl	-	-	Species of concern	-
	Coopers Hawk	-	-	-	-
	Marbled Murrelet	Endangered	1992	Threatened	1992
	Western Snowy Plover	-	-	Threatened	1993
	Saltmarsh Common Yellowthroat	-	-	Species of concern	-
	California Black Rail	Threatened	1971	Species of concern	-
	Bank Swallow	Threatened	1989	-	-

Source: California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Database 1999.

 **New data not available**

Quality of Life Indicator 113

Endangered Species

Juvenile Coho Salmon Sampling Counts

Waterway*	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Aptos Creek	-	-	-	-	4	0
Gazos Creek*	0	-	9	** 2	33	0
Pescadero Creek*	-	-	-	** 0	-	** 0
San Gregorio Creek*	-	-	-	** 0	0	0
San Lorenzo River	-	-	0	** 0	0	0
San Vicente Creek	-	-	-	-	3	0
Scott Creek	42	-	** 393	223	** 473	** 145
Wadell Creek	**20	**58	0	24	**302	0
Total	62	58	402	249	815	145

Source: Department of Fish and Game, Southern Coho Salmon Restoration Plan, 1998.

At the present time, natural self-sustained runs of Coho salmon south of San Francisco Bay are believed to be only in Gazos, Waddell, and Scott creeks. Adult Coho are known to have also entered Pescadero, Aptos, and San Vicente Creeks and the San Lorenzo River. Historically, however, the salmon were thought to be present in as many as 50 streams and tributaries in the San Mateo and Santa Cruz area.

Streambed sedimentation is a contributing factor in the decline of Coho salmon in the above nine streams. Most stream habitat degradation in Santa Cruz County has resulted from watershed disturbances caused by or associated with human activities, such as cropland agriculture, logging and urban development; municipal, industrial, agricultural and domestic water diversions and highway and road construction / maintenance.

* San Mateo County

** sampled twice that year

- data not available

 **New data not available**

Sampling for Coho Salmon provides an indication of their population in County rivers. A major cause of decline for Coho salmon in Santa Cruz County has been the unnatural destruction of essential stream habitat.

Control of Non-indigenous Plant and Animal Species

Noxious Weeds in Santa Cruz County

1997

Bristly Ox-Tongue
Poison Hemlock
Pampas Grass/ Black
Pampas Grass/ White
Wild Radish
Tasmanian Blue Gum (Eucalyptus)
Eucalyptus
Cotoneaster
Yellow Starthistle
Klamathweed
Puncturevine
Acacia
French Broom
English Ivy

Source: California Resources Agency, Natural Resource Projects Inventory - CERPI, 1998.

 **New data not available**

Exotic or noxious plant and animal species can quickly offset the balance of the natural ecosystem. These tables detail some of the known species, as well as county efforts to curb their proliferation.

*Quality of Life Indicator 114***Control of Non-indigenous Plant and Animal Species****Ongoing Projects Controlling Noxious Weeds in Santa Cruz County**

Year Started	Project Name	Purpose	Weed Target
1988	Santa Cruz County Yellow Starthistle Biological Control Project (0037)	Biological control of Yellow Starthistle, a noxious weed of rangelands and right-of-ways, in Santa Cruz County.	Yellow Starthistle
1988	Santa Cruz County Klamathweed Biological Control Project (0103)	Biological control of Klamathweed, a noxious weed of rangelands and right-of-ways in Santa Cruz County.	Klamathweed
1988	Santa Cruz County Puncturevine Biological Control Project (0177)	Biological control of Puncturevine, a noxious weed of rangelands and right-of-ways, in Santa Cruz County.	Puncturevine
1993	Poison Hemlock Eradication/Coastal Scrub Restoration at Younger Lagoon	This project attempts eradication of non-native, invasive plants.	Bristly Ox-tongue, Poison Hemlock, Wild Radish
1997	Santa Cruz Tarplant Restoration; French broom & English Ivy Eradication (0465)	To eradicate French Broom and English Ivy, allowing the recovery of the Santa Cruz Tarplant.	English Ivy, French Broom
1997	Wilder Ranch State Park, Gray Whale Ranch Property, Exotic Plants Removal (0464)	Remove exotic plants such as French Broom, Acacia, Pampas Grass, Eucalyptus and Cotoneaster from the Gray Whale Ranch Property.	Acacia, Cotoneaster, Eucalyptus, French Broom, Pampas Grass/White
1997	Ellicott Slough National Wildlife Refuge Upland Habitat Restoration Project - Weed Control	To restore upland habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.	Pampas Grass Black, Tasmanian Blue Gum

Source: California Resources Agency, Natural Resource Projects Inventory - CERPI, 1998.

This is not a comprehensive list of noxious and invasive plant projects. The State has reported approximately 500 projects of various sizes.

Ecological Restoration

Location	Project Description
Arana Gulch Clean Streams Pilot Project	To train and utilize volunteers to participate in monitoring the health of the Arana Gulch Watershed through water quality sampling, habitat assessment and participation in restoration activities.
Borregas Creek (DWR #Z60014)	Stabilize creek channel and sideslopes. Reestablish a natural, healthy riparian environment by implementing several low-cost, labor-intensive restoration techniques. Education and training of low income community members.
Ellicott Slough National Wildlife Refuge Upland Habitat Restoration Project - Weed Control	To restore upland habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.
Fall Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	Improve depth and access for juvenile steelhead, primarily rearing and step pools.
Hanson Aggregates - Felton Plant Revegetation Program	To revegetate completed mining areas, including the establishment of special status plant species.
Martin Road and Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve	Restoration of Areas Degraded by Off-road Vehicles, by revegetating bare soil, close trails, reintroduce native biodiversity to wet meadow.
Poison Hemlock Eradication/Coastal Scrub Restoration at Younger Lagoon	This project attempts eradication of non-native, invasive plants.
San Lorenzo River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development	This study will provide more information for the Regional Water Quality Control Board to describe the nature and extent of the impairments. It will result in the development of a sediment TMDL.
Soquel Watershed Group (CRMP) - Clear Streams Project	To train and utilize volunteers to participate in monitoring the health of the Soquel Creek watershed through water quality sampling, habitat assessment, and restoration activities.
Soquel and Hester Creeks (DWR #Z60066)	Control soil erosion problems and reduce potential for downstream log jams associated with a landslide deposit on Hester Creek, a tributary to Soquel Creek. Initiate the development of a streamside trail system within the village of Soquel.
Watsonville Sloughs Watershed	To reduce annual rate of erosion to T as defined by NRCS. Associated benefits include enhanced water quality, enhanced wetland and endangered species habitat.

A brief description of County efforts to assess, repair or restore at-risk habitat. Restoration projects by location and purpose.

Source: California Resources Agency, Natural Resource Projects Inventory- CERPI, 1998.

Quality of Life Indicator 116

Air Quality

Summary: Total Days Exceeding State Air Quality Standards

Location	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ozone	0	1	2	0	1	1
Particulate Matter (PM10)	6	12	13	12	4	6
Total	6	13	15	12	5	7

Source: California Air Resources Board, 1999.

Measures air quality violations for two pollutants harmful to humans: Ozone and Particulate Matter.

Number of Days Exceeding Safe Levels of Ozone

Location	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Davenport	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott Valley (Scotts Valley Dr.)	0	1	2	0	1	0
Scotts Valley (Vine Hill)	0	-	-	-	-	-
Watsonville (Airport Blvd)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Cruz (Bostwick Lane)	0	0	0	--	--	-
Santa Cruz (Soquel Ave.)	-	-	0	0	0	1
County Total	0	1	2	0	1	1

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2000.

Exposure to unhealthful levels of ozone can result in chest pain, coughing, nausea, shortness of breath, headaches, congestion, and throat irritation. Most at risk during high ozone levels are children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with asthma. Ozone is often produced from vehicle exhaust, while other sources include industrial fuel combustion, pesticides, and waste burning.

The above chart refers only to parts per million in exceedance of State Ambient Air Quality Standards (1 hour reading) and does not include exceedances of national standards (8 hour reading). Two monitoring sites closed and were replaced with a new nearby site: the Scotts Valley Vine Hill site was replaced in 1994 by the Scott's Valley Drive site, and the Santa Cruz Bostwick Lane site was replaced by the Soquel Avenue site.

Air Quality

Number of Days Exceeding Safe Levels of Particulate Matter

Location	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Davenport	5	12	12	12	4	6
Scotts Valley (Vine Hill)	0	0	-	-	-	-
Watsonville (Airport Blvd)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Cruz (Bostwick Lane)	0	0	1	-	-	-
Santa Cruz (Soquel Ave.)	-	-	-	0	0	0
County Total	6	12	13	12	4	6

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2000.

Particulate Matter (PM 10) refers to the mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air that are less than 10 microns in size. Studies have linked high levels of particulate matter to aggravated asthma and acute respiratory symptoms, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death. The largest sources of PM10 are dust from vehicles driving on paved roads, grinding operations, fuel combustion, agricultural burning, and wood stoves. In Davenport, high PM10 readings are due to the concentration of sea salt in the air.

*Quality of Life Indicator 116***Air Quality****Air Quality-Related Neighborhood Complaints, by Area**

Location	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Davenport	9	7	6	6	0.0
Bonny Doon	1	2	1	1	0.0
Ben Lomond/ Felton/ Boulder Creek	20	24	13	15	15.4
Scotts Valley	7	11	4	2	-50.0
Santa Cruz	54	84	111	37	-66.7
Capitola	4	2	2	2	0.0
Soquel	10	9	4	8	100.0
Aptos	8	7	4	5	25.0
Freedom/ Corralitos	3	5	0	2	100.0
Watsonville	26	32	18	23	27.8
County Total	142	183	163	101	-38.0

Air Quality-Related Neighborhood Complaints, by Type

Irritant	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Smoke (open burning, fireplaces)	30	51	43	39	-9.3
Odor	36	43	97	24	-75.3
Dust	11	17	16	17	6.3
Paint	6	10	12	8	-33.3
Phase II/ faulty gas nozzles	8	6	1	2	100.0
Other (asbestos, etc)	8	6	5	11	120.0
County Total	99	133	174	101	-42.0

Source: Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, 1999.

Air quality complaints are tallied based on the number of irritants reported by County residents. A single phone call may refer to more than one irritant, and therefore those irritants are counted separately. Beginning in 1999, smoking vehicle complaints will no longer be processed by the MBUAPD, but will be referred to other departments.

Motor Vehicle Registrations

Santa Cruz County

Mode of Transport	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Automobiles	135,501	137,467	139,927	134,855	145,466	147,612	1.5
Trucks	43,901	44,240	45,657	43,555	46,889	48,144	2.6
Motorcycles	6,946	6,905	6,860	5,556	5,875	6,226	6.0
Total	186,348	188,612	192,444	183,966	198,230	201,982	1.9
Population	237,800	240,000	242,500	245,400	249,000	252,100	1.2
Vehicles per Capita	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.75	0.80	0.80	-

A proxy indicator of traffic congestion in Santa Cruz County. The number of vehicles per person provides an illustrative measure of how overall population increases compare with vehicle increases.

Monterey County

Mode of Transport	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Automobiles	183,007	185,446	188,832	181,678	194,070	200,176	3.1
Trucks	58,158	58,576	60,943	58,257	63,280	66,432	5.0
Motorcycles	5,423	5,317	5,318	4,166	4,290	4,483	4.5
Total	246,588	249,339	255,093	244,101	261,640	271,091	3.6
Population	366,300	361,400	361,000	368,900	381,000	387,500	1.7
Vehicles per Capita	0.67	0.69	0.71	0.66	0.69	0.70	-

Source: Department of Motor Vehicles, Forecasting Division, 1999.

*Quality of Life Indicator 117***Motor Vehicle Registrations**

San Mateo County

Mode of Transport	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Automobiles	507,577	512,169	520,395	510,851	548,039	548,033	0.0
Trucks	93,010	93,765	96,272	91,663	98,595	99,398	0.8
Motorcycles	13,451	13,345	13,088	10,319	10,629	10,980	3.3
Total	614,038	619,279	629,755	612,833	657,263	658,411	0.2
Population	679,100	685,400	693,800	704,800	716,500	724,400	1.1
Vehicles per Capita	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.87	0.92	0.91	-

Santa Clara County

Mode of Transport	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Automobiles	974,966	1,002,371	1,034,902	1,004,742	1,097,343	1,089,187	-0.7
Trucks	207,565	208,394	214,280	201,959	213,600	215,510	0.9
Motorcycles	30,671	30,480	30,480	23,554	24,533	25,552	4.2
Total	1,213,202	1,241,245	1,279,662	1,230,255	1,335,476	1,330,249	-0.4
Population	1,581,700	1,594,800	1,620,700	1,654,800	1,686,400	1,709,600	1.4
Vehicles per Capita	0.77	0.78	0.79	0.74	0.79	0.78	-

Source: Department of Motor Vehicles, Forecasting Division, 1999.

Motor Vehicle Registrations

California

Mode of Transport	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Automobiles	16,949,468	17,262,533	17,546,633	16,754,719	17,932,382	18,331,938	2.2
Trucks	5,366,373	5,466,710	5,666,601	5,376,805	5,775,809	6,008,233	4.0
Motorcycles	527,686	518,120	511,637	391,080	397,032	413,676	4.2
Total	22,843,527	23,247,363	23,724,871	22,522,604	24,105,223	24,753,847	2.7
Population	31,661,000	31,910,000	32,223,000	32,670,000	33,226,000	33,766,000	1.6
Vehicles per Capita	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.69	0.73	0.73	-

Source: Department of Motor Vehicles, Forecasting Division, 1999.

Quality of Life Indicator 118

Roadway Congestion

Daily Vehicles Miles Traveled, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Change
Capitola	120,200	108,900	129,200	135,800	5.1
Santa Cruz	605,400	574,000	576,500	621,900	7.9
Scotts Valley	115,500	106,000	110,200	120,600	9.4
Watsonville	291,000	284,000	290,200	310,700	7.1
County— Unincorporated	1,269,700	1,235,500	1,251,800	1,328,400	6.1
State Highways	2,589,000	2,500,100	2,529,500	2,577,200	1.9
State Parks and Recreation	13,300	11,100	9,500	15,200	60.0
County Total	5,004,200	4,817,600	4,896,900	5,109,800	4.3

As an indicator of traffic volume, vehicle miles traveled can also be used as a proxy indicator of air quality.

Daily Vehicles Miles Traveled, County Comparison

Other Local Counties	1996	1997	% Change	
Monterey	-	8,694,900	9,217,300	6.0
San Mateo	-	17,414,500	18,280,800	5.0
Santa Clara	-	37,945,100	38,410,600	1.2
Total	-	64,054,500	65,908,700	2.9

Source: CalTrans, 2000.

CalTrans calculates Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by multiplying the length of each given road segment by its traffic volume in a day. VMT also helps planners make decisions about transportation management and County growth.

 **New data not available**

Alternative Transit Opportunities

Annual Alternative Transportation Ridership by Selected Types

Type of Transport	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	% Change
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD)	6,512,168	6,631,042	6,638,512	7,498,951	7,720,577	7,659,801	-0.7
Hwy 17 Express Bus	170,000	176,000	177,000	181,000	175,000	179,353	2.5
Lifeline	-	-	-	51,457	66,578	83,754	25.7
Total	6,682,168	6,807,042	6,815,512	7,731,408	7,962,155	7,922,908	-0.5

Source: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1999.

Ridership refers to the number of trips taken in a specified time frame. There is currently no data available on the number of people who commute to work using carpool services or bicycles.

Ridership statistics offer an indication of where and to what extent residents rely on alternative forms of transportation.

Bikeway Miles

Jurisdiction	1994	1997	1999
Capitola	5.8	6.2	6.4
Santa Cruz	28.8	30.9	31.8
Scotts Valley	2.8	4.4	4.8
Watsonville	5.8	5.8	6.0
Unincorporated	24.7	26.4	26.7
County Total	69.7	73.3	75.7

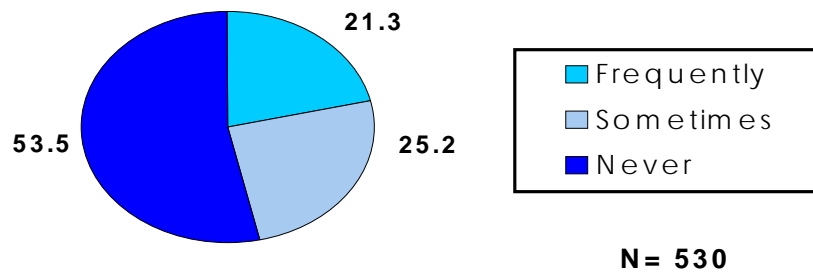
Source: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1999. San Mateo City/County Association of Governments, 2000. Valley Transportation Authority, 2000.

Totals include only Class I bike paths and Class II bike lanes.

Quality of Life Indicator 120

Alternative Transportation

How often do you use transportation other than your own car?



Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey 2000.

What would encourage you to use alternative forms of transportation? (Selected responses)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / wouldn't use it / not now / have children	257	45.4
Already use it	72	12.7
More frequent bus schedule / convenience	52	9.2
If car broke down	25	4.4
Easier access	16	2.8
Light rail / train	13	2.3
More / safer / better bike paths	13	2.3
Free transit	13	2.3
Rapid transit	12	2.1
Expense of gasoline	12	2.1
Total N = 566		

Waste Reduction

Total Annual Tons of Waste Disposal

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Capitola	14,801	12,325	12,018	11,554	12,304	6.5
Santa Cruz	72,076	72,546	75,604	71,549	69,477	-2.9
Scotts Valley	14,033	12,284	11,549	14,609	13,764	-5.8
Watsonville	33,648	33,756	34,068	39,642	40,269	1.6
Unincorporated areas	101,799	105,544	106,945	112,603	113,109	0.4
County Total	236,357	236,455	240,184	249,957	248,923	-0.4

Waste disposal tables monitor average landfill disposal per person and how much waste is diverted from landfills.

Total Annual Tons of Waste Disposal, Per Person

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Capitola	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4
Santa Cruz	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Scotts Valley	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3
Watsonville	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1
Unincorporated areas	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
County Total	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board, 1999.

The waste disposal rate is calculated by dividing the total annual tons of waste disposed by the population.

In 1989 the California Integrated Waste Management Board mandated that California cities reduce their generated waste by 25% by 1995, and 50% by 2000. Official Board-approved diversion rates are not available for the city of Capitola (figures available for 1997 and 1998 are preliminary and subject to change). "Tons per Person" figures reflect disposal trends that are adjusted for population growth and are for illustrative purposes only.

*Quality of Life Indicator 121***Waste Reduction**

Waste Diversion Rates

Jurisdiction	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Capitola	-	-	.66*	.68*	.66*
Santa Cruz	.35	.36	.36	.41	.46*
Scotts Valley	.59	.62	.64	.55	.59*
Watsonville	.25	.26	.35	.32	.34*
Unincorporated areas	.21	.20	.21	.19	.21*
County Total	.31	.33	.36	.41	-
Statewide Total	.28	.31	.32	.33	.37*

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board, 1999.

* Indicates preliminary data.

Official Board-approved diversion rates are not available for the city of Capitola prior to 1997.

