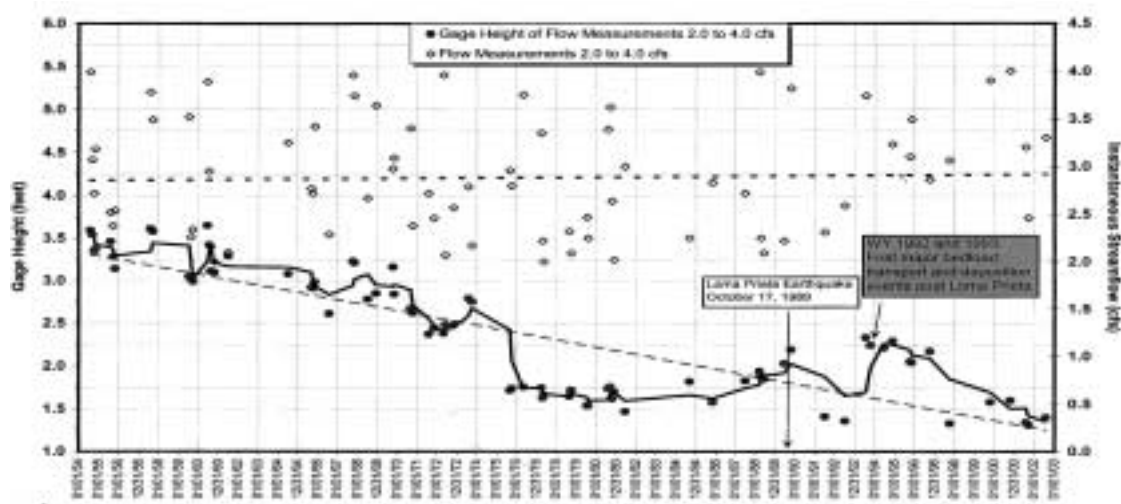


# Watershed Management



The Soquel Creek geomorphic and hydrologic assessment was part of a multi-disciplinary assessment of current and historic channel and habitat conditions in the Soquel Creek watershed, Santa Cruz County, California. The primary objective of this aspect of the assessment was to describe historic and present-day watershed and reach-scale hydrologic and geomorphic conditions in the Soquel

Creek watershed. The central question in addressing this assessment objective is whether these conditions have been or currently are limiting salmonid populations of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in Soquel Creek. Work done by other members of the consulting team included an assessment of salmonid habitat conditions in 2001 and 2002 along roughly 20 miles of the mainstem and major tributaries and a full description of the riparian community in 2001 and 2002 along roughly 13 miles of channel. Results from the assessment component of our work were used by the project team to identify meaningful habitat enhancement projects. Proposed habitat enhancement projects ranged from conservation easements to re-connect segments of channel and adjacent floodplain to identification of education projects for private streamside landowners on the merits of a healthy and functioning riparian corridor. In an effort to include community and private concerns in the restoration and enhancement process, identified enhancement projects were commented on and rated by a public advisory group from most important to less important. Our watershed planning work in the Soquel Creek watershed expands upon other central California watershed projects which we have completed in the Pilarcitos Creek, the San Francisquito Creek, and the Carmel River watersheds.



Streamflow discharge measurements in the range of 2.0 to 4.0 cfs with the observed gage height.