

## How to Participate

Community informational meetings will be held throughout the environmental review period for the public to learn about the technical studies being conducted, the project study process, and upcoming milestones. Formal CEQA-related meetings will also be held during the environmental review period to seek input from the public, interested and potentially affected stakeholders, elected officials and regulatory agencies.

The CEQA scoping meetings (Wednesday, December 8, 2010) allow the public to provide input on issues to be addressed in the EIR. Times and locations for public meetings will be posted at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org) or you may call (831) 475-8501 x153 for information. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

To submit formal scoping comments for the proposed project, please contact:

**Heidi Luckenbach**  
**scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program Coordinator**  
City of Santa Cruz, Water Department  
212 Locust Street, Suite C  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Telephone: (831) 420-5214  
Email: [hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com)

**Please provide scoping comments no later than Monday, January 10, 2011.**

Requests for special accommodations or translation services should be directed to Melanie Mow Schumacher no later than five days before the meeting. Comments may be provided at the meetings or in writing during the scoping comment period (November 15, 2010 – January 10, 2011).

For questions about the project, or to request special accommodations or translation services please contact:

**Melanie Mow Schumacher**  
**scwd<sup>2</sup> Public Outreach Coordinator**  
Soquel Creek Water District  
P.O. Box 1550  
Capitola, CA 95010  
Telephone: (831) 475-8501x153  
Email: [melanies@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:melanies@soquelcreekwater.org)

**For more information visit**  
**[www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org)**  
**and sign up to receive**  
**monthly email updates.**



Community informational meetings and events help the public learn about the proposed scwd<sup>2</sup> Regional Seawater Desalination Project

## Task Force of Elected Officials Oversees scwd<sup>2</sup> Process

The City of Santa Cruz and the Soquel Creek Water District formed the scwd<sup>2</sup> Task Force comprised of two Santa Cruz City Council Members and two Soquel Creek Water District Board Members.

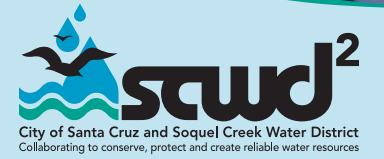
The Task Force oversees the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program, including the technical studies, environmental review process, permitting, and design of the proposed 2.5 mgd plant. The Task Force will also develop a proposed operating agreement and governance structure for consideration by the full governing boards should the decision be made to proceed with the desalination project.

All Task Force meetings are open to the public and include an opportunity for comment. The meeting schedule, location and agendas are available at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org) or by calling (831) 475-8501 x153.



## CEQA Informational Handout

for the  
City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (scwd<sup>2</sup>) Regional Seawater Desalination Project



## The Need for a Supplemental Source of Water

The State of California is facing a water shortage crisis, and our coastal community is no different. Despite our citizens' commitment to conservation (resulting in the lowest per capita water use in the state), our local water supplies are insufficient to respond to drought conditions, long-term water supply needs, and overdrafted groundwater basins. The City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) have both been evaluating a new supplemental water supply for more than 20 years. After exhaustive consideration of more than thirty different water supply projects through the City's Integrated Water Plan (IWP) process and the District's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) process, the two agencies and their respective plans both identified seawater desalination as the best option for a new water source. Desalinated water, in conjunction with conservation and use restrictions during drought, would help provide a reliable and flexible water supply that would meet long-term needs while ensuring protection of public health and safety.

The City and the District formed the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program to jointly evaluate and plan for a 2.5 million gallon per day (mgd) desalination project shared by both agencies. The proposed project would provide much needed water during droughts, reduce reliance on an overdrafted groundwater supply, and protect against seawater intrusion.

The scwd<sup>2</sup> Regional Seawater Desalination Project consists of:

**A seawater intake system** that would deliver raw seawater to the seawater desalination plant for processing.

**A seawater desalination plant** that would filter, process, and condition the raw seawater and generate potable drinking water.

**A brine disposal system** that would deliver brine generated at the plant to the City's WWTP outfall. The brine would be blended with the WWTP effluent such that the WWTP's permit conditions are met.

**A water supply delivery system** that would deliver the potable water to the City's water supply system and provide water to the District.

Alternatives for some of the above project elements continue to be evaluated where a preferred technology, design solution, and/or location has not yet been identified.

## Project Partners



## Why is Desalination Being Studied in an EIR?

Before any final decisions are made, the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District will undergo a thorough environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The community will have multiple opportunities to participate and comment during the environmental review process. This handout is intended to provide an overview of the CEQA process and how the public can participate.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared and certified in 2005, which evaluated all elements of the City's IWP, including a regional desalination project with the District. The IWP Program EIR provides an analysis of the regional desalination project currently being evaluated by both agencies, and thus sets the stage for the more refined project-level analysis that will be found in the upcoming EIR. The next step in the environmental review process is to study the proposed scwd<sup>2</sup> Regional Seawater Desalination Project in a project EIR. The project EIR will provide a more extensive look at the specific design, operation, and construction details of the project and the various project component alternatives that may be considered.



[www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org)

## How the Environmental Review Process Works

The purpose of the project EIR is to identify and evaluate the significant effects of the project on the environment, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate how and whether the significant effects can be mitigated or avoided. This will ensure that the governing bodies and permitting agencies consider any potential environmental impacts when deciding whether to approve a project.

The first step in the EIR process is called scoping, which will define the issues to be evaluated in the EIR. Release of the Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) launches the scoping period. The NOP/IS will identify the potential environmental effects that will be evaluated in the EIR. During the scoping comment period (November 15, 2010 - January 10, 2011) the public may provide input on the environmental topics, potential effects, mitigation measures, and range of alternatives to be analyzed in the project EIR.

The EIR will include analysis of the topics listed below.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Wastewater and Solid Waste
- Growth
- Alternatives

The scwd<sup>2</sup> agencies will work closely with the project team responsible for preparing the EIR. The project team will seek input from the public, interested and potentially affected stakeholders, elected officials and regulatory agencies throughout the environmental review process.

A Draft EIR document will be prepared and made available for public review before any decisions are made. The public will have the opportunity to provide formal comments on the

Draft EIR during the public review period, anticipated for fall 2011. The project team will then respond to comments submitted during the public review period in the Final EIR and make any revisions necessary to the EIR. Upon completion of the Final EIR, the City Council and District Board of Directors may consider certification of the EIR and approval of a project.

## scwd<sup>2</sup> Technical Studies

Technical studies have been conducted or are currently underway that will help inform the EIR, including the SWRO (seawater reverse osmosis) Desalination Pilot Study. The purpose of the Pilot Plant was to determine the optimal design and operating parameters for implementation of the proposed project. The final report was completed in April 2010 and is available on the project website. In addition, the following

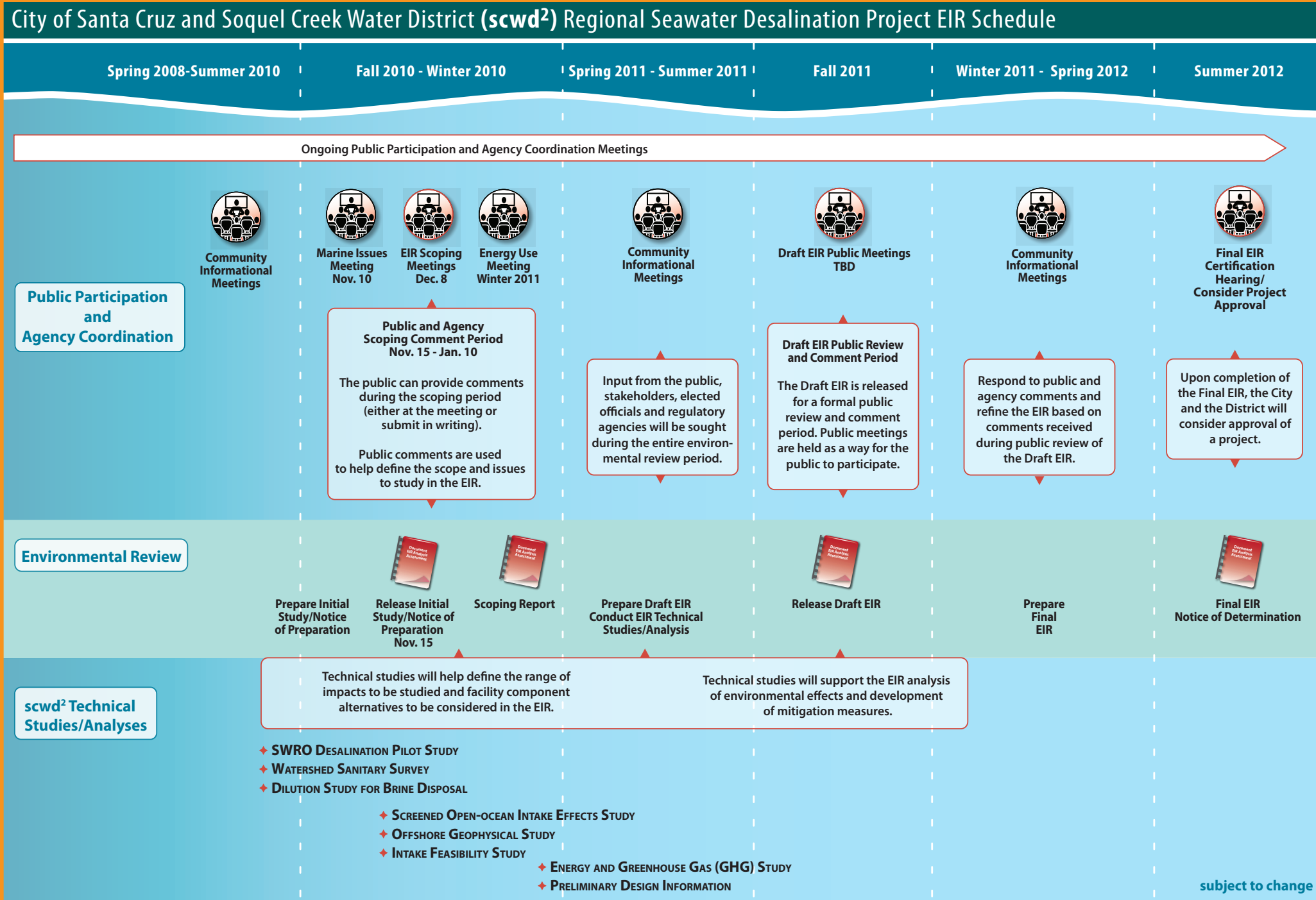
documents will also be used in the environmental review:

- Watershed Sanitary Survey (completed July 2010)
- Analysis for Brine Disposal
- Intake studies (currently being conducted): Screened, Open-Ocean Intake Effects Study, Offshore Geophysical Study, and Intake Feasibility Study
- Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study (currently being conducted)

Additional studies will also be conducted as part of the preparation of the project EIR. The EIR schedule graphic shows how the technical studies will inform the EIR process.



The SWRO Desalination Pilot study was conducted March 2008-April 2009 at Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz



## Ongoing Community Dialogue

During a series of community meetings held this summer and fall, members of the public have expressed concern about a variety of issues and how they will be addressed during environmental review and permitting. Key issues raised by the community include ensuring safe disposal of brine produced through the desalination process, preventing/minimizing effects to marine life from the seawater intake system pipes, minimizing and/or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions associated with the operation of the project, and preventing population growth-inducing effects. These and other environmental topics will be evaluated in the EIR. All formal comments (either submitted in writing or presented orally at the public meetings during the scoping period and Draft EIR comment period) will be formally documented and considered during the EIR preparation process and will be used to develop and refine the EIR.