

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AND SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT (scwd²) REGIONAL SEAWATER DESALINATION PROJECT

PROPOSED PROJECT IN YOUR AREA

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and the Soquel Creek Water District (District) have partnered to implement the **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project (proposed project). The proposed project would be located in the greater Santa Cruz area and would provide up to 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of potable drinking water. This water would help the District meet its water needs as it reduces its groundwater withdrawals of the overdrafted Soquel-Aptos area to prevent seawater intrusion and would help the City meet the water needs of its service area during drought periods. The City and the District are the joint Lead Agencies for this project and have issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to notify all interested parties that it will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The potential environmental impacts of the proposed project include: 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, and growth. These potential impacts are discussed in greater detail in the NOP and Initial Study (IS). Copies of the NOP/IS are available for public review at the Santa Cruz City and County libraries listed below and at the public scoping meetings described on this notice.

YOU CAN COMMENT ON THE PROJECT AND EIR

The NOP/IS contains a description of the proposed project, a discussion of possible alternative project components, maps of the proposed project areas, and a summary of the potential environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIR. The NOP provides the public and interested public agencies the opportunity to review the proposed project and provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. Comments may be submitted at the public scoping meetings or by mail or email anytime between November 15, 2010 and January 10, 2011. Please submit comments on the proposed project to:

Heidi Luckenbach
scwd² Desalination Program Coordinator
City of Santa Cruz, Water Department
212 Locust Street, Suite C
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Email: hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com

Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2011.

REVIEW THE NOP

Copies of the NOP/IS, which include detailed project area maps, are available for public review and comment at the following locations:

- Project website at www.scwd2desal.org.
- The following local public library reference desks in the greater Santa Cruz area: (Santa Cruz) Central Branch, Branciforte Branch, Garfield Park Branch, Live Oak Branch, (Capitola) Capitola Branch, (Aptos) Aptos Branch, (Soquel) Porter Memorial Library, (La Selva Beach) La Selva Branch
- Offices of the Santa Cruz Water Department, Soquel Creek Water District, Santa Cruz Planning Department, and the City of Santa Cruz, City Clerk
- Santa Cruz County Clerk's Office: 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz, CA

You are encouraged to obtain a copy of the NOP/IS and attend either of the public scoping meetings listed below.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

The City of Santa Cruz and the Soquel Creek Water District will hold two EIR scoping meetings on **Wednesday, December 8, 2010**:

First Congregational Church
900 High Street, Santa Cruz
12:00 – 2:30 PM

New Brighton Middle School
250 Washburn Avenue, Capitola
6:30 – 9:00 PM

Each meeting will include an open house and presentation, followed by a public comment period. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

For more information or to request special accommodations or translation services please contact Melanie Mow Schumacher, **scwd²** Public Outreach Coordinator, at (831) 475-8501 x 153, email melanies@soquelcreekwater.org, or visit the project website at www.scwd2desal.org.