



City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District scwd² Desalination Program

Monthly Project Update – February 2011

Even with Recent Rainfall, Water Shortages Still Face City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District

An exceptionally wet December certainly helped to ease immediate drought conditions locally and throughout the state, but even with the heavy rains the City of Santa Cruz (City) and the Soquel Creek Water District (District) still face long-term water supply problems.

The options for supplemental water supplies for the City and the District have been exhaustively considered and both agencies identified the proposed scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project as the best option for a supplemental water source. The City needs additional water supply in the event of extended drought and the likelihood of reduced supplies from surface streams to protect endangered fish species. The District needs additional water supply to protect its overdrafted aquifers and prevent seawater intrusion in the Soquel-Aptos Basin.

Urban Water Management Plans to be updated in 2011

The City and District are both preparing updates to their Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs). UWMPs are required to be updated by most California's urban water suppliers every five years and are used for long-term resource planning and to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water demands. As a part of these plans, each agency will be updating information on water demands, supply reliability, water conservation measures, and water shortage contingency planning.

The updated information which will address some of the comments received during scoping related to current and future demands shall be incorporated into the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that is being developed for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project.

CEQA Update

The formal scoping period for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project began on November 15, 2010 and ended on January 10, 2011. Two scoping meetings were held on December 8, 2010 to provide information and to solicit comments about the scope of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A scoping report, which summarizes the scoping process and provides a detailed overview of the public

notices, meeting materials, and the public comments received during the scoping period, will be posted this Friday, February 4th on the project website. To view all documents related to the environmental review process, visit www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR_Reports_Docs.php. Next steps in the environmental review process include the CEQA Consultant reviewing these comments and preparing the draft EIR, which is scheduled to be released in fall 2011.

Water Catchment Incentives are Available for City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District Customers

Last week the City of Santa Cruz Water Department rolled out the Rain Barrel Program which provides another incentive for City water customers to conserve water. Rain barrels collect water during storms for later use on landscapes and can be a useful complement to other outdoor water-saving measures. The City Water Conservation office is now offering “The Moby”—a rain barrel made in the USA by Rain Water Solutions and constructed from 100% recycled plastic—at a discounted rate of \$50.00. For more information, visit www.rainbarrelprogram.org/santa-cruz. Customers within the Soquel Creek Water District service area also have the opportunity to save money with the Rain Catchment rebates which ranges from \$25 to \$750 depending on the size. For more information visit www.soquelcreekwater.org/content/rain-catchment.

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