



## City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program

### Monthly Project Update – May 2010

#### Community Informational Meeting on Water Conservation will be held May 27

May is Water Awareness Month! Learn about the existing and new water conservation programs that the City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) offer and how conservation is factored into water supply planning. There will be presentations by Toby Goddard (Conservation Manager for City of Santa Cruz Water Department) and Ron Duncan (Conservation Manager for Soquel Creek Water District) as well as a question/answer session. Solutions for long-term water shortages rely on conservation, curtailment (rationing), and a supplemental water supply. Come learn more at the Conservation Meeting held on May 27, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Simpkins Swim Center Community Room (979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Santa Cruz). For more information, click [here](#).

#### Series of Community Informational Meetings will be held throughout 2010

The Conservation Meeting to be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> is just the first in a series of community informational meetings that are being planned for 2010. The proposed desalination project encompasses some very complex issues and the City and District would like to provide opportunities for their communities to learn more about the project issues. Future meetings will focus on:

- **History of water planning**- How and why was desalination identified as the preferred alternative for a supplemental water supply to address drought and groundwater overdraft?
- **Recycled water**- What are the opportunities and limitations for our community to incorporate recycled water in our water supply portfolio?
- **Marine Impacts with desalination** –What design considerations for the intake and discharge will be incorporated to minimize or prevent marine impacts associated with the project?
- **Energy and Cost**- How much energy will the proposed desalination project require and what cost implications are associated with desalination vs. no desalination?

More information on these community meetings will be in future email updates and on our website at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org)

#### Spotlight: Water Supply Planning for the Soquel Creek Water District (District)

The District has been actively pursuing an integrated water resources program since the mid 1990's to address the fact that the area's groundwater resources are overpumped and cannot continue to be the only water source for the communities it served (Capitola to La Selva Beach). In 1999, the District engaged a Public Advisory Committee of 25 individuals that represented a broad range of stakeholder groups and concluded that even after maximizing conservation savings, a supplemental water supply was needed. In 2006, the District adopted its [Integrated Resources Plan](#) (IRP) which recommended a flexible plan that identified a regional seawater desalination plant with the City of Santa Cruz as the preferred supplemental supply project to be further evaluated. The District's multi-faceted approach to ensure a safe and reliable water for their customers includes the following:

1. **Maximize Conservation and Curtailment:** The District is committed to helping customers reduce daily consumption and increase water-use efficiency. (The total water use by District customers in 2009 was the lowest in over 20 years). In addition, during drought periods, additional 15% restrictions will be imposed.
2. **Groundwater Management:** In 2007, an updated [Groundwater Management Plan](#) was developed for the Soquel-Aptos basin. Recent analysis indicates that sustainable groundwater yield is less than previous estimates and is supported by on-going monitoring data illustrating coastal groundwater levels are not recovering despite significant pumping reductions.
3. **Redistribute Well Pumping:** The District is currently pursuing adding up to five wells to its system that would move groundwater pumping further inland and away from vulnerable coastal locations where continued pumping can lead to seawater intrusion.
4. **Enhancing Water Supplies:** The District is evaluating the potential for smaller projects to further diversify its water supply portfolio. These include further evaluating site specific recycled water facilities for irrigation and collaborating with the County of Santa Cruz on opportunities to protect and enhance groundwater recharge within the Soquel-Aptos Basin.
5. **Supplemental Water Project:** The District partnered with the City of Santa Cruz to evaluate desalination as a supplemental supply that could be shared by both agencies.

For more information about the District, visit [www.soquelcreekwater.org](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org). For more information on the City, click [here](#).

### **[Request for Proposals for Design Services for the Proposed Desalination Facility](#)**

The City and the District have issued a request for proposals (RFP) for design services for the proposed 2.5 million gallon per day seawater reverse osmosis desalination facility. Preliminary design work is needed for the CEQA process. Proposals are due at 4:00 pm on May 27, 2010. For more information, click [here](#).

### **[Project Information](#)**

For more information, please visit our project website at [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org) or call 831.475.8501 x153. Please share these updates with others. If you would like to have Project Updates emailed directly to you, please email your request to [melanies@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:melanies@soquelcreekwater.org).

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