



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

November 15, 2010

Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project issued today

The formal initiation of the environmental review phase for the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (**scwd²**) Regional Seawater Desalination Project begins today with the release of a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and announcement of public scoping meetings. The proposed project includes a 2.5 million gallon per day desalination facility in Santa Cruz to provide needed water supply during droughts, protect groundwater aquifers, and improve water supply reliability for Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District water users. 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 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 probable 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 [NOP/IS](#) is available for public review on the project website (www.scwd2desal.org), at the Santa Cruz City and County libraries within the agencies' service areas, and at the offices of the Soquel Creek Water District (5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel) and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department (212 Locust Street, Santa Cruz). For a full list of locations to view the NOP/IS, click [here](#).

The project website has been updated with additional information specifically related to the environmental review process. To access it, click [here](#).

Scoping comments may be submitted orally at the public scoping meetings or in writing 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

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

1. **First Congregational Church**, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz: **12:00 – 2:30 PM**
2. **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. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations or translation services should be directed to staff at 831-475-8500 for Spanish no later than five days before the meeting.

Please contact Melanie Mow Schumacher, **scwd²** Public Outreach Coordinator, at (831) 475-8501x153 or melanies@soquelcreekwater.org with any questions about this meeting or the public input process.

Additional information about the project and public meetings can be found at www.scwd2desal.org.

You received this email because your email address has been entered into the email distribution list of individuals who are interested in the Integrated Water Plan and **scwd²** Desalination Program. If you do not wish to receive emailed updates, you may unsubscribe by emailing melanies@soquelcreekwater.org and typing "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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