



Environmental Review Process

City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (scwd²)
Regional Seawater Desalination Project

November 2010

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URS



Presentation Outline

- What is CEQA?
- What is an EIR?
- Environmental Review Process
- Opportunities for Public Input
- **scwd**² Regional Seawater Desalination Project
- Question & Answers



What is CEQA?

- CEQA = California Environmental Equality Act
- CEQA is a California statute (law).
 - Applies to state and local agency projects
 - Requires agencies to identify:
 - Significant environmental impacts due to projects
 - Feasible methods to avoid or reduce those impacts

What is an EIR?



- **EIR** = **Environmental Impact Report**
- An informational document
- A summary of key information for decision-makers
- An EIR identifies and evaluates:
 - Significant environmental impacts of a project
 - Whether the impacts can be avoided or reduced
 - Alternatives to the project that should be considered

Environmental Review Process

Spring 2008 -
Fall 2010

Winter 2010

Spring -
Fall 2011

Spring -
Summer 2012

Fall 2012

Inform

- Community Information Meetings



Scope

- Release NOP/IS
- Scoping period



Evaluate

- Prepare and circulate Draft EIR
- Public hearings



Respond

- Respond to comments
- Prepare Final EIR

Consider

- Final EIR
- Consider EIR certification
- Consider project approval



Scope

Notice of Preparation

- **Notice of Preparation/Initial Study** (NOP/IS)
 - Formal start of the EIR preparation process
 - NOP will include:
 - Initial description of proposed project
 - Initial list of potential environmental effects for consideration

Release NOP:
November 15, 2010



Scope

Scoping Process

- The **scoping** process defines the issues to be evaluated in the EIR
- Public/agency input requested:
 - Potential environmental impacts
 - Mitigation measures
 - Range of project alternatives

Scoping Period:
Nov. 15 – Jan. 10



Scope

Scoping Meetings

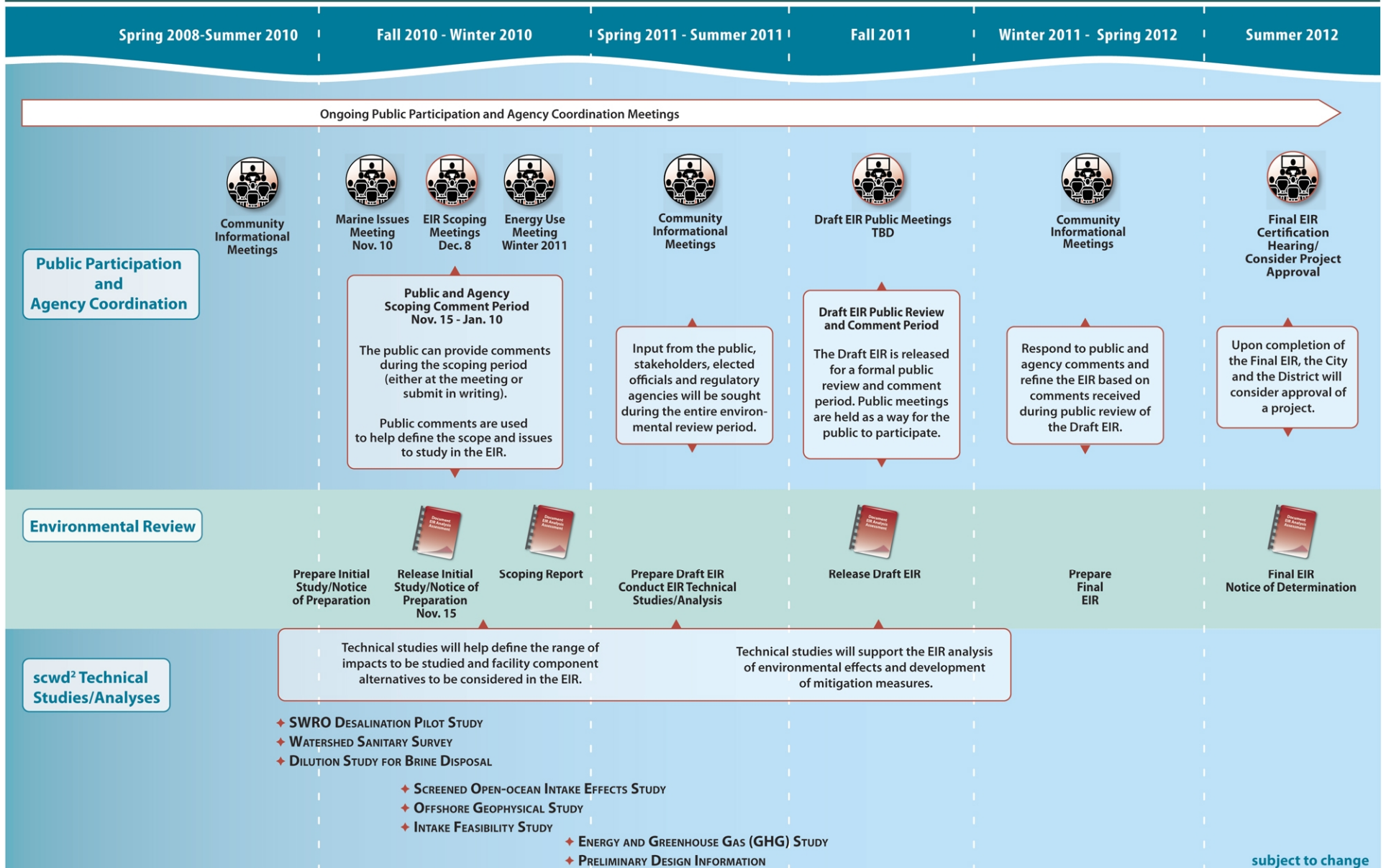
- Scoping meetings - December 8th
 - Santa Cruz - First Congregational Church (Noon – 2:30 PM)
 - Soquel Creek – New Brighton Middle School (6:30 – 9:00 PM)
- Scoping meeting format:
 - Open house
 - Presentation
 - Comment period

Scoping Meetings:
Dec. 8



EIR Roadmap Overview

City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District (scwd²) Regional Seawater Desalination Project EIR Schedule



subject to change

Opportunities for Public Input



- Comment during Scoping period
- Attend Scoping meetings
- Comment during Draft EIR public review period
- Attend Draft EIR public meetings
- Attend Final EIR/project approval public hearings
- Attend on-going community information meetings



scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project

- The project consists of 4 components:
 - A seawater intake system that would deliver seawater to the desalination plant
 - A seawater desalination plant that would generate potable water
 - A brine disposal system that would deliver brine from the plant to the City's WWTP outfall
 - A water supply delivery system

Next Steps

- Join the project email list at www.scwd2desal.org

- Release NOP/IS **November 15, 2010**



- Attend a scoping meeting **December 8, 2010**



- Submit written comments during scoping period
November 15, 2010 – January 10, 2011

- Submit comments to:

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Questions & Answers