

Draft EIR scheduled to release May 13 – Don't miss Joint Study Session May 7

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

Monthly Project Update & Related News

May 2013

Special Joint Study Session on the Draft EIR - Tuesday, May 7

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) will hold a special joint study session Tuesday, May 7 at 7PM at the City Council Chambers to receive information on the **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Presentations will include:

- **'Water Shortage Challenges facing the City and District'** presented by Taj Dufour (Interim General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District) and Bill Kocher (Water Director, City of Santa Cruz) - An update that addresses shortages during drought conditions, reduction to existing surface water withdrawals to protect fish and other threatened/endangered species, and protection of the groundwater basin from seawater intrusion.
- **'Proposed scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project'** presented by Heidi Luckenbach (**scwd²** Desalination Program Coordinator, City of Santa Cruz) - An overview of the proposed project including the components, how operations would be shared by the two agencies, and environmental design features that address community concerns
- **'The EIR and How to Participate'** presented by Ann Sansevero (Project Manager, URS Corporation) - A general overview of how the document is laid out, the review period, and how the community can participate (environmental findings will not be discussed at this meeting).
- **'What about EIR Certification and the Vote?'** presented by Jim Moose (Senior

Partner, Remy Moose Manley LLP) - An overview of how the EIR process, certification, and formation of a project are prerequisites to a formal vote on the construction of the desalination plant for City of Santa Cruz residents. Also, what options are Soquel Creek Water District considering for their customers to weigh-in on the project.

This meeting is informational only and no action will be taken. For more information, click [here](#).



Draft EIR and Community Guide scheduled to be released May 13

Regional Seawater Desalination Project for the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District



Draft Environmental Impact Report
SCH# 2010112038



The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) is scheduled to be released on Monday, May 13 and will be followed by a 60-day review period that includes the opportunity for the public and involved agencies and other stakeholders to provide written and oral comments on the document.

A Community Guide been also been created which is a 35-page handbook to the DEIR and is intended to provide a summary of the proposed project and key elements of the environmental analysis provided in the Draft EIR, including environmental design

features, mitigation measures, and feasible alternatives.

More information will be emailed in a subsequent email update and on the project website: <http://www.scwd2desal.org>

Summertime Curtailment in effect: May-October

The City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District have both initiated summertime cutbacks from May through October. The City has declared a Stage 1 water alert asking customers to reduce

New Informational Handouts Now Available

We were very fortunate to have a lot of people stop by our booth at 'Earth Day Santa Cruz' last month. Handouts that were passed out at the event are now available at the Soquel Creek Water

water use by five percent. The District called for 15% reduction under its Stage 2 water shortage warning as a result of below-normal rainfall conditions for the past two years. For more information on the specifics for each agencies' water restrictions, visit:

- [City of Santa Cruz:](#)
- [Soquel Creek Water District](#)

District and Santa Cruz Water Department Offices as well as on-line. To view these:

[Project Overview](#)
[Overview of the Environmental Process](#)
[Tri-Fold Informational Fact Sheet](#)



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Draft EIR scheduled to release May 13 – Don't miss Joint Study Session May 7

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

Project Update & Related News

May 13, 2013

EIR Released Today

Draft EIR and Community Guide now available for review



Regional Seawater Desalination Project
for the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District



Draft Environmental Impact Report
SCH# 2010112038



The [draft environmental impact report](#) (DEIR) for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project was released today, Monday, May 13 and will be followed by a 60-day review period that includes the opportunity for the public, involved agencies, and other stakeholders to provide written and oral comments on the document.

The report includes information about alternatives to the water supply project and impacts on the environment.

Public Hearings have been set on June 3 and July 1. For more information, click [here](#).

A [Community Guide](#) has also been created which is a 35-page handbook to the DEIR and is intended to provide a summary of the proposed project and key elements of the environmental analysis provided in the Draft EIR, including environmental design features, mitigation measures, and feasible alternatives.



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



Community Guide
A Handbook for the Draft Environmental Impact Report

For up-to-date-information, please visit our [Facebook Page](#) and our [Project Website](#)



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Public Hearing on Draft EIR- Monday, June 3

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

Project Update & Related News

May 31, 2013

Reminder! Public Hearing on Draft EIR - Monday, June 3

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) are holding two public hearings to inform the public about the Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and to receive written and oral comments on the adequacy of the document. Two meetings are being held at different locations, at different times (daytime and evening), and on different dates to try and accommodate as much public participation as possible. Attend whichever is most convenient for you, or both, as the same information will be provided at each meeting.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, June 3rd at Seacliff Inn (7500 Old Dominion Court in Aptos). The meeting's agenda includes:

- Open House (12:00 PM - 12:30 PM)
- Presentation (12:30 - 1:00 PM)
- Public Comment Session (1:00PM - 2:30 PM)

The second meeting will be held on Monday, July 1st at First Congregational Church (900 High Street, Santa Cruz) from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. For more information on the meeting or to request special accommodations, please contact Melanie Schumacher at 831-475-8501x153 or melanies@soquelcreekwater.org

Commenting on the Draft EIR

An important part of the EIR process is the public review period. During this period the public is invited to make comments on the Draft EIR. The City and the District are

required to provide responses to these comments and incorporate them into the Final EIR in the “Response to Comments” section. Effective comments, therefore, are one of the most important ways that the public can potentially effect change in a proposed project. The following guidelines have been provided to assist in preparing comments on the proposed project. Although California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines require 45 days for public review and comment, the City and District have extended the period to 60 days to allow sufficient time for the public to comment on the draft EIR. Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted at the public hearing or by mail or email through July 15, 2013 by 5:00 PM. Submit written comments on the draft EIR by:

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

Below are a few quick tips on how to provide effective comments:

- Effective comments are those that ask questions, present alternative information or evidence, and help facilitate a meaningful response.
- Whenever possible, present facts or expert opinions. If not, provide personal experience or your personal observations. Comments that reflect only an emotional opinion will not be addressed in detail. For example, a comment that simply states, “I don’t like the project,” typically results in a response of “Comment Noted.”
- Comments should focus on the adequacy of the draft EIR (such as how well it addresses key environmental topics).
- Please make sure written comments are neatly written or typed with the name of the person commenting clearly legible.

To access the EIR documents on the project website, click [here](#).



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New videos now available and how to comment on draft EIR

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

*Monthly Project Update & Related News
June 4, 2013*

Two New Videos Released on Local Water Shortages and the Proposed Desalination Project



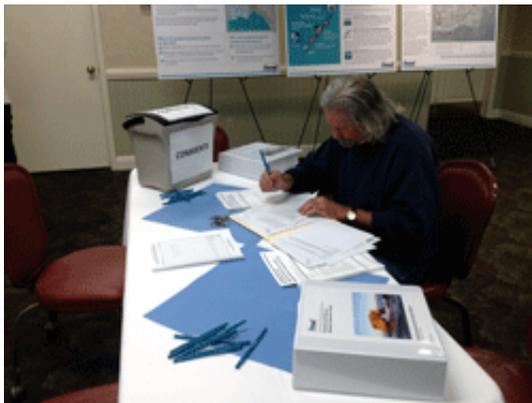
Learn more about local water shortages in this short 3-minute video featuring Mayor Bryant and Board President LaHue discussing the importance of a reliable water supply for our community, the water challenges each agency is facing, and why desalination was chosen to further evaluate as a supplemental supply. To access the video, click the image above or [here](#).



Our second video includes Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator, and Melanie Mow Schumacher, scwd2 Outreach Coordinator, talking about the proposed desalination project: what it is, how community/environmental concerns are being addressed, the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and how to participate in the environmental review process. To access the video click the image above or [here](#).

Share these short videos with family, friends, and colleagues who may be interested in learning more about the project or who may need information clarified.

The [35-page community guide](#) to the Draft EIR is another great way to learn and share information!



Commenting on the Draft EIR

An important part of the EIR process is the public review period for a Draft EIR. During this period the public is invited to make comments on the Draft EIR. The City and District are then required to provide responses to these comments and incorporate them into the Final EIR in

Meeting Materials from the Public Hearing held on June 3, 2013

A public hearing was held on Monday, June 3rd at Seacliff Inn to inform the public about the Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and to receive written and oral comments on the adequacy of the document. Nearly a hundred people participated.

The City and District scheduled two meetings (held at different locations, at different times (daytime and evening), and on

the “Response to Comments” section.

Providing effective comments is, therefore, one of the most important ways that the public has to potentially effect change in a proposed project and to help generate a fully informed final document.

Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted through July 15, 2013 by 5:00 PM. Submit written comments on the draft EIR by

- Mail to Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator, City of Santa Cruz Water Dept., 212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Email to hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com

For tips on how to provide effective comments, click [here](#)

different dates) to accommodate as much public participation as possible. The same information is being provided at both meetings.

- Meeting materials: [Powerpoint presentation](#), [handout](#), and [display boards](#).
- Link to the Draft EIR and supplemental documents. click [here](#)

The second meeting will be held on **Monday, July 1, 2013 at 6:30 PM at First Congregational Church (900 High Street, Santa Cruz).**

For more information on the meeting or to request special accommodations, please contact Melanie Schumacher at 831-475-8501x153 or melanies@soquelcreekwater.org



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Public Hearing on Draft EIR- Monday, July 1
Comment period extended to August 12

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

Project Update & Related News

June 28, 2013

[**City and District extend comment period to August 12**](#)

[**Reminder! Public Hearing on Draft EIR on Monday, July 1**](#)

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project was made available on May 13, 2013. An important part of the EIR process is the public review and the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District, as co-lead agencies, provided a 60-day period for the public to read and provide their comments. Several Santa Cruz and District area residents have asked the agencies for an extension to the comment period, citing the desire for more time to read the EIR and prepare their comments.

Santa Cruz Mayor Hilary Bryant and Soquel Creek Water District Board President Tom Lahue appreciate the community's interest in local water issues and the desalination project. "It's clear that the public has become engaged in discussing our future water supply. Extending the comment period allows more people to join in the discussions. It's my hope that this additional time will enable more involvement," said Mayor Bryant.

The comment period was scheduled to close on July 15, but has been extended another month, to August 12. Heidi Luckenbach, **scwd²** Desalination Program Coordinator, has been receiving written public comments since the day after the EIR was released. "I've been receiving comments for several weeks now. Some days I get one or two, other days they trickle in all day. I'm pleased to see that residents are reading the EIR and providing comments." Luckenbach added that though the EIR comment period was

already two weeks longer than required by the State, she too supports the opportunity that the time extension could provide. “The community will be making a very important decision about what the future will look like. Adding more time to the comment period enables more people to be informed and participate.”

A public meeting to receive formal oral comments was held on June 3 in Aptos, and another is scheduled for this Monday, July 1 at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Cruz (900 High Street, Santa Cruz) during a Santa Cruz Water Commission regular meeting. An informational open house where people can ask questions and review display boards will start at 6:30PM, followed by a brief presentation by the author of the Draft EIR and oral comments from the public. Luckenbach is hopeful that the Monday night meeting will be well attended. “I encourage people I speak with to attend a public meeting. But if they can’t make a meeting, they can still email or mail me their comments through mid-August.”

Written comments can be sent by email or mail before 5PM on August 12, 2013 to:

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

For more information on the EIR or to access a copy of the EIR, visit:

<http://www.scwd2desal.org/EIR>

For tips on providing effective comments to the draft EIR, visit:

http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR_FAQs_Commenting.php



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Public Hearing on Draft EIR- Monday, July 1 at First Congregational Church and Comment period extended to August 12

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

Project Update & Related News

June 30, 2013 - (This is a resend of the email update sent on June 28). The public meeting will be held on Monday at First Congregational Church- not First Presbyterian Church. The address 900 High Street in Santa Cruz is correct.

[City and District extend comment period to August 12](#)

[Reminder! Public Hearing on Draft EIR on Monday, July 1 at First Congregational Church](#)

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project was made available on May 13, 2013. An important part of the EIR process is the public review and the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District, as co-lead agencies, provided a 60-day period for the public to read and provide their comments. Several Santa Cruz and District area residents have asked the agencies for an extension to the comment period, citing the desire for more time to read the EIR and prepare their comments.

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

For more information on the EIR or to access a copy of the EIR, visit:

<http://www.scwd2desal.org/EIR>

For tips on providing effective comments to the draft EIR, visit:

http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR_FAQs_Commenting.php



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Comment Period extended to August 12, What are the Key Environmental Findings of the Draft EIR, and new Brine Infographic

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

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July 8, 2013

City and District extend comment period to August 12



Public participation is an important part of the environmental review process and the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District, as co-lead agencies, provided a 60-day period for the public to read and provide their comments. The comment period was scheduled to close on July 15 but has been extended another month to provide additional time for the public to read the Draft Environmental Impact Report and prepare their comments.

Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted through August 12, 2013 by 5:00 PM.

Submit written comments on the Draft EIR by mail to:

Heidi Luckenbach

Desalination Program Coordinator

City of Santa Cruz, Water Department

212 Locust Street, Suite C

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Email: hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com

Comments received, both orally and written, will be posted to the project website after the close of the comment period.

For tips on how to comment on the draft EIR, visit: http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR_FAQs_Commenting.php .

For more information on the EIR or to access a copy of the EIR, visit: <http://www.scwd2desal.org/EIR>



Do you know what the key environmental findings are for the proposed project?

One of the key components of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the environmental impact evaluation. Community issues such as impacts to marine life, energy and greenhouse gas emissions, growth, and water quality are all topics, required by the State, to be evaluated within this draft EIR. A step-wise process was used to determine if the proposed desalination project would have a negative impact on the environment and, if so, what could be done to reduce or avoid those impacts.

For a summary of the environmental findings for the proposed project click [here](#).

For more detailed information, visit [Section 5 of the Draft EIR](#).

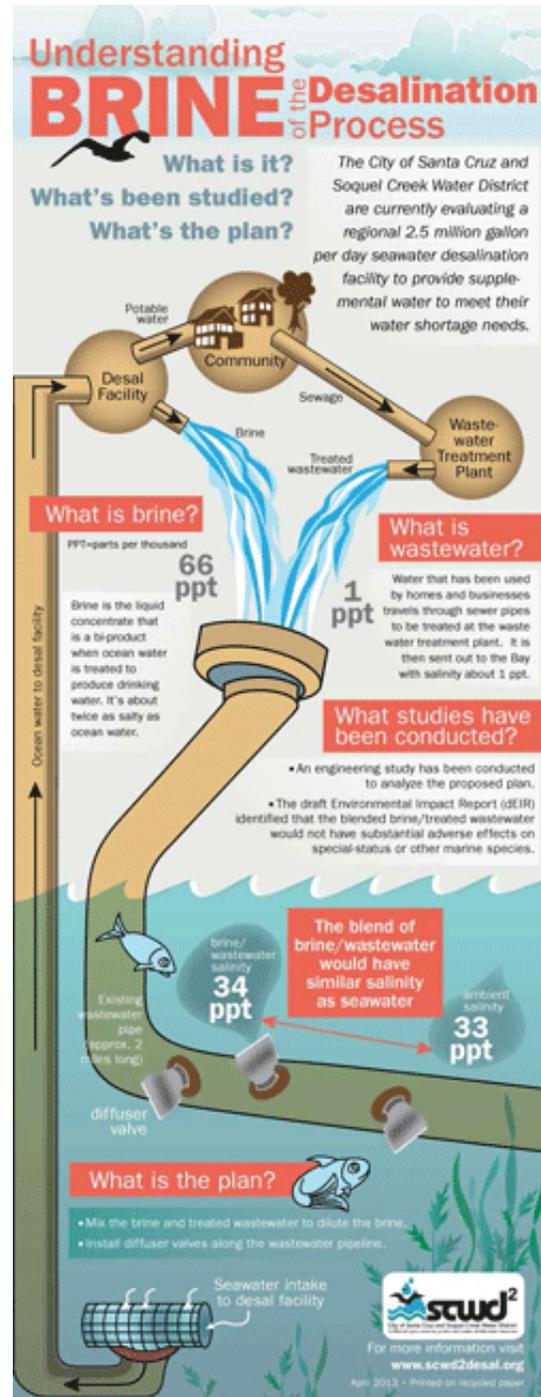


Meeting Materials from July 1st Public Hearing

The second public hearing to provide information on the proposed project and receive comments on the Draft EIR was held on Monday, July 1 at First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz.

The meeting had a great turnout with approximately 250 people attending and ~50 speakers approaching the podium to provide oral comments. A copy of the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and the [displayboards](#) are posted on the project website.

If you were unable to attend, written comments can still be submitted through August 12.



Brine Infographic

Last month we posted this infographic on our Facebook page and several people commented how useful it was in understanding how the brine from the proposed desal project could be blended with existing wastewater that is currently



going out to the Monterey Bay.

To view this infographic, visit:

<http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Brine.php>

For up-to-date information on the proposed project, make sure you visit our [Facebook page](#)! If you "like" the page, our posts will be included in your Facebook News Feed.



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Comment period closes on August 12, agencies to begin refining project components, and update on summer cutbacks

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

Project Update & Related News

Monthly Project Update and Related News
August 7, 2013

Your input is important - Comment period closes for Desal Project Draft EIR on August 12



The 90-day comment period for the proposed **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will close at 5PM on August 12, 2013. Your input is an important part of the environmental review process and the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District, as co-lead agencies, added an extra 30 days to allow extra time to review the document and prepare comments.

Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted by mail to Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator, City of Santa Cruz Water Dept., 212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or email to hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com.

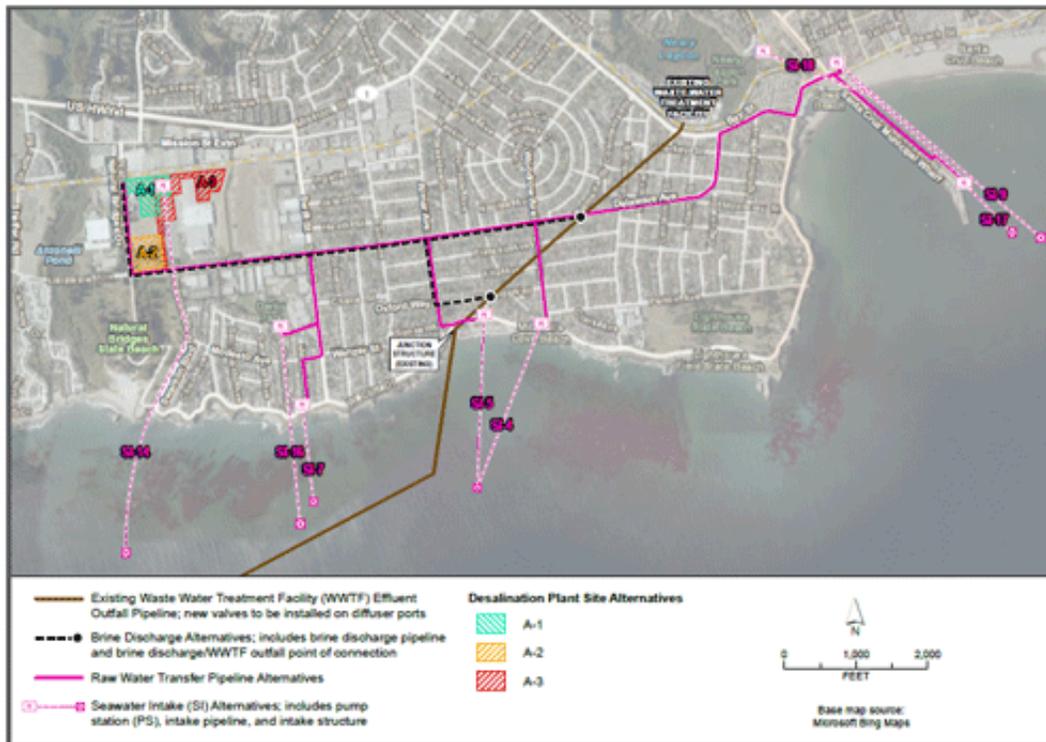
Comments received both orally and written will be posted to the project website in September.

Next steps of the environmental process include a review of the comments that were submitted, identifying any additional environmental work that may be needed,

and further evaluation of various component alternatives.

For tips on how to comment on the draft EIR, visit: http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR_FAQs_Commenting.php .

For more information on the EIR or to access a copy of the EIR, visit: <http://www.scwd2desal.org/EIR>.



City and District to take closer look at refining project components

In the coming months, as part of the response to Draft EIR comments, the City and District will begin to take a closer look at the project components including the proposed treatment plant sites and the proposed intake and pump station locations. The Draft EIR analyzed three alternative desalination plant sites and eight alternative intake sites at an equal level of detail and compared the environmental impacts and the ability of each component location alternative to meet the proposed project objectives.

Further review will be underway, which will include public input, as the agencies begin the process to narrow these alternatives.

Summertime Water Shortage Update

The City and District are embarking on the second half of their summertime curtailment period which will end on October 31st. Due to a second year of low rainfall, customers have been asked to reduce use and limit outdoor watering to help the agencies protect their water supplies from the effects of drought. Between May and October, the City is seeking a 5% reduction in water use, while the District is seeking a 15% reduction. While early trending appeared that hotter weather and a bounce back in the economy were contributing to an increase in summer water use, June and July figures have stabilized and are showing a slight reduction.

The [City](#), which was under a 5% curtailment in 2012, met their 5% goal in June and July. The last half of summer is critical for the City as its end-of-season goal for Loch Lomond Reservoir is to be at least 75% of its full capacity. Historically the City relies heavily on the reservoir supply in the summer when river and stream flows are low.

The [District](#), who was under a 5% curtailment in 2012, reported they saw an additional 3% reduction over last June; however, it is much less than the District's 15% goal. July data was not yet available. The District will continue its water patrol and increase its education and outreach on the summer water cutbacks, while also working to address its long term water shortage issues.

Quick Links - Got a few minutes? Check out these three videos available on our website:

Our Water Supply Challenges

a 3-minute video with



Tom LaHue, President
Soquel Creek Water District



Hilary Bryant, Mayor
City of Santa Cruz

How the Potential Screened Intake Approach Works



How Brine Can be Blended to have Similar Salinity as the Ocean



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Comment period closed as of August 12, 2013. Thank you to all who submitted comments.

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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

Project Update & Related News

Project Update and Related News
August 14, 2013

THANK YOU! GRACIAS! MERCI!

The 90-day comment period for the proposed **scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** ended on August 12, 2013 and is now closed.

Thank you to all who READ the draft EIR, LOOKED at the community guide, WATCHED a video, VISITED our Facebook page, and/or SUBMITTED a comment!

The City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District appreciate all of the comments that have come in - by email, mail, fax, hand delivery, and also verbally at our public hearings.

Submitted comments will be posted onto the project [website](#) in September and a future email update will be sent out when they are made available.

Next steps include reviewing all the comments, identifying any additional work that may be needed, further evaluation of various component alternatives, responding to comments, and preparing the final EIR.

Sincerely,

Heidi Luckenbach (**scwd**² Program Coordinator) and

Melanie Mow Schumacher (**scwd**² Public Outreach Coordinator)



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