



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

December 2012- Monthly Project Update and Related News

City's Water Commission Reviews Purpose and Need for a Supplemental Supply

At their December 3rd meeting, the City's Water Commission discussed the purpose and need for a supplemental water supply to meet the City's water shortage needs. Since the adoption of the City's Integrated Water Plan in 2003 (which included a diversified approach to meeting demand through use of existing water supplies, conservation, 15% curtailment during drought conditions, and a supplemental supply), the City has addressed several new and changed conditions. These include:

- The City of Santa Cruz, along with most other California water agencies, has seen substantial downward shifts in customer water demand, some of which is permanent and some of which is weather or economy or use-restriction related.
- The City's existing water supplies are jeopardized due to the need to maintain habitat for endangered fish species in the San Lorenzo River and North Coast streams and diminished production from the City's groundwater source.

The Water Commission received a presentation to complement the staff report. The planning framework of the IWP, General Plan and Urban Water Management Plan was described followed by a description of the new and changed conditions, and how these impact the need for a supplemental water supply.

To view the presentation, visit

http://www.scwd2desal.org/documents/Presentations/WCPresentation_1232012.pdf.

To view the staff report, visit

http://www.scwd2desal.org/documents/Reports/WC_December3_2012_SR.pdf

Soquel Creek Water District Takes Closer Look at Life Without A Supplemental Supply

In September 2012, the Soquel Creek Water District adopted the [2012 Integrated Resources Plan \(IRP\) Update](#) which provides a roadmap for maintaining a reliable water supply for customers and protecting the local environment through 2030. This report updates the 2006 IRP and contains updated information on alternatives including two new water-restriction options intended to protect the basin from seawater intrusion if a supplemental supply is not obtained.

The two mandatory water-restriction options involve a *15%-design* effort to identify (1) the methods (e.g., water-saving measures, enhanced rebates, moratorium, education, behavioral outreach, etc.) that would be implemented to achieve the required overall

average water savings of 35%; (2) the total estimated costs (including staffing) to the District and the resulting impact upon rates; (3) the potential consequences to both customers and the District; and (4) the estimated level of risk and the chances of success associated with reducing demand by 35% and maintaining that restriction of water use for 20 years. District staff is currently offering presentations to local community groups, clubs, schools and individuals to learn more about what life could look like without a supplemental supply. To schedule a presentation, please contact Shelley Flock at 831-475-8501x156 or shelleyf@soquelcreekwater.org.

Carlsbad Desalination Project Approved and Moving Forward

Last week, the San Diego County Water Authority's Board of Directors voted to approve an agreement to purchase up to 56,000 acre-feet of water annually (50 million gallons per day) from what will be the nation's largest seawater desalination plant in Carlsbad, California. The plant is expected to be producing desalinated water by 2016.

Desalination is just one part of the Water Authority's long-term strategy to reduce its reliance on imported water from Metropolitan Water District (MWD). After a severe drought in the early 1990s led to a 31% cut in water deliveries from MWD – and threatened 50% cutbacks – elected officials, civic leaders and water officials in San Diego County developed a plan to enhance the region's water reliability through supply diversification. For a recent article on the Carlsbad project, click here: <http://eastcountymagazine.org/node/11849>.

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 **scwd**² Desalination Program. The IRWM includes regional planning efforts of many water agencies- including the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District. 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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