



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

Monthly Project Update – February 2012

As a reminder, the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District have publicly stated that no decision has been made on the approval of a desalination project. Both agencies are focused on continuing the evaluation phase of the project to fully inform the public and decision-makers of the environmental impacts and associated costs. To that end, it is imperative to continue with the analyses and the environmental review process which will serve to inform and encourage comments from the entire community.

Extensive efforts are currently underway towards providing a thorough and rigorous evaluation of environmental impacts and alternatives related to the proposed desalination project. The release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) is scheduled for sometime this year, possibly as early as this spring and will be followed by a public review period, during which there will be opportunities for the public to provide comments on the document. Responses to comments will be prepared and provided to both governing bodies (City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District) for their consideration prior to certifying the Final EIR. The project may not be approved without a certified EIR. For more information, visit www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR.php.

Video Footage on Recent Community Meeting about Desalination: Energy and Climate Impacts Now Available On-Line

Is the proposed desalination project's typical energy use comparable to (a) the wastewater treatment plant, (b) a mid-size hospital, or (c) an amusement park? Visit <http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy-Calcs.php> to see a comparison chart used at our recent Energy Meeting or <http://www.communitytv.org/programs/online/seawater-desalination-energy-use-and-climate-change-impacts> to view the video of the presentation material and the question/answer period that was filmed by Community TV of Santa Cruz County.

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