



## **City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program**

### **Monthly Project Update & Latest News – January 2012**

#### **Happy New Year!**

For the past three years our monthly email updates on the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program have provided current and up-to-date information on the evaluation of desalination as a supplemental water supply for the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District. In 2011, we focused on preparing the environmental review of the proposed 2.5 mgd seawater desalination project and informing the community about the project. Other highlights from the past year include:

- Created a Technical Working Group comprised of local, regional, and desalination experts to provide oversight on the Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study.
- Created several informational handouts including: An Update to the Integrated Water Plan for the City of Santa Cruz, An Update to the Integrated Water Plan for Soquel Creek Water District, a white paper on Perspectives on Energy, and a four-page handout on Desal: Energy Use and Climate Impacts.
- Held a Community Informational Meeting on Energy Use and Climate Impacts related to Desalination.
- Completed the Final Report for the Prop. 50 Grant related to the Pilot Plant.

#### **Look for the Draft EIR in Spring 2012**

The release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) is scheduled for early Spring and will be followed by a public review period, during which there will be opportunities for the public to provide written and oral comments on the document. Responses to those comments will be prepared and provided to both governing bodies for consideration in their decision about whether to certify the Final EIR. To see the project schedule, visit [www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases.php](http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases.php).

#### **Let it rain!**

To date, Santa Cruz has received approximately 6.2 inches of rain in its watershed this season. This past December, only 0.1 inches was recorded - making last month the second worst rainfall December in recorded history (1989 being the only one worse). Last year's total rainfall for Santa Cruz was 24.49 inches. Determination of future water restrictions will occur after March 31; for now, we hope a rainy season is still up-ahead.

#### **Meeting Materials for Community Meeting on Energy now available on website**

Meeting materials from the Community Meeting on Energy held Dec. 8, 2011, including handouts and PowerPoint presentations, are now available at [www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases\\_Informational\\_Meeting\\_December\\_2011.php](http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_Informational_Meeting_December_2011.php). The meeting was filmed by

Community TV of Santa Cruz County and will be posted on the station's website in the near future.

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