



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

Monthly Project Update & Latest News– June 2012

Update on the Ballot Initiative to Amend the Charter of the City of Santa Cruz for a Vote on Desalination

Proponents for the “Petition for Submission to Voters of Proposed Amendment to the Charter of the City of Santa Cruz” submitted over 2,000 petition pages to the Santa Cruz City Clerk’s office on May 29, 2012. Approximately 8,717 raw signatures were received and counted, and will be checked and certified with the County Elections Department to verify their status as registered voters of the City of Santa Cruz.

In order for the petition to qualify to be placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot, the City must determine that at least 5,442 signatures (15% of the number registered voters reported to the Secretary of State at the time the petition was circulated) are certified registered voters.

The City of Santa Cruz adopted an ordinance (Ordinance 2012-3) on March 13, 2012 that requires voter approval for desalination plant construction. The City’s ordinance allows City residents to cast their vote, either in June or November of 2014, following completion of the environmental review. For a comparison of the ballot initiative and the City ordinance, click here: http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-City_Ordinance.php

Soquel Creek Water District Evaluates Lifestyle and Financial Impacts of Meeting Demands with Limited Groundwater Only

On June 5, 2012, Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors conducted a workshop to evaluate conceptual conservation scenarios to reduce demand by 37-40% to 2,900 acre-feet per year for a 20 year period, which is the limited amount of groundwater available to restore protective groundwater levels and prevent seawater intrusion. The workshop included the various methods, costs, customer/District impacts, and risks associated with two conceptual conservation approaches.

Staff also presented comparisons related to the desalination project with respect to unit cost of water (\$/acre-ft) and rate impacts. To view the board memo and PowerPoint from the workshop, click http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-faqs-new.php#What_about_more_conservation

EIR Schedule

The release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is scheduled for fall 2012. While previously planned for release this spring, additional time has been spent incorporating the latest technical information and policy decisions such as the Santa Cruz City Council and Soquel Creek Water District Board declaration to design the desal facility to be net-carbon neutral and

include components such as solar panels and energy recovery devices. The updated EIR schedule is:

- Fall 2012: Release Draft EIR for review and hold public meetings
- Winter2012-Fall 2013: **scwd**² will review all comments and prepare responses
- Fall 2013: Release Final EIR, hold public hearing(s), and Santa Cruz City Council and Soquel Creek Water District will consider certification of EIR.

For more information, visit www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR.php

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