



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

## **October 2012- Monthly Project Update and Latest News**

With the local political scene in full swing, community meetings, candidate forums, and handouts are being held and/or circulated to increase awareness, beliefs, and perspectives on the **scwd<sup>2</sup>** Desalination Project.

Below are some informational items related to the project to remember and consider:

1. In March of this year, the Santa Cruz City Council passed an ordinance which formalized requiring voter approval to construct a desalination project. This ordinance was unanimously passed before the signature gathering qualified for a citizens'–generated initiative to amend the City's Charter for vote on constructing a desalination plant.
2. Desalination is used in 120 countries worldwide to provide drinking water, including the United States and California. The pilot plant operated by **scwd<sup>2</sup>** in 2008-2009 proved to meet and exceed water quality standards set forth by CA Department of Public Health.
3. The proposed desalination project would provide regional benefits to two agencies with unique water supply shortage issues. A project environmental impact report (EIR) is being prepared that will evaluate and address associated environmental impacts and alternatives. In addition, sharing the evaluation costs and potential construction costs of the proposed project means neither agency will have to solely fund the project on its own.
4. Our community is faced with severe consequences to fish habitat, our groundwater basin, and our customers' everyday needs if a supplemental supply is not secured.
5. A supplemental supply project with the ability to provide approximately 2.5 million gallons per day is needed to meet today's water shortage. This reflects a reduced shortage need due to our agencies' robust and enhanced conservation programs and 15% curtailment during droughts.
6. A safe and reliable water supply is important to ensure ongoing protection of the environment and the ability of our combined community to economically thrive.

## Recent Coverage in the Santa Cruz Sentinel Spotlights Desalination and Local Water Issues

Last week, the Santa Cruz Sentinel featured a number of articles and videos for their special-report series “Deconstructing Desal” that focused on our area’s local water supplies, shortage issues, and the proposed scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Project.

- To view these articles, click here: [http://scwd2desal.org/In\\_the\\_News\\_09-27-12.php](http://scwd2desal.org/In_the_News_09-27-12.php).
- To view the Editorial from the Sentinel’s Editorial Board, click here: [http://scwd2desal.org/In\\_the\\_News\\_09-29-12f.php](http://scwd2desal.org/In_the_News_09-29-12f.php)

## District Adopts Updated Roadmap for Water Planning through 2030

Soquel Creek Water District adopted the *2012 Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) Update* in September which shall serve as a roadmap through 2030 for maintaining water supply reliability for its customers and protecting the local environment. The key components of this report (which is an update to the District’s 2006 IRP) include:

- **Maximizing Conservation** - Continue and increase conservation efforts and programs.
- **Groundwater Management** - Reduce groundwater pumping by approximately 35% to allow the basin to naturally recover; redistribute well pumping away from the coast; and support groundwater recharge protection.
- **Diversifying our Water Portfolio with Regional Supplemental Supply** – Reaffirmation to continue evaluating the scwd<sup>2</sup> Regional Seawater Desalination Project with the City of Santa Cruz to provide a reliable water supply to supplement our diminished groundwater resources. In addition, potential water exchanges are being studied; however, these are not expected to contribute much to our water shortage needs.

The report contains the evaluation and findings of various water supply alternatives, such as off-stream diversion along Soquel Creek, a reservoir in the Glenwood area, a District-only desalination project, and 35% mandatory water restrictions for at least 20 years to achieve basin recovery.

## Nearby Sand City Desalination Facility named 2012 WaterReuse Project of the Year

The Sand City Coastal Desalination Facility was recently recognized as the 2012 WaterReuse Project of the Year. This facility is California’s first municipal desalination project permitted under the current water treatment regulations and provides a model for successful, environmentally compatible desalination based on collaborative planning, innovative design, and successful operations.

The National WaterReuse Association is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the beneficial and efficient uses of high-quality, locally produced sustainable water sources for the betterment of society and the environment through advocacy, education and outreach, research, and membership. The WaterReuse Association

recognizes that across the United States and the world, communities are facing water supply challenges due to increasing demand, drought, depletion and contamination of groundwater, and dependence on a single source of supply.

The Sand City project was bestowed this award since it demonstrates that desalination can be a practical, sustainable and cost effective water supply alternative.

**Next scwd<sup>2</sup> Task Force Meeting will be October 17, 2012**

The September Task Force meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the in the Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room (155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.). Items to be discussed include the schedule for releasing the Draft EIR for public review and comment as well as an update on project costs, including a breakdown of latest cost estimates and assumptions.

For more information, visit: [http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Public\\_Meetings.php](http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Public_Meetings.php)

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<sup>2</sup>** 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](mailto:melanies@soquelcreekwater.org) and typing "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

**\*\*Please consider the environment before printing this email. \*\***

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG](http://WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG)