



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

April 2013- Monthly Project Update and Related News

Special Joint Study Session on the Draft EIR scheduled for May 7

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) will hold a special joint study session Tuesday, May 7 at 7PM at the City Council Chambers to receive information on the **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which is expected to be released in mid-May. This primer will be comprised of presentations on:

- 'Water Shortage Challenges facing the City and District' - An update that addresses shortages during drought conditions, reduction to existing surface water withdrawals to protect fish and other threatened/endangered species, and protection of the groundwater basin from seawater intrusion.
- 'The EIR and How to Participate' - A general overview of how the document is laid out, the review period, and how the community can participate (environmental findings will not be discussed at this meeting).
- 'What about the Vote?'- An overview of how the EIR process, certification, and formation of a project are prerequisites to a formal vote on the construction of the desalination plant for City of Santa Cruz residents.

This meeting is open to the public. More information will be available on the scwd2desal.org website in May.

Call for Summertime Curtailment for City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District Customers

Soquel Creek Water District, as a result of below-normal rainfall conditions for the past two years, is expected to issue a Stage 2- Water Shortage Warning for their customers at the April 16th Board of Directors meeting. Under its water shortage contingency plan, the District will aim to achieve a 15% demand reduction during the summer season by asking customers to reduce water use, promoting water conservation, and enforcing its water waste ordinance.

“With our only water supply coming from rainfall that is stored in underground aquifers,” said Taj Dufour, Soquel Creek Water District Interim General Manager, “it is important for our customers to reduce their use and to recognize that below normal rainfall means less recharge and increases our vulnerability to seawater intrusion.”

The City of Santa Cruz issued its third [Water Supply Outlook](#) for this season on March 25, requesting that the Water Commission recommend City Council adopt a resolution declaring a Stage 1 Water Shortage alert for 2013, pending an improvement in local

water conditions. Stage 1 includes both voluntary and mandatory measures aimed at achieving a 5 percent reduction goal for the season. The water year is currently classified as “dry;” this is assumed to be upgraded to “normal” in the coming weeks as cumulative runoff in the San Lorenzo River increases.

Stop by the scwd² Information Booth at ‘Earth Day Santa Cruz’ on April 20

scwd² will be hosting an information booth at the upcoming ‘Earth Day Santa Cruz’ event on Saturday, April 20 from 11AM to 5PM. This is an exciting community event that will be held at San Lorenzo Park, just behind the County Government Building. We will be providing information on the proposed scwd² Desalination Project and will be available to answer questions. Please look for us next to the Santa Cruz County’s Water Conservation Coalition booth.

scwd² Email Updates gets Facelift

Our **scwd²** email updates have been upgraded to a new, free service that should make it easier for you to receive information. Please encourage friends and colleagues who are interested in learning more about the proposed project to sign up and receive these email updates and give us your feedback on our new look and feel.

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 **scwd²** Desalination Program. 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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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG