



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

February 2013- Monthly Project Update and Related News

Rainfall and Water Restriction Update

At halfway through the winter wet season, rainfall in the City of Santa Cruz totals about 14.7 inches for the season to date. Normal for this time of year is about 16.6 inches. The City of Santa Cruz presented a Water Supply Outlook at its February 4th Water Commission meeting and will provide another periodic review at the end of February. To access the report: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=1915>. Assuming that the second half of winter will bring enough rain and runoff to upgrade the 2013 water year classification to Normal, the City's water supply should be adequate to meet expected water demands within the water service area for the rest of 2013.

For Soquel Creek Water District, water supply is based on groundwater conditions, not solely on annual rainfall patterns. The overdrafted groundwater basin, used by both private and municipal pumpers, has historically been overpumped than what can be naturally recharged with rainfall such that many years of abundant rainfall will not replenish these aquifers adequately to correct the situation. For this summer's call for curtailment, the District needs 13 more inches of rain in February and March to avoid falling into a Stage 2, 15% mandatory restriction category. Also, on March 5th, a public hearing will be held setting board policy regarding pursuing long-term mandatory water restrictions in the absence of a sufficient supplemental supply to meet the District's groundwater recovery goals.

Santa Cruz County's Annual Status Report on Water Resource Management Activities Now Available

The Annual Status Report on Santa Cruz County water resource management activities was presented to the County Board of Supervisors on January 29, 2013. This report recognizes that Santa Cruz County has a continuing need to address major water resource challenges stating that most of the groundwater basins are being pumped in excess of sustainable yield and that water supply agencies do not have sufficient sustainable supplies to meet current and future demand. It also highlights activities for integrated regional water management, water supply, water conservation, storm water management, water quality protection, and habitat restoration such as water exchange, groundwater recharge, well monitoring, the **scwd²** Desalination Program, and more. Much of this work is coordinated among County departments and independent agencies through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program and other efforts such as

the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Basin Advisory Group. To access the status report, visit http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/bds/Govstream/BDSvData/non_legacy/agendas/2013/20130129/PDF/025.pdf.

Can you spare a minute? We are Testing a New On-Line Tool as a Way to Gather Input

Soquel Creek Water District is evaluating a potentially new way to gather input using an on-line questionnaire tool. We are also interested to see how many of our monthly **scwd**² email recipients would respond to our request to answer a few questions. Can you spare a minute? To access this on-line survey, visit https://surveys.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eDkqGJsJgs6pdWZ.

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**² 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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG