



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

March 2013- Monthly Project Update and Related News

Draft EIR On-Track for Spring Release

The draft environmental impact report (dEIR) for the proposed **scwd²** Desalination Project is scheduled to be ready in spring 2013 and will be followed by a review period that includes the opportunity for the public and involved agencies to provide written and oral comments on the document. The environmental review and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process are the foundation upon which the community and elected officials will evaluate and make critical decisions about the future of our water supply. More information will be provided in these email updates and our project website: www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Project-phases_EIR.php.

Short Videos on Brine and Marine Issues Related to Desalination on YouTube

The City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District held a community meeting in late 2010 that focused on brine and marine issues related to the proposed **scwd²** Desalination Project. Two three-minute video clips are now available that include William Faisst from Brown & Caldwell presenting on the proposed design feature to blend brine with treated wastewater currently being sent out to the Monterey Bay and David Mayer from Tenera Environmental presenting on the intake screen study (with actual footage from the **scwd²** pilot testing). To access these videos, click here: <http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-videos.php>

A Dry Year So Far- May Mean Water Use Curtailment Later

Even though the season started off wet, conditions have since changed, dropping to well below normal for this time of year. Across California and the central coast, we are seeing unusually dry conditions and our area received less than an inch and half of rain since the beginning of the year. Both the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District will have to determine if water restrictions will be implemented from April-October if dry weather conditions persist.

The City of Santa Cruz recently posted its second Water Supply Outlook on its website: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=1915> which indicates that the current water year 2013 remains classified as dry for the City and that rainfall in the Santa Cruz area measures a little over 15 inches for the season to date, or about 66 percent of normal.

Soquel Creek Water District reported to its Board of Directors at its March 5 meeting that the DeLaveaga rain gauge has received a total of 16.2 inches of rain for the season, a little more than half of the 29.2 inches that needs to fall by March 31 to avoid triggering a Stage 2 Water Shortage. Since it is looking unlikely that we will receive sufficient rain, the District is considering implementing mandatory 15% water restrictions during April 1-October 31. The District's Board will be discussing this at its meetings in March and April.

March 10-16 is National Groundwater Awareness Week

Groundwater Awareness Week, March 10-16, 2013, is sponsored by the National Groundwater Association. About 80% of Santa Cruz County's water supply comes from local groundwater resources and provides approximately 5% of the City of Santa Cruz's total supply and 100% of Soquel Creek Water District's total supply. Both the City and District recognize that groundwater levels in the Soquel-Aptos are dangerously low and continue to promote conservation programs and the evaluation of desalination to address our shortage problems. For more info:

<http://soquelcreekwater.org/content/our-water-groundwater>

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