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City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District **Regional Seawater Desalination Project**

Project Update & Related News

May 31, 2013

Reminder! Public Hearing on Draft EIR - Monday, June 3

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) are holding two public hearings to inform the public about the Regional Seawater Desalination Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and to receive written and oral comments on the adequacy of the document. Two meetings are being held at different locations, at different times (daytime and evening), and on different dates to try and accommodate as much public participation as possible. Attend whichever is most convenient for you, or both, as the same information will be provided at each meeting.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, June 3rd at Seacliff Inn (7500 Old Dominion Court in Aptos). The meeting's agenda includes:

- Open House (12:00 PM - 12:30 PM)
- Presentation (12:30 - 1:00 PM)
- Public Comment Session (1:00PM - 2:30 PM)

The second meeting will be held on Monday, July 1st at First Congregational Church (900 HighStreet, Santa Cruz) from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. For more information on the meeting or to request special accommodations, please contact Melanie Schumacher at 831-475-8501x153 or melanies@soquelcreekwater.org.

Commenting on the Draft EIR

An important part of the EIR process is the public review period. During this period the public is invited to make comments on the Draft EIR. The City and the District are required to provide responses to these comments and incorporate them into the Final EIR

in the “Response to Comments” section. Effective comments, therefore, are one of the most important ways that the public can potentially effect change in a proposed project. The following guidelines have been provided to assist in preparing comments on the proposed project. Although California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines require 45 days for public review and comment, the City and District have extended the period to 60 days to allow sufficient time for the public to comment on the draft EIR. Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted at the public hearing or by mail or email through July 15, 2013 by 5:00 PM. Submit written comments on the draft EIR by:

- Mail to: Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator, City of Santa Cruz Water Dept., 212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Email to hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com

Below are a few quick tips on how to provide effective comments:

- Effective comments are those that ask questions, present alternative information or evidence, and help facilitate a meaningful response.
- Whenever possible, present facts or expert opinions. If not, provide personal experience or your personal observations. Comments that reflect only an emotional opinion will not be addressed in detail. For example, a comment that simply states, “I don’t like the project,” typically results in a response of “Comment Noted.”
- Comments should focus on the adequacy of the draft EIR (such as how well it addresses key environmental topics).
- Please make sure written comments are neatly written or typed with the name of the person commenting clearly legible.

To access the EIR documents on the project website, click [here](#).



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