



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

Monthly Project Update & Latest News– April 2011

Links to Recent Media Coverage

Articles and opinion pieces published in the local media papers are posted on the project website at www.scwd2desal.org/Page-In-the_News.php. Here is a sample:

- * [Is There Enough Water for People to Drink and to Protect Endangered Fish?](#), (Santa Cruz Patch, 4/5/11)
- * [Water supply report predicts trouble in dry years; Commission considers new assessment as water officials lay out habitat protection plan](#), (Santa Cruz Sentinel, 4/03/11)
- * [Conservation plan could cost city nearly fifth of supply; Feds urge desal to protect fish](#), (Santa Cruz Sentinel, 3/31/11)
- * [Desalination Survey In](#), (Santa Cruz Weekly, 03/23/11)

Protecting Endangered Species increases water shortage for City of Santa Cruz

On April 5th the Santa Cruz City Council held a special session to discuss the parameters of a federal incidental take permit that is required for the City's surface water withdrawals from San Lorenzo River, Newell Creek, and the North Coast Streams and provide guidance on continuing negotiations with NOAA that includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to protect endangered species. Reducing surface water intake to protect threatened and endangered fish could reduce the City's water supply by nearly 20%. To view the handout on the HCP and the PPT presented to the Council, visit www.scwd2desal.org/habitat_conservation_plan_overview.php.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

In our continued efforts to outreach and educate the community on the most up-to-date activities related to the proposed desalination project, we have recently launched a Facebook Page and a Twitter account. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/scwd2news and on Twitter at [@scwd2news](https://twitter.com/scwd2news).

Several Studies are Concurrently Underway that will Inform the Environmental Review for the Draft EIR Being Prepared for scwd² Regional Seawater Desalination Project.

The City currently has several studies that are underway. These include the Water Supply Assessment, the EIR for the General Plan, the Urban Water Management Plan Update, the Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Water Conservation Plan (with a market penetration analysis). These studies will inform policy makers, regulators, and the public on the water system's demand/supply needs and will be used to inform the draft EIR for the proposed **scwd²** project. The City is well aware of the timing for these studies

and when key/updated information will be available to include in the draft EIR. The draft EIR needs these all to proceed as they are in order to be a robust and complete document for full consideration.

Energy White Paper to be released April 11th

How much energy is needed for the proposed desal project? How does that compare to other household and business activities that require energy? **scwd²** has created an Energy White Paper that closely looks at the energy requirements for current (surface water and groundwater) water supplies and the proposed desalination project. The white paper also includes **scwd²**'s plan on evaluating greenhouse gas emissions and the goals to reduce carbon emissions which includes making the project net carbon neutral. To access the white paper on/after April 11th, click [here](#).

Upcoming Event: April 14 Event

The League of Women Voters will present a debate and discussion on the **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Program vs. Alternatives on April 14, 2011. Representatives from **scwd²** and Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives will respond to prepared questions as well as those asked by the audience. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz.

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