City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District
scwd[2] Desalination Program

Monthly Project Update – April 2010

Earth Day 2010
The County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action, Save Our Shores, and other local non-profits and residents will host Earth Day 2010 on April 17, 2010 from 11AM to 4PM at San Lorenzo Park and Benchlands. The event will include live music, activities for kids, and educational material to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment.   Please make sure you visit the Water Conservation Booth to learn more about our water shortages, how to save water, and the scwd[2] Integrated Water Plan.

Spotlight: Water Supply Planning for the City of Santa Cruz - Past and Present
For over thirty years, the City of Santa Cruz has been pursuing a supplemental water supply to help augment their supplies during drought conditions. After numerous projects were deemed unfavorable (for environmental, engineering, or political reasons), the City Council in 1989 identified a water plan to be created that would fit this criteria:
1. Conservation would be implemented to reduce long-term water demand,
2. A supply project would be sized to augment existing supplies during a drought,
3. A supply project would not be growth-inducing
The City focused on creating a 'Water Conservation Plan' that could reduce day-to-day water use by 300 million gallons/year and a 'Use Curtailment Study' to identify additional water savings that could be achieved during drought conditions.   With these in place, the City created an "Integrated Water Plan" which includes conservation, 15% curtailment, and a small 2.5 million-gallon-per-day desalination facility that would provide water during drought conditions only.
For more information on the City's past efforts, click here.
Currently, the City and Soquel Creek Water District are jointly evaluating desalination as a supplemental supply that could be shared by both agencies. Studies (including but not limited to: the pilot program, brine dilution, energy minimization, and entrainment) and a tentative operational agreement are either underway or completed.   For more information on current work, click here.
Next month's email update will spotlight Soquel Creek Water District's water supply planning.

Upcoming Community Workshop on Conservation
We will be hosting a community workshop on conservation and our local water shortages in late May.   This will be the first in a series of workshops to inform the public about the various issues pertinent to the environmental review process. Conservation is a key component of the diversified water portfolio each agency needs to assure a sustainable water supply.   Both agencies continue their conservation efforts which have already resulted in per capita use that is less than half the State average. This workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss what

more can be done and the thresholds for mandatory rationing. Meeting specifics will be in next month's email update and on our website.

Project Information
For more information, please visit our project website at www.scwd2desal.org or call 831.475.8501 x153. Please share these updates with others. If you would like to have Project Updates emailed directly to you, please email your request to melanies@soquelcreekwater.org.

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