



## City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program

### Monthly Project Update & Latest News – August 2011

#### Surface Water Transfer Concept not an alternative to desal

At the last Santa Cruz City Council meeting on July 26, John Ricker, Water Resource Division Director for Santa Cruz County Environmental Health, presented a status report on the County's efforts to explore the feasibility of conjunctive use and surface water transfers in the northern Santa Cruz County area. "I don't see this as an alternative to desal," Ricker told the City Council. The report stated that the amount of excess winter surface water Santa Cruz could supply to Soquel Creek Water District (District) through transfers is a fraction of what is needed to restore the overdrafted conditions of the groundwater basin. While the average winter surface water available to the District could be about 340 acre-feet per year, the amount of supplemental water needed by the District is between 1,200 and 1,800 acre-feet per year. While not a near-term solution, the City and District are both in favor of this conjunctive use idea for long-term water planning and support the County's continued evaluation that will be under way.

- To view the County Status report, visit [http://www.scwd2desal.org/documents/surface\\_water/County\\_Status\\_Report\\_050511.pdf](http://www.scwd2desal.org/documents/surface_water/County_Status_Report_050511.pdf).
- To view the recent articles in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and the Santa Cruz Weekly, visit [http://www.scwd2desal.org/In\\_the\\_News\\_07-27-11a.php](http://www.scwd2desal.org/In_the_News_07-27-11a.php) and [http://scwd2desal.org/In\\_the\\_News\\_08-03-11.php](http://scwd2desal.org/In_the_News_08-03-11.php)

#### City of Santa Cruz Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Loch Lomond Reservoir

In honor of one of the most versatile and important components of the City's municipal water supply, Santa Cruz is offering 50% off admission to the Loch Lomond Recreational Area and 50% off all boat rentals from August 5-August 12. Whether you love the reservoir for its recreational offerings or for its critical role in our water supply, we can all appreciate the enhanced quality of life it has brought our community. For more information:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=36&recordid=618&returnURL=%2findex.aspx>

#### Soquel Creek Water District Breaks Ground on New Well to Aid in Redistribution of Pumping

The Soquel Creek Water District will begin construction in mid-August on the first of five production well projects identified in the District's Well Master Plan. This first project involves converting an existing irrigation well at Polo Grounds Park for municipal use. The District will not increase its use of groundwater as a result of the new wells. These wells will enable the District to address primary objectives of the 2007 Soquel Aptos Area Groundwater Management Plan, which are to more uniformly drawdown groundwater levels and better manage this resource while redistributing pumping away from coastal areas where seawater intrusion is a serious concern. The new wells will not eliminate the need to address the overall groundwater supply

shortage, which will persist until a supplemental supply is developed. Nonetheless, implementation of the Well Master Plan is an important component of the goal to secure a reliable groundwater supply for District customers by improving redundancy and flexibility in the system and improving pumping practices.

### **Energy Plan Update: Work Begins on Detailed Analysis of Potential Energy/GHG Reduction Projects**

The Technical Working Group reviewed over 45 potential projects to further evaluate in the scwd<sup>2</sup> Energy Plan that could reduce energy and greenhouse (GHG) emissions for the proposed desalination project. The 16 projects recommended by the Technical Working Group and approved by the scwd<sup>2</sup> Task Force include the following:

- Additional Water Conservation Activities
- Recycled Water Projects
- Residential/Commercial Energy Efficiency and Renewable Rebates
- Graywater Program and Rainstore Water
- Santa Cruz WWTP Energy Audit Results (Improved Mixing)
- Santa Cruz WWTP Energy Audit Results (Other Recommendations)
- Pump and Motor Efficiency Improvement Program
- Food Waste to Energy
- Renewable Purchase
- Local Solar PV Projects
- Solid Oxide Fuel Cells
- Microhydro at Graham Hill WTP
- Hydropower Project at Lake Nacimiento
- GHG Offset Purchases
- Fleet Fuel Consumption/GHG Policy
- Use Recovered CO<sub>2</sub> for RO Permeate Post-Treatment

The criteria that these projects will be evaluated for include local benefit, amount of energy produced or mitigated, technical maturity and reliability, operational complexity, environmental/community/sustainability impacts, and cost/cost effectiveness.

Monthly status updates on the Energy Study are available on our project website at [http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php#Status Reports of the Energy Study](http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php#Status_Reports_of_the_Energy_Study).

### **Inquisitive Minds Want to Know ...**

*This is an on-going section that will answer frequently asked question(s) related to the proposed desalination project and/or our local water supplies. For more FAQs, please visit the FAQs section of [www.scwd2desal.org](http://www.scwd2desal.org).*

#### **Q: Can the desalination process effectively treat ocean water when red tides occur?**

A: Yes, seawater desalination is a safe and reliable source of drinking water supply. Extensive water quality monitoring was conducted at the Santa Cruz pilot plant for 13 months from 2008 - 2009 and included removal of harmful marine algal toxins that occur with red tide events. In addition, more than 150 regulated and non-regulated water quality parameters were tested (including pathogens and emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and steroids) to ensure that the treated desalinated water could meet all local, state, and federal water quality standards. The tests showed the desalinated water met or exceeded all standards.

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