



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

Monthly Project Update – March 2009

Recent rainfall helps water supply, but conservation is still key

The recent storms have brought the much-awaited rainfall and snow to a thirsty California; however it's still too early to determine if enough water will provide adequate water supplies for summer demands. The Santa Cruz Water Department (SCWD) still expects certain water restrictions may be needed in 2009 given the uncertainty about how well the San Lorenzo River and Coastal streams will flow into the summer. Rain or no rain, SCWD and Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) continue to encourage their users to maximize their conservation efforts and take advantage of the numerous conservation programs, incentives, and rebates available. Free water surveys are available through both agencies whereby a water conservation specialist will make a house-call to evaluate your water use (indoor and outdoor) and give site-specific recommendations to help you save water and money. For more information please call the City of Santa Cruz Conservation Department at 831.420.5230 or the Soquel Creek Water District at 831.475.8500.

scwd² Seawater Desalination Pilot Plant scheduled to close April 2009

After 13 months of operation, the scwd² Seawater Desalination Pilot Plant at UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory will complete testing and conclude operation in April 2009. Water quality and operational data will be used to prepare a final report of the Pilot Plant Project and shall include design recommendations for a potential full-scale desalination plant. If you haven't had the opportunity to tour the plant or taste the water, please sign-up for a tour (see below) or visit one of the three locations that have desalinated water for sampling: Pilot Plant Building (Long Marine Laboratory next to the blue whale skeleton), SqCWD Office (5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel), and SCWD Office (212 Locust St., Santa Cruz).

Next Pilot Plant Tour is scheduled for March 11, 2009

The next public tour of the Seawater Desalination Pilot Plant at UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at 10 a.m. Space is limited for this free tour. Please call 831.475.8501 x153 for more information or visit www.scwd2desal.org.

Intake Studies to begin in Spring 2009

As the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District evaluate a potential full-scale Seawater Desalination Plant a series of important studies for the intake system will be conducted this Spring. These studies include:

- The Entrainment Study and Impact Assessment- to address marine life issues with the proposed open-ocean intake system which has been identified as an abandoned 36" wastewater treatment plant outfall pipeline.

- The Offshore Geophysical Survey – to investigate whether favorable geology exists to construct subsurface wells as a possible intake system and to survey a possible offshore alluvial basin.

Integrated Water Plan and Desalination Program Informational Meeting on April 22, 2009

Mark your calendar for the Informational Meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Seymour Center. Representatives from the City of Santa Cruz, Soquel Creek Water District and Camp Dresser McKee will make presentations on the Integrated Water Plan and discuss the preliminary findings of the Desalination Pilot Plant Project. There will also be an opportunity for Q/A with the panel. More information is available at www.scwd2desal.org.

Project Information

For more information, please visit our project Website at www.scwd2desal.org or call 831.475.8501 x153. These monthly project updates will be emailed on the first Wednesday of the month. 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.

Melanie Mow Schumacher, PE
Soquel Creek Water District
scwd² Public Information Coordinator
831.475.8501 ext 153
melanies@soquelcreekwater.org

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