



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

Monthly Project Update – March 2012

Proposed scwd² Desalination Project Will Be Net Carbon Neutral

Last month, the Santa Cruz City Council and Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors both unanimously approved staff's recommendation that the project be designed and operated to be net carbon neutral. This means that adding desalination to the local water supply portfolio would not result in any more indirect greenhouse gas generation than the 2010 levels associated with existing surface and groundwater production and treatment. Projects that could be implemented to reduce carbon emissions may include on-site design features such as solar panels, energy efficiency pumps and recovery devices, and green building features to reduce the energy requirements.

Over the last 10 months, the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District have embarked on an Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study (Energy Study) to thoroughly evaluate energy and indirect greenhouse gases associated with proposed desalination project. A technical working group, including local professionals, experts and practitioners in the water and energy fields, helped develop a list of potential projects and programs to reduce the proposed project's carbon footprint.

For more information, visit www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php

City of Santa Cruz's Ordinance for Voter Approval of Desalination Plant for 2014

At the February 28th City Council Meeting, an ordinance was introduced that would require the City to seek voter approval for the proposed desalination plant.

The "Desalination Plant-Voter Approval" ordinance will require the City Council to submit the question of whether the City will construct a desalination plant to City voters prior to the time the City Council takes any legislative action. The vote would take place at either a regularly scheduled statewide or general municipal election and not before June 2014. The ordinance requires environmental review of the desalination project to be completed prior to the vote and does not prohibit the City from appropriating the funds necessary to undertake environmental studies or to otherwise continue to analyze the proposed desalination plant's construction, operation, costs and financing.

There is currently an effort underway by some community members to gather signatures for a November 2012 ballot measure that would ask voters to amend the

Santa Cruz City Charter to ensure that the City Council does not approve, permit or fund a desalination project without voter approval. If passed, there would then be a second vote no sooner than June 2014 very similar in nature to the ballot measure described in the Council's current proposed ordinance discussed above.

The City's proposed ordinance would eliminate the need and associated costs of conducting two separate elections and does provide for a vote by City residents in a regular election regarding whether a desalination plant is to be constructed. City officials are also discussing options on how non-City water customers could weigh-in and vote on the proposed project.

At its regular meeting of March 13, City Council will conduct a second reading of this proposed ordinance for possible adoption.

You received this email because your email address has been entered into the email distribution list of individuals who are interested in the Integrated Water Plan and **scwd**² Desalination Program. If you do not wish to receive emailed updates, you may unsubscribe by emailing melanies@soquelcreekwater.org and typing "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

****Please consider the environment before printing this email. ****

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG