



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

Monthly Project Update & Latest News– May 2011

Conserving Resources Essential to Water Agencies' Mission

The City of Santa Cruz Water Department (City) and the Soquel Creek Water District (District) are committed to conserving and protecting our community's natural resources and that commitment is an essential guiding principle in their joint effort to provide a safe and reliable water supply for their customers.

The City and District have spent more than 20 years evaluating the water supply and demand for the communities they serve. They have implemented extensive conservation programs and evaluated numerous alternatives to enhance their water supplies. The proposed desalination facility that is currently being evaluated would supply potable water to supplement each agency's existing potable water sources and complement their conservation programs and curtailment strategies. The agencies are committed to these resource conservation measures:

* **Drought Strategies:** Both agencies have curtailment strategies in place. During a drought, each agency would enforce use-curtailment strategies aimed at reducing the amount of additional supply needed.

* **Studying Energy Use:** An Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Study will evaluate the energy use and carbon emissions that would result from the proposed project. In addition to carbon offsets and renewable energy credits, the evaluation will also include numerous GHG offset projects to help each agency rank and select offset projects.

* **Continued Conservation:** Additional conservation measures are being evaluated to be included in the robust Conservation Programs overseen by both agencies. Conservation and a supplemental supply are priority programs to protect the environment and our community.

* **Alternative Sources:** The City and District support potential water exchange programs between neighboring water agencies for long-term regional solutions. This type of project, however, does not eliminate the short-term need for supplemental water supply and is not considered a feasible replacement project for desalination.

* **Thorough Environmental Review:** The City and the District are conducting a thorough environmental evaluation of the project and await the completion of other studies and the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prior to making any decision on the construction of the proposed project.

Plenty of Ways to Get Information on Proposed Project

The proposed desalination project is one of the most significant projects undertaken by both the City of Santa Cruz (City) and Soquel Creek Water District (District) in many years and the agencies are dedicated to an open and transparent process. There are numerous resources available to individuals who want more information about the proposed project. Monthly email updates, the scwd2desal.org website, community meetings, and information handouts are just a few of the outreach methods being used to ensure that the community has easy access to learn

about the integrated water plans and the proposed desalination project. The City and District appreciate the community's interest and input and look forward to the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will help inform the decision making process.

Energy White Paper Available on www.scwd2desal.org Website

As stated in the April 2011 email update, the Energy White Paper is now available. For more information on the Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study that is underway or the Energy White Paper visit www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SCWD2DESAL.ORG