



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

Monthly Project Update –May 2009

15% Water Restrictions from May 1-October 31, 2009

The City of Santa Cruz Water Department, as a result of a third year of below normal rainfall, has declared a **Stage 2 - Water Shortage Warning**, with the overall goal of reducing water use by 15%. The **mandatory** water restrictions primarily affect outdoor water use and apply to all customers, including residential, commercial and public landscapes. For more information on the City of Santa Cruz's water restrictions, click [here](#).

Soquel Creek Water District has issued a **Precautionary Drought Curtailment** and implemented a **voluntary** 15% curtailment with the goal of achieving a 15% use reduction from May – October. Customers are encouraged to conserve water during these months. For more information on Soquel Creek Water District's water curtailment, click [here](#).

scwd² Seawater Desalination Pilot Plant completes testing.....what's next?

We received quite a bit of media coverage as we completed testing at the pilot plant. For a list of recent articles, click [here](#). From these articles, I've gotten a few phone calls and emails with questions that I'd like to answer for everyone's benefit.

1. Q: Why not keep the pilot plant running and distribute the water to the City of Santa Cruz Water customers?
A: There are several reasons why the pilot plant has closed.
 - a. First, the pilot plant project was for testing and research only. This was a small-scale facility (average production was 25 gallons per minute) that was testing four types of pre-treatment techniques and was not designed to be operated for a long-term period.
 - b. Second, the water agencies cannot distribute the water produced from the pilot plant into the existing water supply until it is permitted by the CA Department of Public Health.
 - c. And third, the City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District are leasing the land and the use of the seawater intake from the University of California, Santa Cruz with the agreement that the pilot plant was a temporary project.
2. Q: What kind of information will come from the Pilot Plant Project? When?
A: A report, which will include the findings from the pilot plant investigations as well as design recommendations for the potential full-scale plant, should be available by summer of 2009 and will be made available to the public from our website.
3. Q: Are there other studies being conducted?
A: We are currently conducting other studies to help evaluate the engineering feasibility and design concepts for the intake, energy, and brine discharge of the

potential full scale plant. The process of addressing the environmental impacts for a full-scale plant is scheduled to begin in fall of 2009.

Community Television of Santa Cruz presents 'Integrated Water Plan & Understanding Desalination'

A 12-minute video was recently produced by Community Television of Santa Cruz and aired on the local TV channels (Comcast 26/27 and Charter 71/72) during the month of April. "Integrated Water Plan and Understanding Desalination" focuses on the water supply issues for the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District. The video is available for view on-line at the [scwd2desal.org website](http://scwd2desal.org) or [Community TV's website](#).

Presentations are available from the Integrated Water Plan and Desalination Program Informational Meeting

Copies of the presentations from the April 22nd Informational Meeting are now available 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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