



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

Monthly Project Update & Latest News – November 2011

City Council's Study Session on Updated Water Planning

The Santa Cruz City Council held a special study session last night to review updates to the Integrated Water Plan that was adopted in 2005. The session provided extensive background information on the history of our water shortages and factors that have led to evaluating desalination as a preferred alternative for supplementing our water supply in the future. Presentations were also made by two community groups, SC Desal Alternatives and Sustainable Water Coalition, and comments were heard by over 20 citizens and agency representatives. The primary points on the updated water plan presented by City staff included:

- Updated Supply and Demand Projections: While water demand projections were reduced, supply projections were also reduced to account for additional surface water to be left in streams and rivers to protect threatened and endangered species and less available groundwater.
- The City has sufficient water supply available in normal years to meet its present and future needs.
- In multiple dry years, available supplies fall substantially short of system demands, both now and into the future.
- During peak season shortages similar to 1976-1977 drought conditions, the City could face water shortages in the magnitude of 37-42%. This is based on the anticipated minimum flows that regulators are expected to establish to protect threatened/endangered species.
- Updating the Water Plan with current information reaffirms the need for a supplemental supply.

A video of this informative study session will soon be available on our project website at www.scwd2desal.org.

City's Urban Water Management Plan- Upcoming Schedule for Public Hearing and Adoption

The City of Santa Cruz (City) released its Draft 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in late September 2011. All California water suppliers that serve more than 3,000 service connections or 3,000 acre-feet per year are required to prepare this document every five years. To access the document on-line and receive information on how to submit public comments, visit

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=36&recordid=697&returnURL=%2fin dex.aspx%3fpage%3d54> Copies are also available via hard copy for review at the Water Department's office ((212 Locust Street, Santa Cruz) and at the Central Library (224 Church Street, Santa Cruz).

The City's review and approval process for its [2010 UWMP](#) is as follows:

- November 7, 2011- Review UWMP at Water Commission Meeting
- November 22, 2011- Public Hearing on UWMP at City Council Meeting
- December 13, 2011- Consider adoption of UWMP at City Council Meeting

Mark Your Calendar! December 8th is the Upcoming Community Meeting on Energy and GHGs related to Desalination

An informational community meeting on "Desalination: Energy Use and Greenhouse Gases" is scheduled for December 8, 2011 at Live Oak School , 1916 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, from 6 to 8 pm.

Come to this community meeting to learn:

- Why water is a critical issue and how supply shortfalls affect the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District
- How both agencies are assessing the projected energy requirements and ways to minimize energy and reduce the carbon footprint for the proposed project.
- How a Technical Working Group comprised of local representatives and technical experts reviewed potential energy/greenhouse gas reduction projects.

Presentations will be given by Heidi Luckenbach (scwd² Desalination Program Coordinator, City of Santa Cruz), Susie O'Hara (Assistant Engineer, City of Santa Cruz), Todd Reynolds (Senior Engineer, Kennedy/Jenks Consultant), and James Barsimantov (Technical Working Group Member and Principal of Ecoshift Consulting). A question and answer session will follow the presentations. For more information on this meeting, please check the www.scwd2desal.org website.

Inquisitive Minds Want to Know ...

This is an ongoing section that will answer frequently asked questions related to the proposed desalination project and/or our local water supplies. For more FAQs, please visit the FAQs section of www.scwd2desal.org.

Q: Why does the City of Santa Cruz need a supplemental supply if droughts are a rare occurrence?

A: The mission of the City's Water Department is to provide a safe, clean, and continuous supply of water for municipal and fire protection purposes. While drought conditions may be a rare occurrence, it's the City's charge to plan for emergencies and catastrophes such that the impacts are minimized to not jeopardize the community. Responsible water planning includes protection of water service for all customers, including residents, businesses, schools, parks and other recreational uses. To be ill-equipped to provide water during a drought season, especially for a town

whose vitality is dependent on summertime tourists, could be detrimental and puts the City at risk of failing to meet the basic health and safety needs of its customers.

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