



## City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program

### Monthly Project Update & Latest News – October 2011

#### City of Santa Cruz Water Department Releases Draft 2010 Urban Water Management Plan

The City of Santa Cruz (City) recently released its Draft 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). This plan, which is required of California water suppliers that serve more than 3,000 service connections or 3,000 acre-feet per year, was developed by City Staff and is an update to the previously adopted 2005 UWMP.

The [draft 2010 UWMP](#) was reviewed at the October 3, 2011 Water Commission Meeting and includes:

- A description of the City's water service area, including current and projected population through the year 2030 and other factors affecting water management planning
- Existing and planned sources of water supply
- Past, current, and projected water use
- An assessment of forecasted water supplies and demands during normal, dry and multiple dry water years to ensure water supply reliability
- A description of the measures to promote water conservation and efficient use
- A summary of the City's water shortage contingency plan
- The plan also details new state requirements to establish baseline daily per capita water use and calculate future water use targets.

Copies of the City's Draft 2010 Urban Water Management Plan are available for public review at the Water Department office (212 Locust Street, Santa Cruz), at the Central Library (224 Church Street, Santa Cruz), and on-line. To access the on-line draft 2010 UWMP and get more information on how to submit comments, <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=36&recordid=697&returnURL=%2fin dex.aspx%3fpage%3d54>

Interested members of the public and local businesses are encouraged to provide comments to the City of Santa Cruz and participate in the plan review process. The Water Commission will continue its review of the UWMP at its November 7 meeting. Upon completion of the Water Commission review, a public hearing will be held before the City Council to receive comments on the Draft 2010 UWMP. Following the public

hearing, the City Council will consider adoption of the 2010 UWMP, which will then be filed with the California Department of Water Resources.

In similar news, Soquel Creek Water District's 2010 UWMP was adopted by the District's Board of Directors on September 20, 2011. The final report will be posted this month on the District's website at [www.soquelcreekwater.org](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org).

### **Links to Recent Opinions on the Proposed Desalination Project**

While it has been standard practice to primarily focus these email updates on information, studies, and status updates related to the **scwd**<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program, there are also the many opinions by community members on the proposed desalination project. The **scwd**<sup>2</sup> project website includes both media [articles](#) and [opinion pieces](#) related to the desal project. Here are a few of the most recent pieces:

- \* [Letter to the Editor: Energy an issue in desal debate](#) (P. Brown, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 10/1/2011)
- \* [A Few Thoughts on the Local Desalination Debate](#) (D. Lane, Santa Cruz Patch, 9/30/2011)
- \* [Letter to the Editor: Desal debate would be good](#), (J. Bentley, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 9/28/2011)
- \* [Letter to the Editor: People in glass houses...](#), (M. Rotkin, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 9/27/2011)
- \* [Letter to the Editor: Desal discussion needs to end](#) (R. Kaiser, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 9/27/2011)

We encourage the public to stay engaged in this public process as we continue to evaluate desalination.

### **Energy Plan Update: Detailed Assessments of Potential Energy/GHG Reduction Projects Available on our Website**

The [project assessments](#) (PAs) for each of the 16 potential energy/greenhouse gas reduction projects have been prepared and will be available on the **scwd**<sup>2</sup> website at <http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php#PAs> by the end of the week. These draft PAs are currently under review by our Energy Study Technical Working Group and the **scwd**<sup>2</sup> Task force.

Discussion on the draft PAs is scheduled for the October 19 Task Force meeting.

### **Upcoming Community Meeting**

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. More information will be forthcoming in next month's email update.

For more information, please visit <http://www.scwd2desal.org/Page-Energy.php>

### **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](http://www.scwd2desal.org).*

**Q: If Soquel Creek Water District has a Water Demand Offset Program, why do they still need a supplemental supply?**

A: To avoid exacerbating groundwater overdraft during the interim before a supplemental supply is available, the District implemented a Water Demand Offset Program (also known as a “water neutral development policy”) in August 2003. This policy requires applicants for new water service to offset projected water use of the proposed development by retrofitting existing properties with water efficient devices. The most cost/beneficial retrofit has been replacing older toilets with high efficiency models. With the recession significantly lowering the number of new service connections, the District completed the toilet retrofits for customers who had signed up for the program. These credits are now banked and available for purchase by developers. The current bank is over 30 acre-feet and would meet the offset requirements for approximately 120 new single family homes. The water demand offset program is not an alternative to developing a supplemental supply for these reasons: 1) Even at 100% build out, there could not be enough water neutral development to close the existing gap between sustainable groundwater supply and current demand; 2) The amount of water saved through retrofits is limited based on what can be effectively done to permanently reduce water needs of existing customers; 3) The Water Demand Offset program is not a supply alternative, it merely accelerates conservation that would otherwise occur. The District has already planned for continued conservation in its demand projections and assumes that total demand in 2030 will be less than today. Nonetheless, in the absence of a significant supplemental supply with a reliable yield of approximately 1,500-2,000 acre-feet per year, groundwater overdraft would persist which would eventually lead to seawater intrusion.

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