

Why Desalination is Being Studied

The City of Santa Cruz (City) and the Soquel Creek Water District (District) have both been evaluating a new supplemental water supply for more than 20 years. Both have independently developed long-range water plans that propose conservation, curtailment during droughts, and desalination to provide water during droughts, reduce reliance on an overdrafted groundwater supply, and protect fish and other threatened species.

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The City and District formed the **scwd**² Desalination Program Task Force to jointly evaluate a regional 2.5 million gallon per day (mgd) desalination project that could be shared by both agencies.

The Purpose of the EIR Process

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed **scwd**² Regional Seawater Desalination Project will be a thorough environmental review mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the project EIR is to identify and evaluate the significant effects of the project on the environment, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate how and whether the significant effects can be mitigated or avoided. This will ensure that the governing bodies and permitting agencies consider any potential environmental impacts during the decision making process.

The Draft EIR will include analysis of the following topics:

- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Marine Biological Resources
- Terrestrial Biological Resources
- Land Use, Planning, and Recreation
- Air Quality and Climate
- Noise and Vibration
- Geology and Soils
- Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Aesthetics
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Traffic and Transportation
- Growth Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts

During the public comment period, the public has the opportunity to submit formal comments on the report. The EIR project team will respond to comments submitted during the public review period and make any necessary revisions during preparation of the Final EIR. Upon completion of the Final EIR the Santa Cruz City Council and the Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors will consider certification of the EIR. If certified, the City and District may consider a proposed project for conditional approval, subject to a vote of the City of Santa Cruz electorate*.



*Officials are also considering ways to involve District and non-City customers in the decision making process.

Draft EIR and Community Guide

The Draft EIR will be available on the **scwd²** website at www.scwd2desal.org. Copies will also be available for review at local public libraries and the Santa Cruz Water Department and the Soquel Creek Water District offices.

A *Community Guide to the EIR* will also be made available that will provide a summary of the key sections including, but not limited to, the purpose and need for the proposed project, the environmental effects of the proposed project, and the proposed alternatives.

The EIR identifies and evaluates environmental impacts, identifies mitigation measures, and evaluates potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed project.

2008-2012

Technical Studies

- Community meetings held

December 2010

Scoping Comment Period

- Public input received on what should be studied in EIR

May-July 2013

Draft EIR Comment Period

- Public input at meetings (June 3)
- Written comments* accepted by email and mail

Early 2014

Consider EIR Certification

- Hearings scheduled by governing bodies to consider certification of Final EIR

November 2010

Notice of Preparation (NOP)

- Community meetings held

Spring 2013

Draft EIR Released

- Electronic copies available online
- Hard copies available at the City and District offices and local libraries

Late 2013

Final EIR

- Final document refined based on comments and includes responses to public comments

2014

Agencies' Decision

- City and District may consider conditional approval, subject to a vote of City of Santa Cruz residents

*Written comments can be submitted to:

Mail: Heidi Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator
City of Santa Cruz, Water Department
212 Locust Street, Suite C
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Email: hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.com

How to Participate in the EIR Process

The community's participation is an important part of the Draft EIR review process and is crucial to a thorough review of the proposed project.

A 60-day public comment period will allow the public and public agencies to submit written comments. The public will also have the opportunity to submit oral and written comments during a public hearing the Draft EIR. Two public hearings will be held (one in the District's service area and one in the City's service area) on Monday, June 3, 2013. For meeting details, visit www.scwd2desal.org.

Written and oral comments carry equal weight in the final EIR.

How To Learn More

Visit the **scwd²** Regional Seawater Desalination Program website at www.scwd2desal.org to learn more about the proposed project. You will find Frequently Asked Questions, fact sheets, white papers, and a library of project reports including the Draft EIR and supporting technical documents.



For More Information, Contact:

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More information is available at:

www.scwd2desal.org

Esta información está disponible en español.
Por favor llame al (831) 475-8500.