

OUR WATER FUTURE:

Reliable water to sustain our quality of life,
economy, and the environment

The City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District are both facing water shortage issues that will have an impact on their communities. Water shortages due to drought conditions, the threat of seawater intrusion, and leaving more water to protect fish and other endangered species have resulted in inadequate supplies to meet current and future needs. Both agencies also forecast additional shortages due to climate change and stricter water quality regulations.

After decades of evaluating various supplemental supply options, the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District both focused on an integrated water planning approach to diversify their water supply portfolios. The Water Plan for both agencies includes robust conservation, curtailment during droughts, and a supplemental supply. Seawater desalination has been selected to further evaluate as a supplemental supply and since 2007, various technical studies have been conducted to help inform the environmental review process and to inform the community.

The proposed project is a 2.5 million gallon per day seawater desalination facility that will be shared by both agencies.

A draft Environmental Impact Report will be released in early 2013 and public participation is encouraged.



Have you been asking yourself one of these questions?

- What is desalination?
- Has a decision been made on the project?
- How much will it cost?
- What projects have already been considered?
- How will the desalinated water be shared by both agencies?
- When could the project be on-line and operational?
- What are the environmental impacts?
- What are the design features that will make the project net-carbon neutral?
- What could the impacts be if we don't have a supplemental supply?

Is your group, organization or classroom is interested in learning more?

Presentations are now being offered to local groups and can be tailored to meet your needs.

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