

How to reach us

If you have questions, comments or would like more information on water issues, please contact us or visit our web site.

TEL: (831) 475-8500
FAX: (831) 475-4291
EMAIL: custserv@soquelcreekwater.org
MAIL TO: P.O. Box 1550
Capitola, CA 95010
WEB SITE: www.SoquelCreekWater.org
www.WaterSavingTips.org

Soquel Creek Water District is a non-profit, local government agency with a locally elected Board of Directors. The District provides water supply and water resource management to more than 45,000 customers within a 17-square mile area of mid-Santa Cruz County.

The Board of Directors meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the District's office at 5180 Soquel Drive. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting.

Board of Directors
Bruce Daniels, *President*
Dr. Thomas LaHue, *Vice President*
Dr. Don Hoernschemeyer
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
Daniel F. Kriege

Laura D. Brown, *General Manager*

What's on Tap is an in-house publication printed bi-monthly for the customers of the District. Forward your comments to the editor at the address above.



Anywhere, anytime. New online BillPay

Paying bills can be a time-consuming chore, but we're making it easier. Currently, there are a number of ways to pay your water bill: send a check by mail, call and pay by credit card, make a payment in our office, or enroll in our Auto Pay program and have your water bills paid through your checking account or charged to your credit card automatically. If none of these methods appeal to you, you can now log onto our web site (www.soquelcreekwater.org) and pay your bill online.

What's great about this program?

- ◆ It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – pay when it's convenient for you.
- ◆ Email notification when your bill is ready.
- ◆ There is no fee.
- ◆ Next day processing when

you pay before 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- ◆ You can opt to go green and stop paper bills.*
- ◆ You can still make payments using any of the methods noted above. (*Your online history only reflects online payments.*)
- ◆ You can reset your user name and password at any time.
- ◆ Your personal information is encrypted and safeguarded by database security as well as other firewall and intrusion protections.
- ◆ Your personal information will never be shared with anyone else.
- ◆ You may cancel your enrollment in the program at any time.
- ◆ The program links to our customer service

department so that you can ask questions or give us feedback.

If you are a new customer, you must have received one billing statement before enrolling in Online BillPay.

** Going paperless means you'll miss the **What's On Tap** newsletter, but you can read it online on our home page. Or, send us an e-mail at custserv@soquelcreekwater.org or call 475-8501 ext. 118 to be put on our mailing list.*



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

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January/February 2008

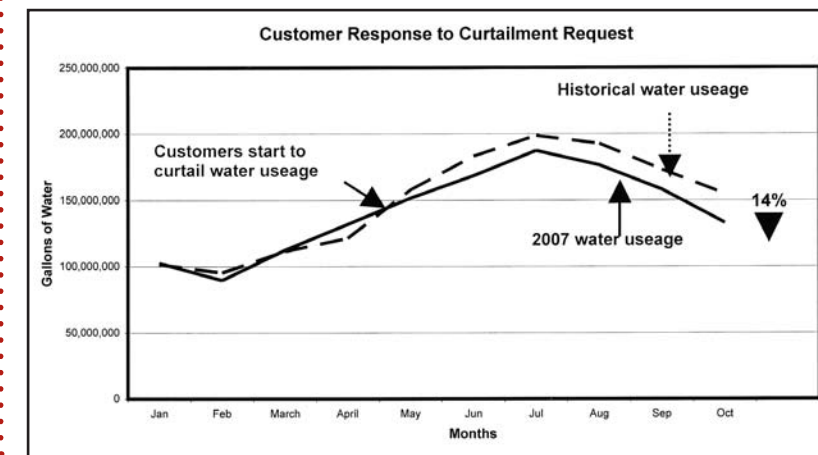
Customers respond to drought curtailment request

District customers are doing their part to conserve water during this dry period. While it is always important to conserve water due to our limited groundwater supplies, it is especially critical during these dry times.

As noted on the graph, water consumption in the early Spring (April) was starting to exceed what had been used historically during the past four years. The increased consumption combined with dry weather conditions prompted District officials to enact precautionary drought curtailment actions.

Customers were asked in May to voluntarily reduce water usage by 10 to 15 percent. As noted in the graph, that is exactly when consumption started steadily decreasing and culminated in a 14 percent savings in the month of October.

The District can only manage the water supply with the support of its customers. You have risen to the occasion and shown again that you are stewards of our local water resources. Thank you, and please continue to be water conscious.



Pass the salt, please!

Soquel Creek & Santa Cruz water agencies begin testing at desalination pilot plant

With limited potable water supplies, ocean desalination may prove to be the answer for preserving groundwater aquifers and protecting against drought. Desalination is a water treatment process proven to remove salts from water.

The District and the City of Santa Cruz are evaluating

desalinated water as a potential future source of supply by conducting a pilot study. We're calling this joint venture scwd² because the two agencies share the same initials.

A pilot test plant, constructed at the Seymour Discovery Center at the UCSC Long Marine Lab, is evaluating the latest in water purifying

technology on local seawater.

The plant will operate through at least December 2008.

The pilot test program is required by the California Department of Public Health to determine the most practical and optimal design before a full-scale desalination plant may be permitted. New advances in desalination technology produce high-quality water at much lower capital and operational cost and with significantly less energy than old technologies.

Funding for the pilot plant project and related studies is jointly shared by the City of Santa Cruz and the District.

Over \$2.6 million of state grant money has also been awarded for this project. Watch for

announcements of docent-led public tours of the desalination pilot plant in early 2008.

Benefits and challenges of desalination

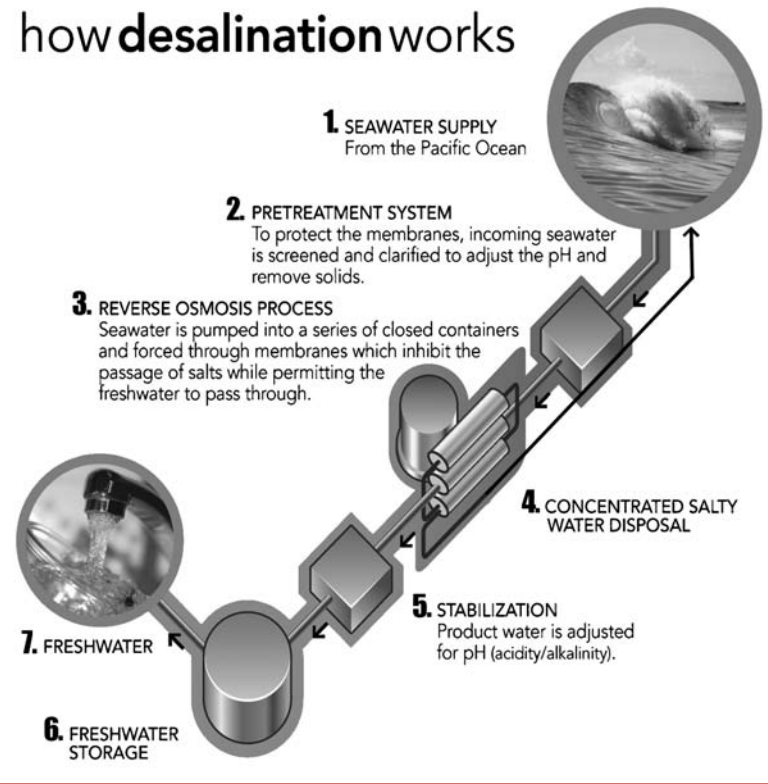
A full-scale desalination plant that could produce up to 2.5 million gallons of drinking water per day will depend on successful completion of the pilot program, technical review of the data collected, and environmental approval and permitting.

Additional studies will investigate the location and design of the proposed full-scale plant's ocean water intake system and focus on water quality, biological issues, and energy requirements to ensure that the plant would not have an adverse impact on the environment.

Benefits

- ◆ Provides needed water supply during droughts

how desalination works



- ◆ Protects underground water aquifers from seawater intrusion
- ◆ Provides a reliable and flexible source of water
- ◆ Protects public health, safety and the economy

Challenges

- ◆ Ensure safe disposal of concentrated salty water

- ◆ Prevent injury to marine life at seawater intake pipes
- ◆ Offset greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ Effectively manage capital and operational costs
- ◆ Prevent growth-inducing impacts



A joint pilot desalination plant nears completion at the UCSC Long Marine Lab. The plant will evaluate desalinated water as a potential future source of supply for the City of Santa Cruz and the District.

Droplets

Teachers in the District's service area can take advantage of free educational materials and presentations offered by the District.

New this year is an activity book on local fresh water resources titled, *Our Water Works in Santa Cruz County*. It's aligned to fifth and sixth grade standards, but anyone can stop by the District office and pick up a copy to learn more about our local resources.

Grade appropriate presentations are also available for schools in the District's service area. Visit our website or call the water education coordinator for more information.