

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.

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Soquel, CA 95073-0158
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www.WaterSavingTips.org

Soquel Creek Water District is a nonprofit, 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 meet 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

Daniel F. Kriege, *President*
John W. Beebe, *Vice President*
Bruce Daniels
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
Dr. Thomas LaHue

Laura D. Brown, *General Manager*

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

Christopher J. Regan, *Editor*



What's in the Water?

Answers to questions about water quality.

What's in the Water is a regular feature in *What's on Tap* that gives you information about the District's water supply. In this issue, we look at "lead and copper."

How does lead and copper get in your water?

The District's water does not contain lead or copper; however, lead and copper can leach into your water from building plumbing systems. Homes built with copper plumbing and lead solder before 1985 are considered high risk. Brass fixtures such as faucets, regardless of age, also generally contain some lead and can be a source of lead in newer homes.

As a result of materials used in your home's plumbing, it is possible that lead levels at your

home may be higher than at other homes in the community.

What you can do about it?

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Or simply let the water run for a few seconds—or until cold to the touch—before drinking it.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). ♦

"Winning with conservation"
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Second place went to fourth grader Léna Garcia, Soquel Elementary, for her poster *To Conserve or Not to Conserve*, which put a new twist on the age-old question. Third place went to Velva Childress, a fifth grader from Main Street Elementary, for her poster *Please Use What You Need*.

Special recognition for Most Creative Conservation Message went to Robyn Roberts, a fifth grader at Mar Vista Elementary, for her poster *Get a Grip, Save a Drip*. And, the prize for the Most Artistic was awarded to Emilee Mullin, a fifth grader from Capitola Elementary for her poster *Saving Water?*

Visit the District's web site at www.SoquelCreekWater.org to view the winning posters and be inspired to conserve. ♦



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 5, No. 4

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July/August 2003

Winning with water conservation

Elementary school students get creative with water conservation message

Congratulations to Chelsea Carver, a fifth grader from Mar Vista Elementary School, who won first place in the District's annual Water Awareness Month Water Conservation Poster Contest. Chelsea's informative

and artistic poster entitled *Save Water* depicted how important water is to the environment around us. The contest received a record number of entries this year.

"Judges had a difficult time deciding on the winners, since there were so many great entries," said Vaidehi Campbell, the District's water education specialist. "However, five posters really stood out for their clever conservation messages and colorful artwork." Winners were awarded trophies, certificates, and savings bonds.

"Winning with conservation"
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Pictured from left to right are: Emilee Mullin, Capitola Elementary; Robyn Roberts, Mar Vista Elementary; Léna Garcia, Soquel Elementary; and Chelsea Carver, Mar Vista Elementary.

New County ordinance requires installation of low-flow fixtures at change of ownership

The County of Santa Cruz has adopted a water conservation ordinance to help meet Santa Cruz County's water supply challenge.

The ordinance requires that all residential, commercial and industrial buildings, prior to a change of ownership, be certified as having low water use plumbing fixtures in place.

Because the Soquel Creek Water District's boundaries lie

within the County's jurisdiction, District customers residing in the unincorporated area of the County are affected by this ordinance. A similar ordinance is being considered by the City of Capitola.

The County's ordinance has the potential to save millions of gallons of water per year. In addition, it will help restore balance to the natural systems which provide our water supply.

The installation of water saving showerheads and toilets before the sale of property will result not only in a substantial savings of water and energy, but also reduce the burden on septic tanks and sewer systems.

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addition, it will help restore balance to the natural systems which provide our water supply.

For more information on the County's ordinance, visit the "Water Conservation" link on the County website at: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us or call (831) 454-2160. ♦

What fixtures qualify as water conservation devices?

Water conservation fixtures are 2.5-gallon per minute or less showerheads and 1.6-gallon per flush toilets. Installing a showerhead flow restrictor or toilet tank displacement device does not qualify. ♦

New program offers free water use efficiency house calls



Find out if your home or business is water tight!

Are you concerned about high water bills? Would you like to use less water? The Soquel Creek Water District can help you use water more efficiently, both indoors and out. How? With the District's new Water Tight, Water Right, Water Use Efficiency Survey.

This exciting **FREE** program offers District customers customized water efficiency tips, leak identification, and irrigation advice. Trained surveyors will come to your home or place of business to check for leaks, install water saving devices and recommend waterwise changes to help you save money and water.

During the survey, we'll:

- ♦ Measure your showerhead flow rates and install free showerheads.
- ♦ Measure faucet flow rates and provide faucet aerators for kitchens and bathrooms.
- ♦ Check your toilet for leaks and install tank displacement devices, if needed.
- ♦ Evaluate the efficiency of your irrigation system.
- ♦ Provide you with a personalized irrigation schedule, if appropriate.
- ♦ Identify irrigation leaks, broken or mismatched sprinkler heads, high pressure and other common problems.
- ♦ Provide water conservation materials and waterwise landscaping tips.

Why should you participate?

- ♦ Our surveyors are often able to identify simple measures that can result in significant cost savings on your water bill.
 - ♦ Toilet water use can be cut by 10-15 percent with a toilet tank fill cycle diverter and displacement bag.
 - ♦ Faucet water use can be cut by up to 50 percent with a low-flow faucet aerator.
 - ♦ Shower water use can be cut by up to 50 percent with a low-flow showerhead.
- Plus, it's **FREE-OF-CHARGE** to District customers.

How do you sign up?

- ♦ Call the District at (831) 475-8500 and ask to schedule a Water Use Efficiency Survey. ♦

DROPLETS

District Web Site Updated

If you haven't checked out our web site lately, you're missing out on a valuable resource. Visit the site to get information on:

- ♦ The District in General
- ♦ Water Supply Issues
- ♦ Water Quality Issues
- ♦ Board Meetings
- ♦ Billing Policies
- ♦ Rates and Charges
- ♦ Conservation Programs
- ♦ Rebate Programs
- ♦ Employment Opportunities
- ♦ Newsletters
- ♦ District Reports
- ♦ School Programs
- ♦ Construction Projects
- ♦ Useful Links

While you're there, bookmark it. We are constantly updating information. ♦

www.soquelcreekwater.org