

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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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 bimonthly for the customers of the District. Forward your comments to the editor at the address above.



Assistant General Manager Stevens retires

The District bid a fond farewell to Bob Stevens, assistant general manager/ financial and business services manager (*pictured below*), who retired after almost 20 years of service. Under his leadership, the District earned an A+ bond rating. Stevens promoted a culture of exemplary service and brought automated systems and streamlined processes to the District, increasing efficiency without increasing staff.



Michelle Boisen, the District's supervising accountant for the past 5 years, succeeds Stevens as financial and business services manager. Her integrity, ethics and "can do" attitude made Boisen a logical choice to follow in Stevens' footsteps.

In 2007, the District also lost an additional 80 years of combined experience with the retirement of three employees.

Tom Guyer, operations supervisor – 27 years. Guyer was instrumental in integrating complex electrical systems, control devices, radio, and computer programming systems into a single system called SCADA that operates our water system remotely.

Daniel Steingrube, water quality technician/storekeeper – 28 years. Steingrube provided conscientious and thorough oversight of water quality and treatment monitoring.

Lois Blair, account clerk – 25 years. Blair was responsible for the District's accounts receivables, payables, and payroll. She helped usher in use of the computer at the District, remembering the days of doing tasks on hand written ledgers.



ON TAP

What's
At the Soquel Creek Water District

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March/April 2008

Satellite reclamation project could provide irrigation water

The State Water Resources Control Board has awarded the District a \$75,000 grant to study the feasibility of constructing and operating a Satellite Reclamation Plant. The concept is to divert wastewater from the sewer system for treatment to provide recycled water for large-scale irrigation.

Seascope Golf Course, Seascope Resort, and Seascope Greens have been pre-selected as potential candidates due to their close proximity to a large sewer main along Sumner Avenue in Aptos.

The study will take approximately 12 months and evaluate the economic and environmental factors, as well as customer interest, to produce and deliver recycled water within the District.

The District's long-term

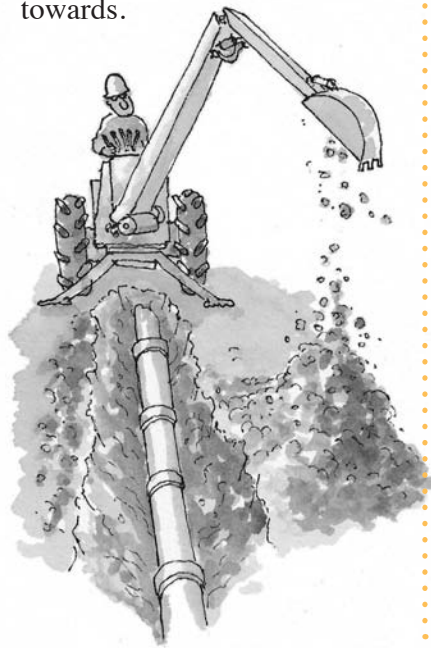
goal for such a project is the health and maintenance of its groundwater supply. A successful project serving all three sites along Sumner Avenue would save between 150 and 260 acre feet per year (up to 85 million gallons) of groundwater.



At your service—24/7

What you get for your money

Your District water bill contains two types of charges – a “fixed” service charge and a water quantity charge. It’s easy to understand how the water quantity charge is determined, it’s based on the amount of water used. The service charge, however, often has customers wondering what exactly that money is going towards.



The charge covers the costs the District incurs regardless of whether any water is sold. The amount is based on the size of the meter serving the property. The District’s Board takes care to limit the service charge to the amount needed for these services. Most of the District’s income is the result of water sales, so those who use more pay more.

What do customers receive for the service charge?

- ◆ A reliable and safe source of water - made possible by ongoing monitoring, testing, maintenance, and upgrades to the water production, treatment, and delivery system.
- ◆ Fire protection – installing sufficiently sized mains and storage tanks to assure

water availability for fire suppression needs has been a District priority.

- ◆ Emergency response 24 hours a day to make sure service disruptions are minimal.
- ◆ Trained staff to assist customers with leak detection, water quality concerns, etc.
- ◆ The most comprehensive conservation program in the county to assist customers with reducing water use at little or no cost, including: personal consultations with water conservation experts; 8 rebate programs for both indoor and outside use; education programs for both adults and children.
- ◆ A comprehensive groundwater management program designed to actively monitor and protect our only source of water supply.

Conservation education efforts recognized

The District’s Education Coordinator, Vai Campbell, received statewide recognition by the California Urban Water Conservation Council. As a nominee for the Llana Sherman Award that promotes water conservation at the community level, Campbell’s extraordinary commitment and educational efforts were especially noted.

- Campbell was the primary force behind developing *Our Water Works in Santa Cruz County*, an educational book used in the local grade schools. She also was instrumental in the design and implementation of an innovative and successful program that combines the power of art in teaching kids about water resources.
- Her commitment to water



Vai Campbell and California Urban Water Conservation Council Executive Director Chris Brown.

is further shown by her involvement with the Monterey Bay Water Works Association for the past four years, serving as president from 2005–2007.

Show off your green thumb

Do you have a water-wise garden and knowledge about water conservation and drought-tolerant plants in the garden?

Enter the first annual

Monterey Bay Area Water-Smart Garden Contest and Tour for prizes and an opportunity to show off your garden during the 11th annual Monterey Bay Area Master Gardener’s tour on August 9 and 10.

Categories are available for professional and amateur

designers as well as specialty themes such as succulents, natives, Mediterranean styles, and gardens with lawn alternatives. The entry deadline is May 19. Go to www.montereybaymastergardeners.org or call 475-8500 ext. 142 for entry information.

Earth Day 08

The District is promoting water conservation at this year’s Earth Day Festival, Sunday, April 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Downtown Farmer’s Market location at the corner of Lincoln and Cedar Streets in Santa Cruz.

This family event includes kids’ activities, food, and a wide variety of booths including local government, non-profits, eco-businesses and more.

Help prevent ocean pollution – contact Kate Purcell at Save Our Shores 462-5660 if you’re interested in stenciling storm drains with *Only Rain in the Storm Drain*.