

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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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
Dr. Thomas LaHue, *President*
Bruce Daniels, *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.



"The state of the basin"
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the Basin Report, the District's hydrologist concluded that further pumping reductions are required basinwide. A recent model for determining groundwater level goals shows that the District's coastline is not adequately protected against seawater intrusion. The District has an ongoing program to monitor groundwater levels.

"Fishing for savings"
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Cons_Main.htm or contact the District for a listing of all the various rebates and requirements.

Curtail Water Use

In the event of a third consecutive critically dry year and drought conditions, District customers will be asked to voluntarily conserve an additional 15 percent

as precautionary drought curtailment from May through October, 2009. Should the water supply emergency worsen, the District may take further actions to reduce water use.

Report Water Waste

We encourage customers to educate those who may be wasting water about our critical water supply situation. Please notify the District of any observed persistent water waste, and we will investigate and take action.

Help Us Educate the Community about This Issue

Spreading the word about our local water issues and the importance of conservation is extremely important. The people who live in Santa Cruz County should know that all our water is from precipitation on this side of the mountains and that

existing water supplies are insufficient. The public water agencies are working together to address this looming crisis, but we need the support of the community if we are to succeed.

Stay Informed

There is a lot going on locally and Statewide regarding water. Stay informed by reading the District's newsletter and website. The local media is also a good source for news and drought announcements. You can also contact us to arrange a presentation by District staff to neighborhood groups, homeowner associations, service clubs, or other organizations that would like to learn more about District water issues.



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 11, No. 2

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March/April 2009

Our endangered water supply

The state of the Soquel-Aptos groundwater basin

It seems like there's nothing but bad news these days about the state of the nation, the State, and the economy. Unfortunately, there's one more worry for District customers – that is the state of our local groundwater basin. Despite good efforts by District customers to conserve water, coastal groundwater levels remain too low to protect against seawater intrusion.

The District relies on wells

within its service area for all its water supply. To protect this precious supply from being contaminated by seawater moving inland into the freshwater aquifers, coastal groundwater levels need to be

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increased and sustained above mean sea level.

More than a decade ago, coastal groundwater levels began to drop, and they have not recovered despite the fact that over the past four

years District customers have been using less water than they did 20 years ago. While groundwater levels have stabilized in most areas of the District, early signs of seawater intrusion are present

in the La Selva Beach area and low groundwater levels are affecting District wells in the Seacliff area.

In the *2008 Annual State of*

"The state of the basin"
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Our endangered water supply

How we are addressing the problem

The District is pursuing a multi-faceted approach to assure a safe and reliable water supply for Mid-County residents, which includes the following actions:

◆ Maximizing Conservation

We are committed to helping customers reduce their consumption and increase water-use efficiency to obtain

the greatest public benefit from available water supplies.

◆ Groundwater Management

In 2007, an updated Groundwater Management Plan was developed for the Soquel-Aptos area. It contains fourteen elements which guide the District's groundwater management

activities. It is available for review on the District's web site under *District Reports* online at www.soquelcreekwater.org/GWMgmt_Plan.htm.

◆ Redistribute Well Pumping

The District is completing the environmental review process for up to four new wells and conversion of one irrigation well to municipal use. All of these well sites

are further inland and in locations with historically higher groundwater levels than existing District wells. Completion of these wells would enable the District to redistribute approximately one-third of its pumping away from vulnerable coastal locations.

◆ Supplemental Water Project

After an intensive evaluation of many supplemental water supply options, a seawater desalination plant built and operated in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department appears to be the most viable overall solution to provide a sufficient, reliable, flexible and high quality water supply to supplement our diminished groundwater resources. This project is undergoing a thorough

Our endangered water supply

evaluation process and no final decisions have been made. To learn more, visit www.scwd2desal.org.

◆ Enhance Water Supplies

The District is also evaluating the potential for smaller projects to further diversify our water supply portfolio and lessen the strain on groundwater resources. These include: 1) investigating site specific recycled water facilities to provide non-potable water (i.e., not approved for drinking) for irrigation use at parks and golf courses; and 2) joining with the Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division to identify opportunities to protect and enhance groundwater recharge within the Soquel-Aptos area.

Fishing for savings – what you can do

Although the District has taken many steps to protect our groundwater resources, our success ultimately depends on you. Listed below are ways customers can help:

Install Water Conserving Fixtures and Landscaping

The District's conservation program is one of the most robust in the State and offers the following incentives for customers to save water:

◆ Free home or business surveys:

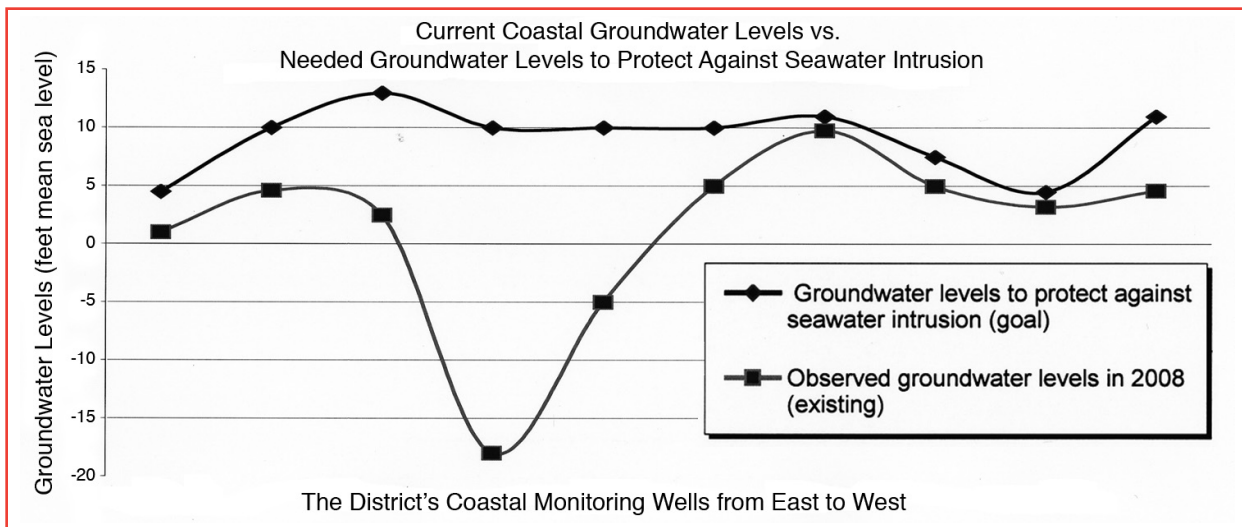
Staff will visit your home or business and perform a free site survey. This service involves checking for leaks, reviewing your irrigation clock settings, and informing you about what specific District rebate



programs may work best for you. Staff will even replace older showerheads with new ones at no cost. Just call 475-8501 ext. 146 or email roys@soquelcreekwater.org to set up your survey.

◆ **Rebates:** The District offers numerous rebate incentives for conserving water both indoors and outside. Go to www.soquelcreekwater.org/

*“Fishing for savings”
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To protect our groundwater supply from being contaminated by seawater, coastal groundwater levels should be at the upper line on the graph instead of where they are now (lower line).