

Looking for some additional tips on how you can use water wisely? Stop by our office and pick up the following brochures free-of-charge:

- Sunset Magazine's "Water-wise Gardening"
- Sunset Magazine's "109 Best New Plants"
- Put Your Garden on a Water Diet
- Save Water in the Home
- Easy Ways to Save Water, Money, and Energy at Home
- Preventing Pollution
- Water Conservation Guide
- California Water Facts
- Water Facts—How much water do you use?
- Groundwater—Protecting our Supplies
- Water—Keeping it in Good Supply
- Water—Every Drop Counts

Cleaning up in water savings

Clothes washing machines have become the single largest user of water in homes today, accounting for as much as 22 percent of the total amount used.

The District offers a \$100 credit to all qualified District customers who purchase and install high efficiency clothes washing machines.

To take advantage of this credit program, follow these three simple steps.

1) Prior to purchasing a high efficiency washing machine, contact the District to reserve a rebate and have an application sent to you. Funding is limited and applications are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis until allocated funds are exhausted.

2) Purchase one of the high efficiency washing machines on the District's list of approved models. (The list will be mailed to you along with your application.)

3) Return your application with the original, dated sales receipt. An inspection may be required prior to receiving your credit.

For more information on eligibility and requirements or to reserve your high efficiency washing machine credit and have an application sent to you, contact the District at 475-8500. *Certain restrictions apply. 💧



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 2, No. 2

Printed on Recycled Paper

March/April 2000

Making every drop count

Everyone wants to help conserve valuable resources. Water, which we can't live without, is one of the most valuable there is.

But what can an individual—or family—do to help? The answer is in these five simple suggestions. Follow them and you'll be water-wise, not water wasteful.

1 Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow steady drip (100 drops a minute) wastes about 62 gallons of water a month or 738 gallons a year.

2 Put a bit of food coloring in the tank of each toilet. If after a few minutes color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. **It's not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible leaks.** That's more than 30,000 gallons a year!

3 There are many water saving devices you can install fairly easily to reduce your water consumption. These include faucet aerators; low flow shower heads; automatic shutoff hose nozzles; and displacement

devices for toilets. Investing a little money, time, and labor can have big paybacks to reduce water use.

4 Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full. **Try to limit showers to about five minutes each and only fill your tub with about 5 inches of water.**

5 Wait until you have a full load before using automatic dishwashers and washing machines. Even when they feature short cycles, it is more water efficient to wash full loads. 💧

FYI

Working to ensure water for our future

By Daniel F. Kreige, President
Soquel Creek Water District
Board of Directors

“
We are simultaneously focusing on three options in order to determine which solution has the greatest overall benefit to our customers.
”

***Daniel F. Kreige
Board President***

years. We have carefully considered the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin, current and long-term water needs, and the potential savings

Unlike many other areas along the California coast, seawater has not yet contaminated the groundwater within Soquel Creek Water District's service area, but we are vulnerable. Currently, groundwater is the only source of water for the nearly 45,000 people the District serves.

For this reason, the District has actively engaged in groundwater management and future supply planning for many

from an aggressive conservation program.

The conclusion of a team of experts and a public advisory committee who recently studied all of these factors is that more water is currently being pumped from the groundwater basin than is being naturally supplied and, therefore, the mid-county area cannot continue to rely solely on groundwater. The Soquel Creek Water District's Board of Directors is committed to proceeding with developing a supplemental water supply along with reducing water use through conservation.

The obstacles to developing any new source of water supply are daunting. Any project will take years to complete. Our district is currently buying time through promoting conservation and redistributing our pumping away from coastal areas where groundwater levels are low, but we

believe it is imperative to have the supplemental supply on line as soon as possible.

We are simultaneously focusing on three options, narrowed down from a much longer list, in order to determine which solution has the greatest benefit to our customers.

Included in the options being considered is a regional desalination project. Our District believes that the public could be well served by a collaborative project among two or more water agencies.

The water providers in the county have discussed regional options, and the most practical one for the District would be to participate with the City of Santa Cruz in a desalination project. In November, a letter was sent to the City indicating our interest in exploring such a project.

What is...

Off-stream diversion

The proposed off-stream diversion project would siphon water from Soquel Creek during the winter months leaving sufficient flow for fish. Due to the high turbidity, a temporary retention pond would be needed to allow mud and debris to settle out before the water is treated to meet drinking water standards. The treated water would be available for customers and any surplus would be injected into the aquifer in order to help recharge the groundwater basin, extending its sustainable yield. 💧

Desalination

The desalination process treats seawater or brackish water (a mixture of saltwater and freshwater) to meet drinking water standards. Saltwater is collected from the ocean or brackish wells and is pumped to a desalination plant where it undergoes a treatment process. The treated water is then delivered directly into the distribution system. The concentrated brine resulting from treatment is then discharged back out into the ocean, injected into a well or blended with treated wastewater. 💧

We are also exploring the possibility of constructing our own desalination facility.

A third option would consist of an off-stream diversion facility on Soquel Creek.

The Board has not yet selected

a preferred project from among these options. The process is to collect enough information to make that decision in the next few months. The District's long-term goal is to continue to provide good quality water to meet the existing and future needs of our customers. 💧

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@scwd.dst.ca.us
MAIL TO: P.O. Box 158
Soquel, CA 95073-0158
WEB SITE: soquelcreekwater.com

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*
Gary E. Hazelton, *Vice President*
James M. Bargetto
John W. Beebe

General Manager
Laura D. Brown

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

Editor
Christopher J. Regan