

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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 Capitola, CA 95010
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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.



"An ounce of prevention..."
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from local mineral deposits. No other District wells now show detectable levels of arsenic.

Ongoing water quality sampling tracks the presence and

levels for numerous potential contaminants, including arsenic.

Although the cancer risk from ingesting arsenic at the EPA regulatory maximum level of 10 ppb is believed to be minimal,

the Public Health Goal has been established at 0.004 ppb or essentially zero.

Acknowledging that arsenic is a known carcinogen and can cause other health problems, the District's Board decided that the availability of relatively low-cost technology to remove arsenic warranted providing our customers this extra precaution.

"Working to ensure water..."
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plants, synthetic turf, cisterns to capture rainwater, and high efficiency clothes washers.

Call us for a free commercial or residential survey to show you how to save up to 35 percent of your water use.



Get in line to receive a free toilet

The wait for free toilets is currently only a few months. Call Roy Sikes at 475-8501, extension 146, if you're interested in replacing your old toilet with a high efficiency toilet. Qualified District customers receive installed toilets for free. These toilets work great and conserve water.



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 9, No.6

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November/December 2007

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

District takes extra precautions and removes trace levels of arsenic from water supplies

New water treatment technology that is both effective and low cost has been used for more than a year to remove trace levels of arsenic from groundwater found in three

Aptos area wells. District officials have declared the results a success.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Standard for arsenic is 10 parts per billion (ppb), which is roughly equivalent to a few drops of ink in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Laboratory results from three of the District's 16 wells showed arsenic levels that were between 2 and 4.6 ppb, less than half the amount allowed under current drinking water regulations.

Even though State Health

officials did not express any concerns about the low arsenic levels detected, the District's Board decided that investing in a removal system was the right thing to do for our community.

The District's new treatment method has consistently reduced these low arsenic levels to below reliably detectable amounts.

The arsenic found in the three District wells is naturally occurring as the result of groundwater leaching arsenic

"An ounce of prevention..."
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Preparing for winter weather

While the Central Coast isn't apt to experience flash floods, days of freezing temperature or snow in the winter, that doesn't mean the District doesn't prepare itself for winter weather.

Storms and high winds from November through April are common culprits causing power outages and water service interruptions. To minimize inconveniences to our customers, the District maintains alternate power sources (on-site and mobile generators) year round to be ready at an instant's notice to continue water operations.

Most of the District's infrastructure is underground,

but precautions are taken to protect above-ground pipes from freezing temperatures, if warranted. We encourage all customers to prepare their pipes for winter temperatures, and remind those who have back flow devices not to forget about them.

In addition, take a few minutes to prepare for general emergencies. Being prepared helps minimize the impacts of a disaster from a short-term power or water loss to more catastrophic events such as an earthquake. Here are three easy steps:

1. Make a Plan – make a family communications plan that includes an evacuation plan and coordinates with

your school, work and community communication plans. Practice this plan with your entire family.

2. Get a Kit - Build a disaster supplies kit that includes enough supplies for each family member for three days. Remember to check your kit every six months. Include water (one gallon per person per day), food, first aid supplies, clothing, medicine, flashlight(s), batteries, and portable radio.

3. Be Informed - Know what may happen and how you can help. Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur where you live, work, and play and how they can affect you, your family and community.

Working to ensure water for our future



The District was featured in the September 18 Business Profile of the *Mid-County Post*. The entire article can be found on the newspaper's web site: www.mcpost.com.

We welcome the opportunity to have more people learn about where their water comes from and what it takes to get it from ground to tap. The article highlights the challenge the District faces of providing a safe and reliable supply of high-quality water while keeping up with the needs of a growing customer base.

Customers develop and maintain a great conservation ethic by understanding the water situation in mid-county, where water comes entirely from underground aquifers that cannot be replenished as fast as the water is being used.

Ron Duncan, the District's water conservation and customer service field manager, credits the success of the District's conservation efforts to conscientious customers, strong Board leadership, and motivated staff.

Additionally, the Board has implemented the Water Demand Offset Program mandating applicants for new water service to offset their projected water use by 120 percent. This approach enables the builder to build, existing customers to receive free high efficiency toilets, and saves the aquifers from additional pumping.

Other conservation measures include rebates and credits for high efficiency toilets, weather based irrigation controllers, turf replacement with low-water use

“Working to ensure water...”
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Beyond conservation

Looking into the future for an additional water source, the District has partnered with the City of Santa Cruz to explore the development of a regional seawater desalination plant. A pilot test plant is being constructed now at Long Marine Lab.

The District is also pursuing a grant to evaluate the potential of satellite reclamation plants, which can clean sewer water to irrigate large landscapes.