

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
Jeff N. Eckles

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*



"Saving your tap"

continued from front page

If your pipes should freeze, before you try to thaw them out, locate the master shutoff. It can usually be found where the water line comes into your house from the street, or it may be near the water heater or the washing machine. It's a good idea to locate this valve before a problem develops—paint it a bright color or hang a tag or colorful ribbon from it so you can find it easily when you

need to. If the pipe is frozen, it may already have burst and when it thaws, the water will come gushing out. So before thawing the pipe, be sure you know the location of the shutoff valve.

Never use a torch with an open flame to thaw the pipe. This could start a house fire, weaken the solder joint and allow the pipe to come apart, or it could overheat a single

spot and burst the pipe. It's best to use a hair dryer on a low setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe. When it's thawed, you'll hear the water break loose. If the pipe has broken, you'll see water leaking through the hole. If this is the case, turn off the water at the shutoff valve and call your plumber. ♦

District project updates

Haas Drive Area Main

Replacement. The District is set to begin construction on this project in Spring 2001. When completed, fire flow protection, system reliability, and water quality in the area will be improved through the replacement of existing undersized, leaking water mains. Streets affected during construction include Haas Drive, Las

Lomas, and Paseo Bonito.

Rio Del Mar Cliffs Area

Main Replacement. Construction of this project is nearing completion. The project eliminates chronic maintenance problems with leaky mains, improves fire flow protection and system reliability, and will help transmit water easterly through our system. ♦

Did you know?

More than 42,000 gallons of water (enough to fill a 4-foot by 30-foot by 50-foot swimming pool) are needed to grow and prepare a typical Holiday dinner for eight. Use water wisely this Holiday Season. ♦



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 2, No. 6

Printed on Recycled Paper

November/December 2000

Saving your tap from a cold snap

As the days and nights begin to get colder, it's important to remember that below freezing temperatures can wreak havoc on your water

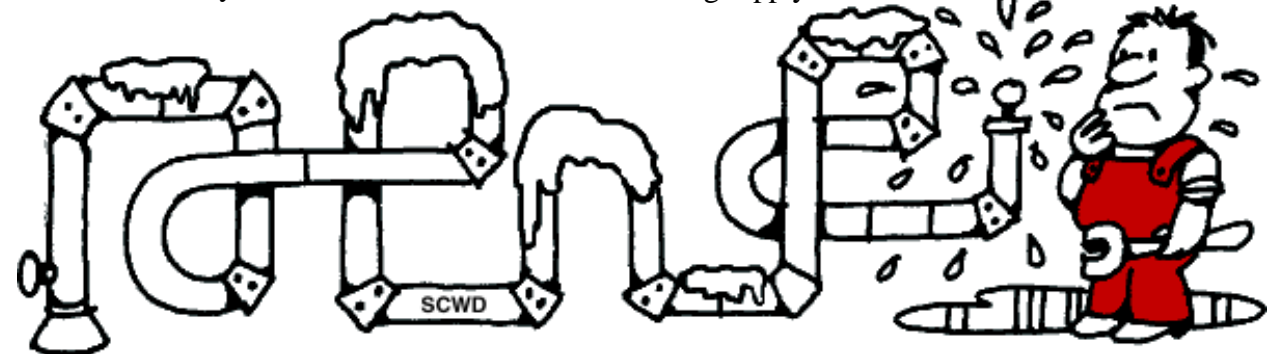
pipes. By taking the following steps this fall, you can safeguard your pipes this winter:

1. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. This will allow water to drain from the pipe. If left connected, a hard overnight freeze could burst the faucet or the pipe that it's connected to.
2. Insulate pipes or faucets located in unheated areas such as the garage or crawl space. Hardware or building supply

stores offer good pipe wrapping materials for this purpose.

3. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Winter winds blowing through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. Be careful not to plug air vents that your furnace or water heater needs for good combustion.

"Saving your tap"
continued on back page





It's a matter of taste

How tasty is your tap water?

If you live in the western portion of the District, your answer to that question is probably “not tasty at all.” That’s because the water delivered to customers in the western portion of the District is pumped from an aquifer known as the Purisima Formation. This aquifer has naturally occurring concentrations of iron and manganese, which are highest in the Capitola wells.

Although the District treats this water to well within the established Federal and State health and aesthetic levels, the current treatment process is not entirely effective at removing these minerals. The result is water that may be reddish brown in color and/or have a distasteful odor.

That’s about to change within the next year. On October 17, the District’s Board of Directors approved a Water Quality Pilot Plant Study at the District’s Garnet Street Treatment Facility in order to identify the best method for addressing this problem. This study will investigate five different water treatment alternatives for improving quality, taste, odor, and hardness of the water in this area.

The Pilot Plant Study is the next step of a Water Treatment Alternatives Study begun last year by the District. Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, who is conducting the study, has already completed an extensive evaluation of all the District’s water sources and prepared a report of the water quality variations, which includes recommended priorities for enhancing quality.

Beginning after the first of the year and lasting approximately six weeks, five small-scale treatment facilities that simulate key processes of full-size treatment facilities will be set up to collect data at the Garnet Street site. Although you will not notice any change in the quality of your water during the pilot study, the information obtained will help determine the additional treatment methods needed to provide better quality water to this area. The District has budgeted funds to install the selected new treatment process by the end of 2001.

As part of the pilot plant study, a volunteer group of customers will conduct water quality taste testing of the treated water. ♦

Some things you should know...

If you’re one of the many who use a home water filter or purchase bottled water because of the taste, smell and/or appearance of your tap water, here are some things you should know.

About home water treatment devices

- There is no single cure-all filtration system or technique.
- Some home water treatment devices use more than one kind of technology.
- Different water filters remove different substances from the water. The filter must match the problem to be effective.
- Water filters approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International have been tested and meet product claims.
- Home treatment devices are not regulated by the federal government.
- If regular maintenance is not performed properly, water quality problems can result. ♦

About bottled water

- While municipal tap water is subjected to standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which has much less stringent guidelines regarding water purity and monitoring
- 50 percent of bottled water manufacturers get their water from the same sources as municipal water departments.
- Bottled water costs 1,000 times more than tap water and most of that pays for product packaging and advertising.
- Bottled water labels must include the manufacturer’s name, address, and the source of the water. ♦