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.

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*

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Customers clean up in savings

The District's new high-efficiency washing machine credit program has been anything but a wash. Thanks to you, 194 high water use clothes washers were replaced with water efficient machines last year. Still stuck in the spin cycle with regards to high efficiency washing machines? Well then, read on.

High efficiency washers 101

There are two basic designs:

1. Front-loading models are similar in design to washers used in laundromats. These horizontal-axis or tumble-action machines repeatedly lift and drop clothes, instead of moving clothes around a central axis.

2. Top-loading washers reduce water consumption by spraying clothes with repeated high-pressure rinses to remove soap residues rather than soaking them in a full tub of rinse water.

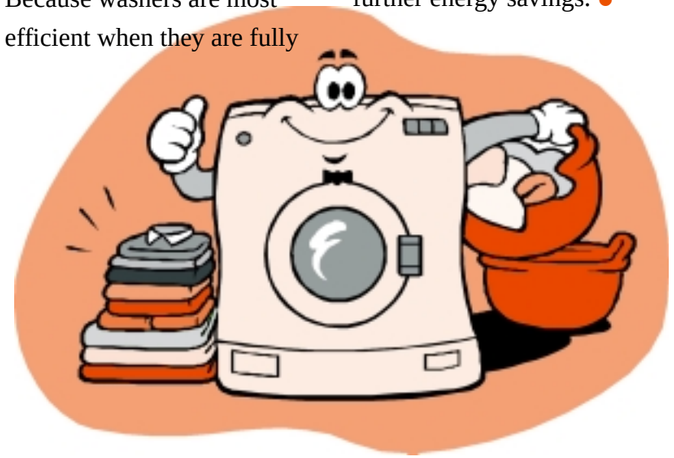
Choosing the right washer

High efficiency clothes washers come in a range of capacities from about 1.6 cubic feet up to 2.9 cubic feet. A typical large-capacity washer, found in most households, is about 2.7 cubic feet.

Because washers are most efficient when they are fully loaded, you should choose a size that most closely matches your needs.

The benefits

* Nearly **50 percent less** water and 30 to 40 percent less energy used per load.
* Washer design causes **less wear and tear** on clothes.
* **Bulky items** fit easily in the super capacity basket.
* Better water extraction means **less dryer time**, for further energy savings.



What's ON TAP
At the Soquel Creek Water District

Volume 2, No. 5 *Printed on Recycled Paper* *September/October 2000*

Will that be cash, check or charge?

District offers customers new payment option

You asked for it, and now you've got it. In addition to being able to pay your water bill by cash or check, the District is accepting Mastercard and Visa charge cards as a method of payment on your water account. As of September 1, we're offering you three ways to pay your bill by credit card.

1. By phone: Contact our customer service representatives at (831)475-8500 and they'll be happy to process your payment over the phone;

2. Walk-in: Stop by our office, during regular business hours, with your water bill and credit card and we'll process your payment while you wait; or,

3. By mail: Upon receiving you bill, check the box on the remittance portion indicating that you would like to pay your bill by credit card. Next, on the back of the remittance stub, fill in your credit card information, sign it, and return it in the blue remittance envelope provided. It's that easy!

A word about online banking

If your financial institution offers pay-by-phone or computer-based home banking, you have the option of paying your bill through these electronic services. For information on availability of pay-by-phone or computer-based home banking, contact your financial institution. In addition, there are a number of web sites that specialize in offering this type of service.

Keeping the salt water at bay

Monitoring program serves as early warning system against seawater intrusion

Working to ensure that water flows when you turn on your tap involves more than just building the infrastructure to get it to you. Included in the District's role as water provider is the responsibility of managing our underlying groundwater resources in order to ensure that a reliable supply of water is available to meet present and future needs.

In the early 1980's, the District began an active program of monitoring groundwater conditions in the two aquifers that make up our water supply; the Purisima Formation and the Aromas Red Sands. A key part of that program is the measurement of groundwater levels and water quality through an extensive network of monitoring wells strategically placed along the entire coastline of the District's service area.

In the Purisima Formation, eleven monitoring wells monitor individual layers of the aquifer in order to detect whether hydraulic conditions are conducive to the intrusion of seawater or, conversely, whether hydraulic conditions are sufficient to constrain any potential landward movement of seawater. In the extreme, the monitoring wells are designed to detect any onset of seawater intrusion before it affects our production wells further inland.

In the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer, five monitoring wells monitor any movement of a naturally occurring fresh/brackish groundwater interface beneath fresh groundwater along the coast. Inland monitoring wells and production wells, in both aquifers, are also used to monitor groundwater levels and water quality in order to be able to define the direction of groundwater flow and changes in groundwater quality.

In 1996, the District formalized its ongoing groundwater management activities by adopting, in partnership with Central Water District, a formal groundwater management plan. Included in the plan are four goals for managing the basin, including:

- continued development of water supply for overlying beneficial use (i.e. to meet existing and projected demands for municipal water supply);
- avoidance of groundwater overdraft and any associated undesirable effects;
- prevention or control of seawater intrusion; and
- preservation of groundwater quality.

What we've learned

Since the program's inception almost 20 years ago, the District has learned much about our underlying groundwater basin. Beginning in the late 1980's, the presence of a pumping depression and coastal groundwater levels below sea level, was identified in the central part of the Purisima Formation, near New Brighton Beach. Later, in the early 1990's, some apparent landward movement of the fresh/brackish groundwater interface in the Aromas Red Sands was detected despite groundwater levels above sea level at and inland of the coast.

Having this type of information has helped to plot the course the District is taking with regards to how the basin is managed. Redistribution of pumping in the Purisima Formation has resulted in some recovery of coastal groundwater levels, and they have now been seasonally above sea level in each year since the early 1990's. In the Aromas Red Sands, there has been general stability in the position and quality of the fresh/brackish groundwater interface since the mid 1990's.

However, the presence of seasonal coastal groundwater levels below sea level in the Purisima Formation remains in conflict with the District's goal to protect its sole source of water supply against the possibility of seawater intrusion. For that reason, the District is actively pursuing a supplemental water supply to stabilize groundwater levels so that we may continue to responsibly meet present and future needs.

Our water supply

The District currently purveys approximately 5,400 acre-feet (AF) of water annually; all of which is developed from two groundwater aquifer systems beneath the District.

The **Purisima Aquifer** provides approximately two-thirds of the District's annual production (3,600 AF) in the western portion of the District's service area, including Capitola, Soquel, and parts of Rio Del Mar and Aptos.

The **Aromas Red Sands Aquifer** extends easterly and southeasterly beneath the adjacent Pajaro Valley, and provides the remainder (1,800 AF) of the District's annual production in the easterly portion of the service area, including parts of Aptos and Rio Del Mar, and Seascape and La Selva Beach.