

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Comments on Draft Urban Water Management Plan Public Hearing
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:09:45 PM

Dear Board,

I was not able to complete my comments during the 2-minute comment time allowed, even though I was the only speaker from the public.

Here are my comments:

- 1) page 76 and 108 should include legal discussion of Soquel Creek Water District's Junior Water Rights for the aquifers.
- 2) page 78 should include discussion of current status of the City of Santa Cruz Habitat Conservation Plan and EIR for expanded water service outside of the City's area, and includes potential increased water sales from the San Lorenzo River to the District. The EIR is due this summer.
- 3) page 42 show water use has increased but this is not what the District's records show. Figure 4-2 does not show any government use, but in fact there are a number of County parks that purchase irrigation water from the District.
- 4) Page 25 Figure 1-1 and page 38 quote 2018 AMBAG estimates but in fact, the County is updating their growth goal and reduced their growth forecasts by 50%
- 5) Page 38 It should be discussed that the County is updating the General Plan.
- 6) Pricing really needs explanation with the expensive purewater soquel project looming

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

CORRESPONDENCE - 05/18/21
ITEM 5.0 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT RATES ARE UNAFFORDABLE TO MANY...STATE WORKSHOP REGARDING AFFORDABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:38:41 AM

Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors and Staff,
The latest District rate increases have plunged many customer bills into levels that are unaffordable, even by the State Affordability Index.

District staff continually claims there is nothing that the District can do to offer financial assistance to low income customers, and seem to take no active interest in helping those unfortunate families, other than offering a payment plan.

I want to make sure that your Board and staff are aware of a State Department of Water Resources webinar this month that could provide staff with information to help your low-income customers struggling to pay water bills:

SAFER: 2021 Risk Assessment and Affordability Assessment: Navigating the Results
Date: Monday, May 25, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: This workshop will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about 2021 Risk Assessment and Affordability Assessment Results and to help the public navigate the data behind the Risk Assessment and Affordability Assessment. The State Water Board will provide an overview of the results of the Risk Assessment (public water systems) and Affordability Assessment.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/docs/2021/may/notice_saferassessment.pdf

I would like to remind your Board that the State Water Resources Control Board recently declared Capitola as a Disadvantaged Community.

Hopefully, this information will be of use to District staff and ultimately provide some relief to customers as the District continues to significantly increase rates that are causing tremendous financial burden and hardship on many who have conserved all that is possible to reduce their water use yet maintain health and safety.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner