

CORRESPONDENCE - 08/17/21
ITEM 5.0 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

From: [Skyler Murphy](#)
To: [Steve Beck](#)
Cc: [Dot Beck](#); [Taj Dufour](#); [Melanie Mow Schumacher](#); [Rebecca Rubin](#); [bod](#)
Subject: RE: PWS Conveyance Project - formal complaint and damages enquiry #1
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:58:29 AM

Hello Steve,

Sorry for the delay in this response. We have communicated with our crews to reiterate the request that trucks not park in front of your residence and to do whatever they can to minimize the use of equipment on California Street. The work is progressing down the hill on Laurel Street but there are some materials still staged on California as our contractor is waiting for approval from the City on their next staging location on Laurel Street. Because of this, there is still some equipment activity on California. We are doing what we can to minimize our presence on California St. Per my last email, we are targeting the end of this week to move our operation entirely onto Laurel Street and are pushing hard to keep this schedule.

I appreciate your communication as it helps us continue to try to improve and apologize again for the disturbance and inconvenience of the construction in your neighborhood. Thank you for your patience and we will stay in contact as we continue construction activities this week.

Thank you.

Skyler Murphy | Water Resources Planner
Soquel Creek Water District | 5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel CA 95073 | www.soquelcreekwater.org
Phone 831-475-8500x148
email skylerm@soquelcreekwater.org

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Steve Beck <stevenbeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Skyler Murphy <skylerm@soquelcreekwater.org>
Cc: Dot Beck <dotbeck5@gmail.com>; Taj Dufour <TajD@soquelcreekwater.org>; Melanie Mow Schumacher <MelanieS@soquelcreekwater.org>; Rebecca Rubin <beccar@soquelcreekwater.org>; bod <bod@soquelcreekwater.org>
Subject: Re: PWS Conveyance Project - formal complaint and damages enquiry #1

Hi Skyler —

Thank you for your prompt reply. I would note that the date for 'rounding the corner' as communicated to us has moved by one week every week since July 16th...

In the spirit of communication and coordination, I'm writing to let you know that there was no noticeable change to the situation today (Monday, 8/9). We had backhoes parked on the street and moving back and forth in front of our house, and a large truck parked in front of our driveway this morning.

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The gap between good intentions and what is actually happening on site continues, I'm afraid.

Best,
Steve

Steve Beck
stevenbeck@gmail.com

On Aug 8, 2021, at 6:46 PM, Skyler Murphy <skylerm@soquelcreekwater.org> wrote:

Hello Steve,

We apologize for the inconvenience and noise associated with the construction taking place in front of your residence. We recognize that challenges and project delays have unfortunately caused work activities to take place on California Street longer than anticipated. The contractor is currently working on getting through the challenging intersection of California Street and Laurel Street before continuing down Laurel Street. As soon as they are through this intersection all staging and activities will be moved off of California Street and onto Laurel Street. It is anticipated the crews will make this shift by Friday August 13th.

Starting next week, we have requested that the contractor crews modify their staging of trucks and equipment along California Street to shift activities away from your residence. This should help reduce the noise you and your neighbors are experiencing from activity in front of your house. We will ensure that we are able to implement these changes with work starting Monday morning (8/9/21). I will continue coordinating with you next week to make sure these changes are helping to address the issues.

I again apologize for the inconvenience and disturbance of our work along California Street and thank you for your patience. Please let me know if there are any other questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Skyler Murphy | Water Resources Planner
Soquel Creek Water District | 5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel CA 95073
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From: Steve Beck <stevenbeck@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 3:14 PM
To: Melanie Mow Schumacher <MelanieS@soquelcreekwater.org>, Rebecca Rubin <beccar@soquelcreekwater.org>, PWS construction <PWSconstruction@soquelcreekwater.org>, bod <bod@soquelcreekwater.org>
Cc: Dot Beck <dotbeck5@gmail.com>, Steve Beck <steve@novastarventures.com>, Scmu <scmu@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: PWS Conveyance Project - formal complaint and damages enquiry #1

Dear Soquel Creek Water

I am the owner of 500 California Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Residing at this address are five adults with four attempting to work from home and a 10-month-old baby.

We were notified in the Spring about the Pure Water Soquel project, which was due to begin in May starting at Neary Lagoon at the Bay Street end of California Street. As your own project summary stated then - and still states as copied from your website below - we were led to expect traffic flow disruption and some noise for "one-to-two weeks or more" with work progressing "several hundred feet per day".

This advertised level of disruption and inconvenience has been grossly misrepresented. Your contractor's crew has been stationed and working in front of our house since June 30th - that's six weeks, not one or two. Two weeks after digging in the street directly in front of our house - on July 13th - your contractor hit and burst the water main in the street right in front of our house, knocking out our water supply. My wife has phoned the contractor repeatedly to complain about the noise levels and request an update as to when they would move from this end of California Street around the corner down Laurel Street. She was first told by July 23rd, then later by July 30th, and finally 'definitely by August 4th.'

Today is August 6th and the construction vehicles are still transiting back and forth in front of our house making a lot of noise. The crew still parks in front of our house and leaves their gear in California Street directly opposite our house.

Having lost patience with what is clearly a serious failure of planning and/or execution of the project, whereby our family and neighbors suffer the consequences, I am writing to lodge a formal complaint and request damages.

I will refrain briefly from publishing my complaint in the local press and on social media while I await your reply. I can supply photos and video with sound if needed, but your contractor will be able to corroborate the facts.

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Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Steven R. Beck

500 California Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Mobile: 484-686-7055

From your website on 6 August 2021:

"Starting in May 2021, contractors for Soquel Creek Water District will begin installing about eight miles of pipeline under various streets between Santa Cruz and Aptos. These pipelines will carry water to and from the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility to the Chanticleer Water Purification Center (to be built) in the Live Oak area. Then purified water from the Water Purification Center will be conveyed to three Seawater Intrusion Prevention (SWIP) wells where it will recharge the groundwater basin.

Construction will not be taking place on all streets along the pipeline route at the same time. It will be a moving work zone, progressing up to several hundred feet per day. Work within a particular area could last for one-to-two weeks or more, as construction crews move along the pipeline route. Follow soquelcreekwater.org/PWSconstruction for the most up-to-date information.

In most cases the work will consist of excavating through the asphalt street surface, preparing the area for the pipelines, delivering and laying the pipes and associated equipment, then backfilling and temporarily patching of the street (to be resurfaced later). This work will require trucks, backhoes, excavators, and other equipment, with traffic control work crews on-site. In some areas, the pipeline will go across bridges where it will be affixed to the bridge structure. The work will require lane closures and short detours, and in some cases may require temporary complete closure of a segment of the street."

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From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Board of Directors](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: MODIFIED PUREWATER SOQUEL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT CAUSED UNFORTUNATE SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF WATER DURING DROUGHT
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 10:28:06 PM

Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors,
How unfortunate that the District's construction contractor for the Modified PureWater Soquel Project broke a large City of Santa Cruz water supply line on July 14, needlessly wasting over 100,000 gallons of water. Seven City Water customers were without water service for over 24 hours as a result.

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/07/13/water-main-bursts-on-california-street-seven-santa-cruz-residents-without-running-water/>

According to residents on California Street, this is the THIRD TIME the contractors have chopped into the City Water supply line while digging in the space of only three blocks.

I am glad the District offered bottled water to the neighborhood, whose water service lines will now have to be flushed and disinfected. I am glad the District offered to place those without water service the ability to stay in a hotel. Was the hotel able to accommodate those peoples' pets.

Hopefully, the contractor will be able to better identify underground utilities locations in the future as the Modified PureWater Soquel Project moves forward to prevent more unfortunate accidents and waste of water in the drought emergency.

It is a very unfortunate loss of a significant amount of water. Will the District re-imburse the City for these repeated water losses?

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

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From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Please Include Public Correspondence Board Agenda Packet in Item 5.0
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:08:57 PM

Dear Board of Directors,

I respectfully request that Public Correspondence be included in the Board agenda packet in chronological order as Item 5.0. Currently, the correspondence is at the very end of the packet, but is labeled "Item 5.0". This deceives the public into assuming there is no correspondence, because it is not included in the correct location within the agenda packet.

Your agenda packet for the July 20, 2021 is an example. Multiple pieces of correspondence were submitted, and labeled "Item 5.0" but are physically at the very end of the agenda packet, following Item 7.6.

In the interest of transparency, please include all correspondence in Item 5.0 at that place in the packet, following the Consent Agenda Items and paired with "Oral and Written Communication", not buried at the back of the agenda packet, but still labelled "Item 5.0".

The agenda directs the public to another location on the District website to find correspondence submitted: <https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

However, this link has no correspondence at all, only the ability to download the same Board agenda packet.

Please improve transparency by making this change. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

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ITEM 7.2 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Protesting Item 7.2 to Increase Scope of Work re: Modified PureWater Soquel Project MF/RO
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 7:17:43 PM

Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors,
I am hereby protesting your approval, if that is the action you take at the August 17, 2021 Board meeting as Item 7.2. I am likely unable to testify orally at your meeting due to other commitments.

I protest your staff's claim that the EIR and Addendum adequately provided environmental analysis or any meaningful or enforceable mitigations for the significant and adverse environmental impacts. Your District has yet to publish any Final Anti-Degradation Analysis for the injection wells, violating State Water Resources Control Board Resolutin 68-16:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/1968/rs68_016.pdf

The PureWater Soquel Project EIR relied on a DRAFT version of this legally-required document, but which was not intended to serve as a final statement of Anti-Degradation Analysis. There has been NO FINAL analysis made publicly available.

Your District's rote claims that the water from the Project to be injected would meet all State Drinking Water Regulations is misleading at best. Your Board and Staff are very well aware of the many pharmaceuticals, hormones, radiologic medical compounds, and Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC).

Page 79 of your agenda packet states:

"Background and Discussion

On December 18, 2018, the District Board approved the Pure Water Soquel Project as a groundwater replenishment project that would utilize recycled purified water to replenish the overdrafted groundwater basin that is the District's primary water supply source. The advanced water purification system will utilize a micro filtration (MF) and reverse osmosis (RO) treatment system, the same core process that are approved in other facilities such as Pure Water Monterey, Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System, Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling, and West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility.

On March 3, 2020 the Board approved the BVCI Phase 1 Design Build contract agreement for the PWS treatment facilities. Since the initiation of that contract, the collaborative design process and additional project data has confirmed that the District will need, pursuant to the District's December 18, 2018 approvals, BVCI to perform work related to the procurement services of the MF-ROsystems related to the purification treatment process that was detailed and analyzed in the PWS Project EIR.

The contract amendment to the BVCI Design-Build Agreement includes the following scope of work and budget (Attachment 1):

- Prepare a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) for the MF/RO system. This includes procuring the system supplier to perform the procurement and engineering coordination, engineering design, and initial development of MF/RO system supplier submittals.*
- Engineering services by BVCI to review, comment, reconcile, and approve design equipment submittals that will inform the Phase 2 Construction Phase of the project.*
- Note: Purchase of equipment is not part of this amendment.*
- The proposed budgetis a not-to-exceed amount of \$526,864.*

The work here within has undergone environmental review as part of the Pure Water Soquel Project

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which includes the EIR and Addendum, and and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15162, approval of this admendment to the Design-Build Agreement for the Treatment Facilities Project with BVCI will result in no new or more severe impacts requiring additional environmental review of the approval action."

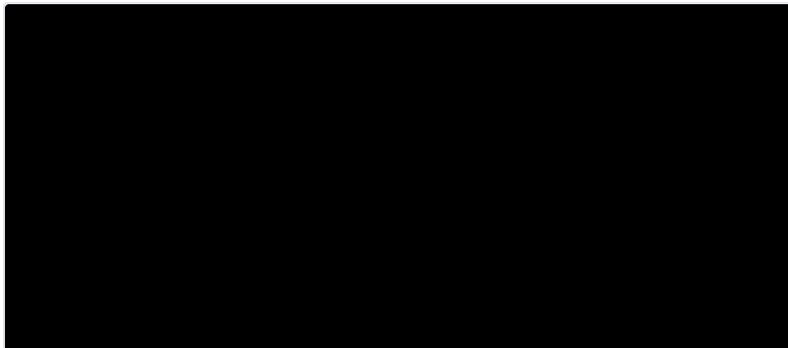
I strongly protest the Staff claims in the final paragraph, because adequate analysis has NOT occurred, nor has the District worked with California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to develop meaningful, adequate or enforceable mitigations for the Modified Project, and that is required by CEQA for riparian habitats and projects affecting waters of the State.

Your Board failed to ensure there was adequate and meaningful environmental analysis for the modifications, failed to alert schools within 0.25 mile 30 days in advance of your approval of the EIR or the Addendum, as is required by CEQA law, alerting the school officials of the multiple new large above-ground hazardous chemical storage tanks.

This staff report for Item 7.2 fails to show clear need and cost justification of \$526,864 to the ratepayers and State taxpayers who are burdened with funding this Modified PureWater Soquel Project. Appendix 3 provides no clear information.

Soquel Creek Water District should take heed of the recent problems of great magnitude that Orange County is currently experiencing with that area's Indirect Potable Reuse project:

The City of Los Angeles invested millions into high-tech systems at their sewage treatment plant but the system recently failed, sending millions of gallons of raw sewage to the Santa Monica Bay.
[L.A. water recycling imperiled after beach sewage spill, hurting drought conservation](#)



L.A. water recycling imperiled after beach sewage spill, hurting drought...

Damage to the Hyperion treatment plant due to a flood of raw sewage has dealt a blow to a major water recycling ...

"In the past five years, the city has invested \$1.2 billion in improving the entire sewage treatment system and more than \$550,000 to upgrade the Hyperion plant, according to sanitation officials. The bar screens that failed were installed just two years ago.

Gold of UCLA said it's difficult to understand why the flooding occurred, given the upgrades to the system.

"What happened at that facility was just an absolute utter shock to me," he said.

The sudden loss of millions of gallons of recycled water has alarmed experts and raised new

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questions about the plant's ability to function in a warming climate."

Please do not inject the treated sewage water into the pristine waters of the Purisima Aquifer. There are many compounds unknown that are created synergistically in the sewage water train, cannot be tested, and cannot be removed. Please use the recycled water for irrigation only, and do not imperil the MidCounty drinking water source. Soquel Creek Water District is NOT the only jurisdiction that pumps from or relies upon the groundwater in the MidCounty area.

I will be compelled to continue and pursue legal challenge.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner
3441 Redwood Drive
Aptos, CA 95003