

What's On Tap

AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT



Long-Term Planning for our Water Future

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT'S MISSION is to provide water resource management to deliver a safe and reliable supply of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally sensitive and economically responsible way.

The District has developed a multi-faceted approach towards a sustainable water supply: water conservation, groundwater management, and supplemental supply.

Water Conservation: Our customers are helping to protect our limited groundwater supply by making conservation a way of life, when rain is plentiful and in times of drought. We offer many tools and programs to help customers use water efficiently at home and at work. We're proud of the work our customers have done to conserve water and we're committed to supporting these efforts.

Groundwater Management: Our network of monitoring wells helps us understand how much water is in the underground aquifers we draw from and where

seawater intrusion is occurring. We closely measure how much water we pump, monitor water quality, and are shifting well pumping away from the coast. We're also working together with other local agencies and private well owners who pump water from the same groundwater basin to find regional solutions to protect our shared water supply.

Supplemental Water Supply: The District is seeking new water sources to supplement our use of groundwater. Options include using recycled water to replenish the groundwater basin, seawater desalination and transferring river water from neighboring water agencies. We are working with our regional partners on several of these efforts and a supply selection will be made through a public process that considers reliability, water quality, cost, environmental impacts, and community acceptance.

What's next with supplemental supply?

In August, the Board directed staff to look more closely at recycled water options and river water transfers and develop a plan to further evaluate the feasibility of these projects. We'll continue to update our customers on our options as we study these alternatives further.



Our Board of Directors meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting. Check our website at www.soquelcreekwater.org for meeting locations.

Conservation Update

OUR CUSTOMERS have taken water conservation to heart this year. During the spring and summer months we saw unprecedented water savings to the tune of about a 20% reduction over 2013. We thank you. Your efforts are helping to protect our groundwater from drought and seawater intrusion as we continue seeking new water sources.

Unfortunately, even if the drought ends, the Soquel Creek Water District's long-term groundwater shortage will not. Our challenge now as we head (hopefully) into the rainy season is to continue using less water, making conservation a part of our way of life. We have seen that when our

community works together, effective water conservation is possible.

Conservation Plus, a proposed year-round water saving program that the District anticipated rolling out in early 2015, was delayed by the Board at their September 2, 2014 meeting to allow for further public input and development. For now, the way you are billed for your water has not changed. Check our website and sign-up up for monthly e-news to stay tuned on what is happening with Conservation Plus.

In the meantime, our water waste ordinance continues to be in effect year-round. By reporting water waste, you're helping us educate your neighbors and the community about what is and what isn't allowed in a friendly and non-threatening way.

Report water waste by:

- e-mailing savewater@soquelcreekwater.org
- calling 831-475-8501 x141
- stopping by the office at 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073
- mailing to P.O. Box 1550, Capitola, CA 95010

Please include a description of the waste, time, date(s), location, and if applicable, a photo of the waste.



Tera Curren joined our staff during the summer and has been making a difference by responding to reports of water waste and doing education and enforcement.

Did you take the pledge yet?

Join your neighbors across Santa Cruz County and pledge to save water! The new watersavingtips.org website has conservation tips and resources. You can check out the progress towards saving 5 million gallons this year and enter to win a t-shirt! (1 drawing a month)

What's On Tap is an in-house publication printed quarterly for the customers of our District.

Forward your comments to the editor at P.O. Box 1550, Capitola, CA 95010.

Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Update

SIGNIFICANT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE over the past three months related to treating water containing hexavalent chromium, also known as Cr (or “Chrome”) 6. Chromium is a naturally occurring metallic element found in rocks, soils, plants and animals. Four of the sixteen wells used by the District have naturally occurring Cr. 6 exceeding the new state limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb). Compliance with the recently adopted regulation begins in January of 2015 and treatment is necessary for three wells, and the fourth will be placed in emergency standby status. This facility will be one of the first in the State to be permitted and utilizes strong base anion exchange resin to produce high quality water meeting (and possibly exceeding) all state standards.

While the current system is temporary, it will remain in service for at least two years

while the District designs, permits and constructs a larger, \$7.4M permanent plant at a nearby site. The pilot system will also verify if the District’s treatment goal of 2 ppb set by the Board of Directors in August 2014 (which is 80% lower than the State’s MCL) can be achieved.



The full-scale treatment system has been constructed by IonexSG at the San Andreas Well, and startup is scheduled for early October.

To learn more about this project, customers can contact Taj Dufour, the District’s Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer.

School’s Back in Session: Free Tours, Presentations and more!

The Soquel Creek Water District is proud to serve as a community resource for water education to the local schools within our service area. Here are just a few of our FREE offerings:

- Schoolwide assemblies featuring either ZunZun or EarthCapades. Both groups present concepts about water conservation, pollution prevention, watersheds and the hydrologic cycle through their unique and theatrical stage shows.
- Classroom presentations for preschool through high school.
- Field trips to wells near the schools for fifth grade and college.
- Grade specific water education activity booklets, posters, stickers, and more.
- Mini-grants to promote water conservation and awareness on campus such as rain barrel demonstration area, drought tolerant landscaping, or a garden with drip-irrigation.
- Water Savers volunteer opportunities to help people become more aware of water conservation.

To get your school involved, schedule or volunteer with us, or for more information contact Vai Campbell at 831-475-8501 ext. 142 or visit www.soquelcreekwater.org/schools/school-programs

Employee Spotlight:

VALERIE SPAUGH, Customer Service Supervisor

VALERIE BEGAN WORKING with the District in April 2012 and oversees a team of six Customer Service Representatives. She and her staff are responsible for answering customers' questions about water bills, payments, conservation and other issues. Valerie's customer-centered approach is unprecedented. She has vast knowledge of our billing system and continually acts as a connection between the office and our field service staff so that customer issues are identified and resolved as quickly as possible.

Valerie is a native Santa Cruz County resident, with family going back eight generations. She has a strong sense of community and her deep ties to the area are what make this such a special place for



her to live and raise her own family. We recently posed some questions to Valerie:

What makes Soquel Creek Water District customers so special?

Our customers are very aware and eager to try new ways to conserve water.

What do you like best working for the Soquel Creek Water District?

The staff here consistently works together toward the goal of providing the community a safe and reliable water source. It is very fulfilling to be part of such a great effort to supply the community with a valuable resource.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I really enjoy meeting customers and hearing about all the amazing ways that they are saving water.

Next time you see Valerie in our District Office or chat with her on the phone, ask her about her fabulous vegetable garden, her canning & preserves, or her four kids and puppy.



**5180 Soquel Drive
Soquel, CA 95073
P.O. Box 1550
Capitola, CA 95010**

**Phone: 831-475-8500
Fax: 831-475-4291
Email: custserv@soquelcreekwater.org**

www.soquelcreekwater.org

other ways to connect with us!



History in the making: In August, CA legislature passed a three-bill package that would establish the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act and require basins throughout the state to develop Plans designed to achieve basin sustainability by the Year 2040.