

What's On Tap



AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Looking Forward: District Developing Long-Term Strategic Plan

KICKING OFF THIS spring is a six-month strategic planning process that will refine the vision, mission, core values, and goals for the agency and create a roadmap for long-term planning. The process is using appreciative inquiry which includes a holistic approach of gathering positive input from the entire organization, including the Board of Directors and the entire staff, as well as our community that we serve.

Two community workshops will be held on Wednesday, June 3 to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the guiding principles being used by the District to develop the plan. The sessions will be open and collaborative workshops, referred to as café-style meetings, where the public can offer ideas and opinions directly to District's board members and management staff on the draft plan.



**COMMUNITY
WATERPLAN**

We will also be conducting an on-line survey in June to expand the channels of information gathering.

Mark your calendar and visit the District website for more information:
[www.soquelcreekwater.org/
communitywaterplan](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org/communitywaterplan)

"It is very important to the District that our Community Water Plan is formulated in an open and transparent manner with meaningful input from our customers and other key stakeholders," said Kim Adamson, General Manager.

Groundwater replenishment study to begin

To further our efforts of securing a new water supply, we are continuing to study groundwater replenishment. This type of project involves purifying wastewater and injecting it back into our ground-water basin to restore water levels and protect against seawater intrusion.

New regulations passed in 2014 make this option more viable for the District and many other agencies throughout California who are evaluating similar projects. We recently were awarded a \$75,000 grant by the State Water Resources Control Board that will support an upcoming feasibility study.

Our Board of Directors meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Capitola City Council Chambers. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting.

Helping You to Keep Conserving

OUR CUSTOMERS DID an incredible job conserving water in 2014 and used about 20% less than in 2013 – thanks in part to heightened awareness of water scarcity during the drought. While drought contributes to our long-term water shortage, it is not the primary cause of it. The problem is that—despite our residential customers using half the water that most Californians do—we are using more water than can be naturally replenished through rainfall. As we enter our fourth consecutive dry year, we



encourage our customers to continue using water efficiently. Your conservation efforts are helping protect our community's over-drafted groundwater supply while we actively seek long-term solutions, such as additional water sources.

We encourage our customers to keep up the great work! To help you, we're introducing new and expanded conservation programs. These include informational water reports for single-family residential and irrigation-only customers, more customer rebates, drought restriction information for hotels and vacation rentals to encourage water-saving behavior and a high-efficiency dish-rinsing spray valve installation program for restaurants.

In April, our Board will consider what level Water Shortage Emergency to declare based on water supply conditions (rainfall through March 31 and water levels).

For more information, visit www.soquelcreekwater.org/cutbacks

In March, the State mandated new rules on outdoor watering that include water agencies establish a two-day per week irrigation restriction for landscaping and turf.

Visit our website for up-to-date information on State and local decisions about water use restrictions in 2015.

employee spotlight: Mike Wilson, Associate Engineer

TRAVELING ROCK-N-ROLLER to Civil Engineer isn't your typical career trajectory, but that's the path Mike Wilson took before entering the world of water.

"Becoming a Civil Engineer is something I decided to pursue later in life, after years traveling on the road playing music," Mike explained. "I chose Civil Engineering because it involves working on community projects and it is a profession I can do anywhere in the world."

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O'Neill Ranch Well Almost Complete



WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE that this spring, the O'Neill Ranch Well Iron & Manganese treatment facility will be brought online to deliver approximately 600 gallons per minute (GPM) of high quality drinking water for district customers.

The new well is 655 feet deep and is constructed of 16-inch diameter stainless steel casing and well screen. Construction of the iron and manganese treatment plant took just over a year. While the raw well water meets all primary drinking

water standards, the levels of naturally occurring iron and manganese are higher than the aesthetic (secondary) levels set by the State. The filtration equipment ensures the water delivered to you meets all primary and secondary State water quality requirements.

The \$5 million project included 2,100 feet of new pipeline from 41st Avenue to Porter Street, new pumping equipment, a control building, an emergency back-up generator and filtration equipment.

O'Neill Ranch Well is one of five new wells designed to move pumping inland and away from the coast. This will help guard against seawater intrusion from moving more inland and contaminating our drinking water.

These new wells will not add to the overall amount of water we're pumping.

(Employee Spotlight, continued)

Prior to joining the Soquel Creek Water District, Mike spent a number of years consulting for and working with other water agencies, including the Marina Coast Water District in Monterey County and the Alameda County Water District in the East Bay. Mike enjoys the variety of projects he works on at the Soquel Creek Water District, including helping new customers with their building projects and large-scale, capital improvement projects. He is most proud of identifying improvements to our existing water distribution system, and overseeing the O'Neill and Polo Grounds well projects and Aptos and McGregor pump station projects. These projects help to efficiently and effectively move water through our system to District customers.

Mike still "jams" and is involved in the local bluegrass scene, and he and his family enjoy their time together in our community. Not only does he work for the Soquel Creek Water District – he's also a customer.

What's On Tap is an in-house publication printed bi-monthly for the customers of our District. Forward your comments to the editor at P.O. Box 1550, Capitola, CA 95010.



District Commended for Transparency

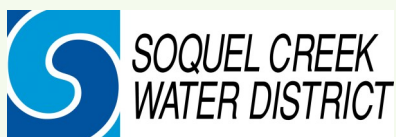
THE DISTRICT HAS BECOME the first Santa Cruz County Special District to receive a “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” from the California Special District Leadership Foundation in recognition of outstanding transparency and good governance.

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate essential governance transparency requirements, including ethics training for all board

members, conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports. The District also met public outreach standards through a regularly distributed newsletter and special community engagement projects such as its recent Groundwater Stakeholder Meetings, the year-long back-up water supply evaluations, and the regional conservation campaign this past summer.

The District’s website was completely revamped in 2014 to be more welcoming and friendly for web visitors and was specifically designed to provide open access to information, 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Our website provides easily-accessible information to the public, such as board agendas and packets, past board meeting minutes, the current District budget, and the most recent financial audit.

“The entire District staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight,” said Kim Adamson, General Manager.



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