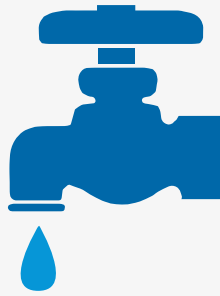


What's On Tap

AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT



Capital Improvement Projects Update

Ensuring our water infrastructure is maintained and replaced is a part of our commitment to keeping critical infrastructure safe and reliable. Our Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) maintain our water system so that homes, businesses, and firefighters can continue to have the water they need for their everyday and emergency needs. Here are some updates on current CIP and future CIPs. For the most up-to-date information follow our webpage at soquelcreekwater.org/CIP.

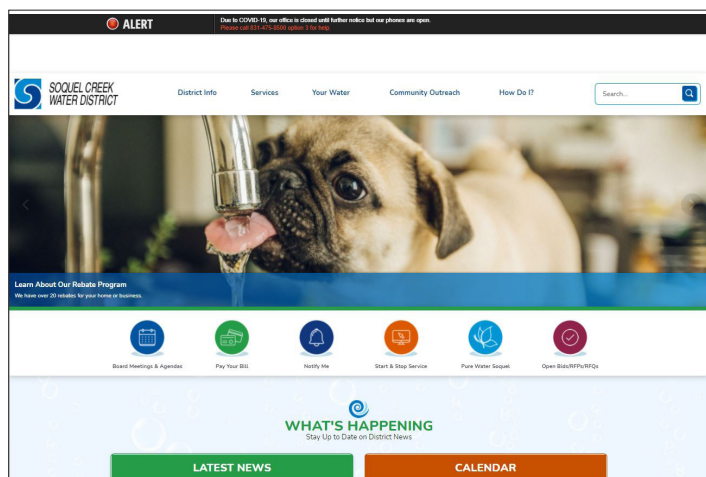
SOQUEL DR. PHASE IV MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Pacific Underground Construction has installed ~4,000 feet of new water main along Soquel Dr. from Cabrillo to Mar Vista Dr. They are currently installing fire hydrants and then will do the next segment of pipeline towards State Park Dr. Lastly, they will be installing new water mains up Haas Dr. This project is expected to be complete by the end of 2021. *Cont. on page 5*



New pipeline is installed along Soquel Drive near Mar Vista Middle School.

Introducing Our New Website



Screen shot of the new home page of the District website.

We launched a brand-new website (same URL soquelcreekwater.org) in May that is streamlined, cleaner, easier to navigate, mobile-optimized, and designed to serve our customers better. It is hosted by CivicPlus, the leading provider of local government websites.

The new site's intuitive search functionality and navigation menus make it easy for you to locate whatever you may be looking for from the homepage—from the latest news and updates, Board meetings, and conservation tools to our WaterSmart customer portal, construction information, our Pure Water Soquel project, and much more. In addition, the NotifyMe communication subscription feature allows you to subscribe to receive notifications via email and/or text message on topics that matter most to you. You'll also see more online forms and a new Agenda Center. We hope you enjoy using our new website.

Pure Water Soquel Construction Update

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is the District's sole source of drinking water. It is also used by the City of Santa Cruz, Central Water, other small mutual agencies, and over a thousand private well owners. The basin is designated as critically overdrafted by the State, resulting in a diminished, uncertain water supply and seawater contamination. To address these challenges, the District is implementing the Pure Water Soquel Project (PWS). PWS will reclaim approximately 25% of the eight million gallons of water that is treated at the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility and discharged every day into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This treated water will be recycled and put through an advanced water purification process. The purified water creates a freshwater barrier against seawater contamination and replenishes the groundwater basin. PWS is comprised of:

- eight miles of pipelines
- a new Recycled Water Facility and pump station at the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility
- a Water Purification Center on Chanticleer Avenue
- three seawater intrusion prevention (SWIP) wells and associated monitoring wells

Three SWIP wells have recently been built in Aptos and Capitola to replenish the groundwater basin with the purified water produced from the Water Purification Center. In late 2021 and throughout 2022, the District will be constructing the site improvements at these new SWIP well locations and also constructing several monitoring wells.

Construction is beginning this spring on the pipelines that will be installed under numerous streets from the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility in Santa Cruz to the Water Purification Center on Chanticleer Avenue, and then to the SWIP Wells in Capitola and Aptos. The construction, which will move from area to area along the pipeline route, is expected to continue through 2022. In the fall/winter of 2021, we plan to break ground on the new Water Purification Center and Recycled Water Facility.

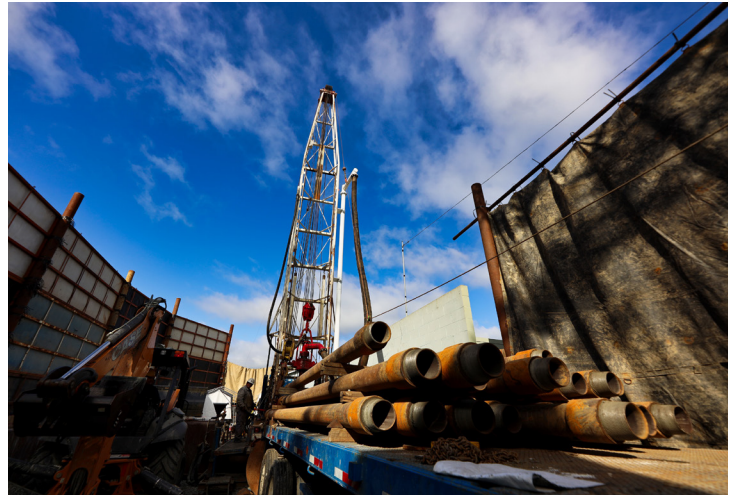
Helpful Links:

Pure Water Soquel Overview:
soquelcreekwater.org/PWS

Construction Updates:
soquelcreekwater.org/PWSConstruction

Monterey SWIP Well Construction Photos

PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN PAINCHARD



Monterey SWIP Well site drill rig and bits.

PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN PAINCHARD



Aerial view of the Monterey SWIP Well site



These glass beads are the packing material that goes around the well casing. They allow water to flow out into the aquifer.

Willowbrook SWIP Well Construction Photos



Drilling the initial bore hole.

PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN PAINCHARD



Well casing pipes.



Welding of the well casing pipes.

Emergency Preparedness and Power Shutoffs

We take emergencies very seriously here at the District. 2020 was an unprecedented year in disasters. From the dry lightning, to the wildfires, to COVID-19, we are proud that we have been able to keep providing you, our customers, high-quality water.

As summer is approaching, we have to prepare for PG&E to call for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) again this year. A PSPS power outage activates a short-term Stage 5 critical water supply. Normal water use can resume once the electricity is turned back on. Visit our website at soquelcreekwater.org/psps to see what we are doing to prepare and what you can do to prepare as well.

Did You Know...

California is prone to droughts.

California has the nation's most variable climate, and droughts are a recurring feature. Very wet and very dry years are both common, while “normal” years—widely used to describe average precipitation—are rare. Yet one dry year does not constitute a drought. Water stored in the state's reservoirs and groundwater basins protect against individual dry years. Droughts occur when two or more successive years are very dry, and reservoirs and groundwater reserves are depleted. Significant recent droughts occurred in 1976-77, 1987-92, 2007-09, and 2012-16.

Climate change is making droughts more intense.

The past two decades have been exceptionally warm and dry, and included the hottest drought (2012-16) in the state's recorded history. Warming is making droughts more intense. A “thirstier” atmosphere—a direct consequence of warming—increases evaporation, which reduces water availability for ecosystems and human uses. Warming is also decreasing the proportion of precipitation that falls as snow. Snowpack is an important part of the state's water storage system, accounting for about 30% of water supply. “Snow droughts” make it harder to manage reservoirs for water supply and hydropower generation.

Source: https://www.ppic.org/publication/droughts-in-california/?utm_source=ppic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=epub

“Convenient...User-Friendly...Great Information!” Customers Love the New WaterSmart Customer Portal

Our new WaterSmart Customer Portal is an easy-to-use, free online tool giving you more control over your water use and billing, leak detection, and more. You can set up alerts for leak detection or water-use level. It's also a single log-in to pay your bill!

Sign Up Today! Call us at 831-475-8500, or email us at custserv@soquelcreekwater.org to update your information. Then, go online to SoquelCreekWD.watersmart.com. Ensure you have your water account number as it appears on your water bill or your WaterSmart welcome letter. Follow the prompts to register, and that's it!



Example of the customer portal.

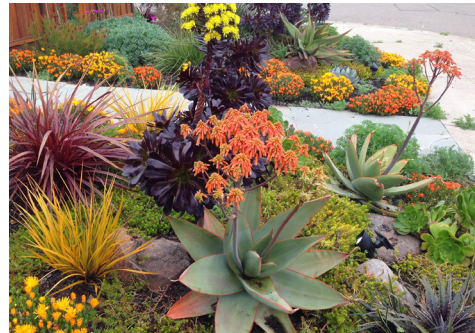
I easily set up an alert for my water use threshold, and it's already been super-helpful on several occasions.

I appreciate the notice of excessive water usage— we've been out of town and found out we had a leak!

“Thanks for this notification system! We found the leak and repaired it - no damage!”

Bigger, Better Turf Rebate

A bigger and better rebate is now available to all District customers who replace their lawns with lower water-using plants. It's worth two dollars per square foot, covers materials and labor, and is available right now. This rebate helps our customers convert thirsty and costly ornamental lawns into outdoor spaces that look good and benefit the community. Find out more at soquelcreekwater.org/rebates.



Beautiful succulents and California natives are just one way to create a beautiful yard with no lawn.

Employee Spotlight

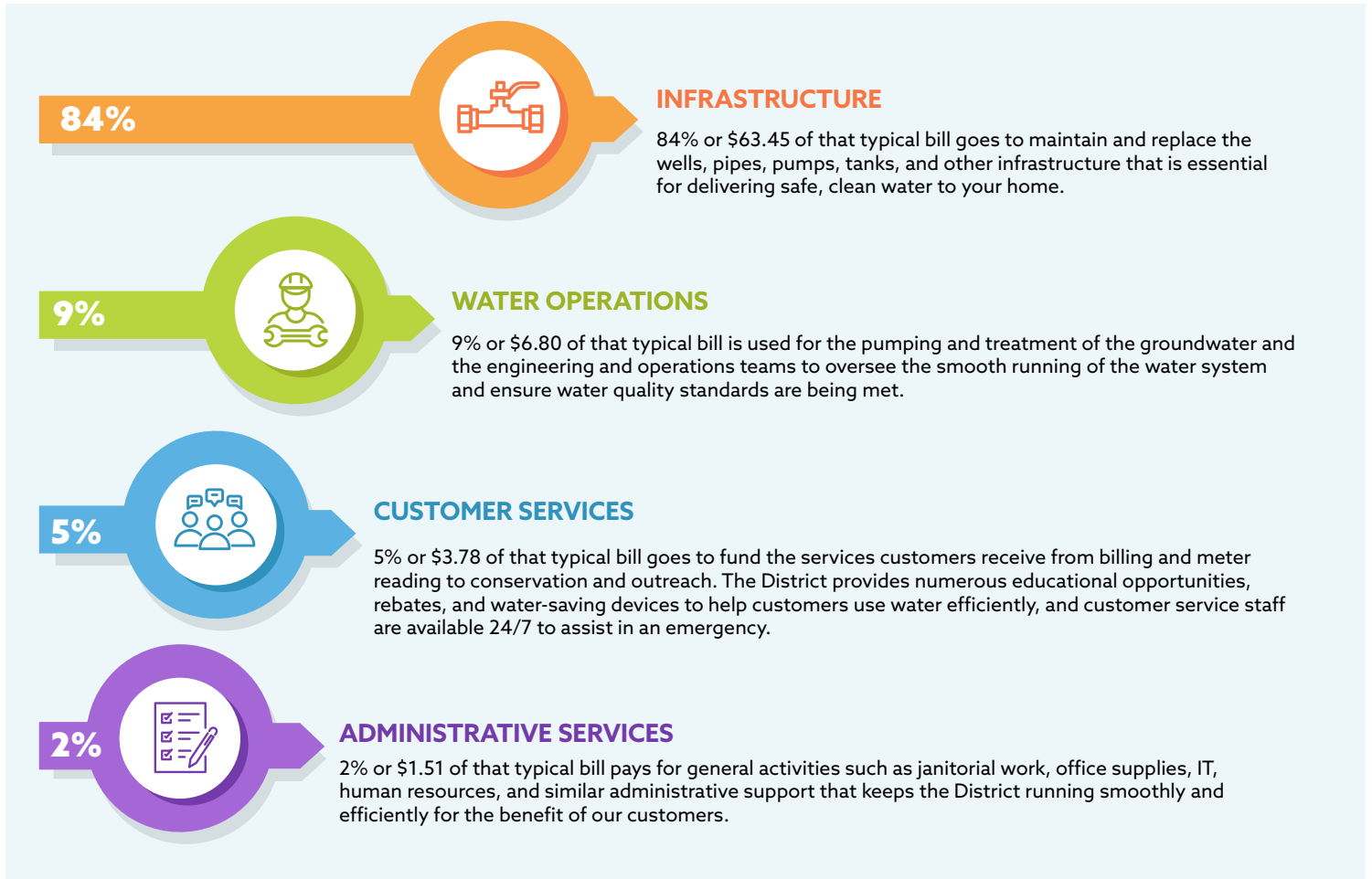
At the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic over a year ago, like many of you experienced in your own lives, we took immediate action to shut down our offices, redeploy office staff to a remote working environment and reconfigure field staff procedures and protocols to safely allow essential workers the ability to continue their critical work. Our charge is to keep your water service safe and reliable every day and under all circumstances. Our employees take this responsibility very seriously.

This year, we celebrated Public Employee Appreciation Week (May 2-8, 2021) by recognizing our essential water professionals. Our dedicated employees did not

miss a beat and worked tirelessly to keep your water safe, dependable and flowing during a worldwide pandemic, a County fire event unlike we've ever experienced, home and work environments that were turned upside down, social, economic, and political unrest and we could go on. Former US Secretary of the Treasury, Jacob Lew, was once quoted as saying, “I think there is no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world.” What matters most is serving you, our customers, the best way we possibly can, and we are grateful to have such a fine group of dedicated people serving you every day.

What does a Typical Residential Water Bill Pay For?

100% of our revenue is from your rates. When Soquel Creek Water District gets your payment, this is how we use the money received from a typical monthly bill of \$75.54 (6 units of water) so we can provide you fresh, clean water at the turn of your tap.



CIP continued from page 1

This project replaces the failing cast iron pipe along this corridor and will significantly improve the reliability of the water system in this area. Part of this area has corrosive soils that have eaten away at the existing cast iron pipe over the last 60 years. This compromised pipeline has had several catastrophic failures over the last several years which are dangerous and expensive to repair.

Here are a few projects planned for next fiscal year:

CLIFF DR. AND BAYVIEW DR. MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT. This project replaces water mains in Cliff Dr. from Mirada Dr. to the Hidden Beach parking lot, and in Bayview Dr. from 632 Cliff Dr. to 664 Bayview Dr. The Santa Cruz County Public Works will schedule a road overlay in Cliff Dr. using Measure D funding upon completion of this main replacement.

HUNTINGTON DR. MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

This project replaces water mains in Huntington Dr. from Monroe Dr. to the District's Rio Del Mar Estates tank just past View Ct. The project will include a pressure reducing station allowing the use of the Rio Del Mar Estates tank to provide water storage to the north side of Highway 1 in Service Area 3.

ST. ANDREW AREA MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

This project replaces water mains in the St. Andrews neighborhood along Clubhouse Dr. water mains will be replaced in St. Andrews Dr. and St. Andrews Way, Wingfoot Way, Wingfoot Dr. and Wingfoot Ct., and Baltusrol Dr.

Vaidehi Campbell Williams Memorial Garden

In September of 2019, we lost a beloved member of our work-family in the tragic fire aboard the diving boat Conception off the Channel Islands, which also took 33 other lives. Vaidehi Campbell Williams, who had been with the District for over 18 years, continues to be immensely missed by her colleagues, by the community she served, and most of all by her family. In honor of Vai's memory, the District, Ecology Action, and the Water Conservation Coalition of Santa Cruz County created a drought-tolerant memorial garden. The Climate Victory Garden grant paid for the design, installation, project coordination, plants, cardboard, mulch, and gopher baskets. The installation labor and many other materials costs were donated by members of the Central Coast Chapter of the CA Landscape Contractors Association and others who worked with Vaidehi on landscape water conservation throughout her career. The Garden is located at the District's offices at 5180 Soquel Drive and the corner of Rosedale Ave. We invite you to come visit.



The memorial garden was planted on Earth Day April 22 by two shifts of volunteers made up of friends, family, and colleagues. It was a fitting tribute as Vaidehi was a strong believer in living her life everyday as Earth Day.



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

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

More information is available at:
www.soquelcreekwater.org

Other ways to connect with us!

