

# What's On Tap



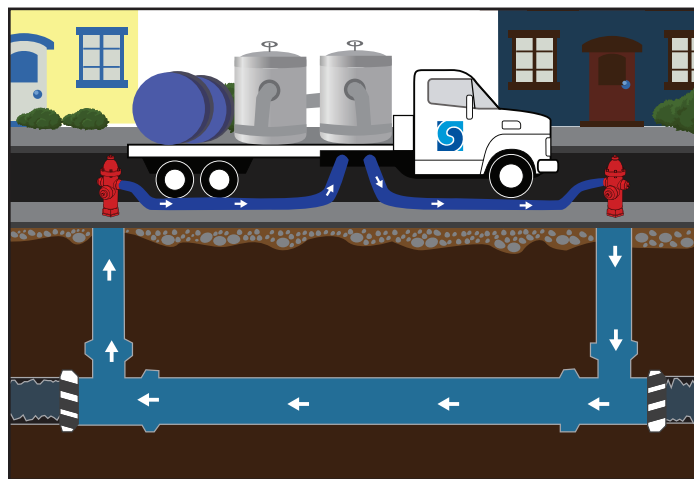
AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

## Enhancing Water Quality Through Waste-Free Flushing

**WATER MAIN FLUSHING IS NECESSARY AND CRITICAL TO ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY WATER.**

The traditional method of flushing water mains involves opening up fire hydrants and letting the water flush out at high velocities. As water flows through the mains, deposits and fine sediment are dislodged and the flushed water flows down the street and out to the sewer or storm drain. This method requires a lot of water and since everyone is making an effort to conserve water due to the drought and our critically-overdrafted groundwater basin, the District temporarily stopped flushing in 2014.

In May of this year, the District re-initiated its Flushing Program using a waste-free unit that saves water and improves water quality.



*The waste-free flushing loop.*

Using this new method, the waste-free flushing unit is connected to two fire hydrants and creates a temporary loop so water is circulated through the unit's filters which remove sediment and particulates (see diagram). The water is then returned to the District's water pipes.

***This innovative system eliminates water waste and will save 6 million gallons per year.***

Look for our waste-free flushing unit in the western part of the District. If you have questions please contact Christine Mead, Operations and Maintenance Manager at [christinem@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:christinem@soquelcreekwater.org) or (831)475-8500.



*The waste-free unit and crew.*

*From left to right: K.C. Cole, Mark Rosenthal, Travis Enzweiler, Andy Villegas, Gavin McCraw, Eric Humble, and Justin Paul*

# Supplemental Supply Evaluation Update

**SECURING A NEW WATER SUPPLY IS ESSENTIAL** to protect our groundwater resources from further seawater intrusion and meet the needs of our community. The District is evaluating three options.

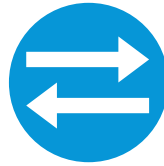


## Groundwater Replenishment with Purified Water

The District Board selected this option as its preferred project. It involves receiving wastewater from the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District or the City of Santa Cruz, purifying it, and then injecting it into the ground to recharge the aquifer and provide a barrier to seawater intrusion. Orange County Water District has been purifying recycled water to use as groundwater replenishment for over 40 years! San Diego, Monterey, and Silicon Valley are also currently evaluating similar projects.

### Current Status:

The environmental process has begun and public input/scoping is anticipated to begin in late fall with a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scheduled for summer 2017.



## River Water Transfer/Purchase

This option involves

transferring excess treated river water in the wintertime from the City of Santa Cruz to the District and then potentially sending water back to the City during drought times.

**Current Status:** A short-term pilot project is being developed to monitor the effects of blending surface water and groundwater. The City has identified other studies that need to be conducted for the next five years.



## Desalination

In 2015, the District signed a non-binding agreement

to potentially purchase desalinated water from Deep Water Desal LLC, a private company proposing to build a seawater desalination project in Moss Landing, CA.

**Current Status:** This project's Draft EIR is scheduled to be released in 2017. Also, DeepWater Desal is finishing up its financial model revisions so they can begin requesting more formal purchase agreements from water agencies.

*The District's Supplemental Water Supply Committee is comprised of President Bruce Daniels, Director Rachél Lather, and Larry Freeman (public member) and meets to review and discuss the District's supplemental water supply efforts.*

*The next two meetings are October 12 and December 14 and the public is welcome to attend.*

## Committed to Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency

**THE DISTRICT IS COMMITTED TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**, and a great deal of financial information regarding our operations is available and accessible anytime through our website's Transparency Center: [www.soquelcreekwater.org/transparency-center/finance-and-budget](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org/transparency-center/finance-and-budget). If you don't have access to our website and would like to review our financial documents please call (831) 475-8500 and our finance department is happy to help.

# Customer Spotlight: Kate Venturini

Soquel, CA

**CREATING LIGHT AND SPACE WAS THEIR FIRST GOAL** when the Venturinis moved into their new home in the hilltop area of Soquel in the 1990s. Kate Venturini took on the landscaping and removed the large shrubs that

***Kate's main focus was to conserve water and use her garden like an artist's canvas to create a calming sanctuary when she refreshed her landscaping.***

blocked light into the house, as well as the lawn and voracious ivy and shrubs that overwhelmed the backyard. The slope in her backyard is now a colorful stair-step of unique rocks featuring red, yellow, white and green succulents,

hummingbird sage, and other flowering Mediterranean climate plants. The fire pit that was once a pond now brings people together to enjoy the outdoor space. The rocks she finds on her travels are tucked into the landscape like little treasures to discover.

Only the Joshua trees remain from the original yard. Her husband created a tiled patio and replaced the lawn and shrubs with small wandering gravel and stone paths dotted with flowing bunch grasses, flax, aloe and unique succulents that she finds or trades with others.



*Kate trades unique succulents with friends and other succulent lovers.*

The outside patio is framed with colorful pink bougainvillea and her spikey cactuses are safely featured in decorative pots on the patio. She rarely waters her garden now and her gardening shears have become rusty from infrequent use. She saves her warm-up water in her shower to water the plants that are in full sun and gives the succulents a little morning spray-down with her hose nozzle after a hot spell.

***Since the mid -90s, the Venturinis have cut their summertime water use in half.***

Kate's garden, along with the drought, has now inspired others in her neighborhood to replace their lawn with more drought tolerant plants. Thanks Kate for the water-wise gardening inspiration!



*Before and after Kate transformed the garden.*



# 80 Years of Combined Experience Serving District Customers

## IN AUGUST, THE DISTRICT HONORED STAFF

for their dedicated service to customers and our water delivery system. Teams of hardworking and caring employees are the cornerstone of our organization and we believe in celebrating this dedication. This year six employees were recognized, with a combined 80 years of experience, for their exceptional service.

**Rob Jaime – 25 years:** *Customer Service Field Crew Leader.* Rob is in charge of running a crew collecting meter-reads, and investigating and responding to a variety of customer concerns.

**Michael Aguon – 15 years:** *Water Systems Operator II.* Mike is the senior operator charged with keeping our water moving. You'll find him inspecting and operating our water pumps, motors, and control systems to maintain a safe and reliable delivery.



From left to right: Michael Wilson, Vai Campbell, Rob Jaime & Laurie McManus. (Not pictured: Michael Aguon and David Patten)

**Vai Campbell – 15 years:** *Communications/GIS Program Assistant.* Vai has held the roles of public outreach and community relations, primarily with the District's local school-based programs, as well as carrying out and maintaining the District's Geographic Information System (GIS) files and maps.

**David Patten – 10 years:** *Equipment Mechanic.* Dave is in charge of maintaining, diagnosing and repairing the District's fleet of vehicles and equipment. He keeps our people and fleet running smoothly and safely around the community.

**Michael Wilson – 10 years:** *Associate Engineer.* Mike is a professionally licensed Engineer who directs office and field work in the construction and modification of our water supply infrastructure.

**Laurie McManus – 5 years:** *Accounting Specialist.* Laurie works hard to ensure District financials are in order through her work with accounts payable and receivable, purchasing and payroll.

A special thank you to each of these dedicated employees who are an important part of our District team!



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

Phone: 831-475-8500

Fax: 831-475-4291

[custserv@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:custserv@soquelcreekwater.org)

More information is available at:

[www.soquelcreekwater.org](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org)

Other ways to connect with us!

