

What's On Tap



AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

District's Well Master Plan Continues with Granite Way Well Construction

IN OCTOBER, THE DISTRICT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW GRANITE WAY WELL FROM OUR WELL MASTER PLAN.

This new \$580k well will not increase our overall pumping volume and is part of our long-term plan to redistribute pumping away from the coast and reduce seawater intrusion from moving further inland. This well will also ensure reliable water supply when individual wells are out of service.

The new well will be over 700 ft deep and is expected to be completed before Christmas. Earlier this summer a pipeline was installed to connect the new well to the District's existing water treatment facility near the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park entrance. To minimize disturbances, temporary 16 feet tall sound curtains will surround the well site. Once the well portion is complete, the final phase of the project will be completed in late winter/spring



to bring power to the site and install a security fence. If you have questions, please contact Mike Wilson, Associate Engineer, at 831-475-8501x122 or michaelw@soquelcreekwater.org.

Special Board Meeting & Workshop Initiates Redesign of Water Demand Offset (WDO) Program

OVER 60 PARTICIPANTS including District customers, representatives from the City of Capitola and County of Santa Cruz, private well users, and community members attended the Special Board Meeting-WDO Workshop on October 1st. Participants brainstormed solutions to program issues and several suggested ideas have been evaluated by staff and presented at recent Board Meetings. As part of this

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Preparing for Winter Rains: Rebates to Help You Conserve and Save

IN PREPARATION FOR THE WINTER RAIN, THERE ARE THREE WATER SAVING REBATES AVAILABLE that can save water and help increase infiltration into the ground.



1 Rain Sensor for an Automatic Irrigation Timer.

This small and inexpensive (\$30) device detects the presence of a set amount of rainfall (e.g., 1/8-inch, 1/4-inch, etc.) and automatically stops the irrigation system from coming on during the rain. Rain sensors are mounted in an open outdoor area (e.g., along the eaves of a house, on the side of a gutter, etc.) and connect to an automatic irrigation system, either via hard-wiring or through the use of a wireless transmitter and receiver. The rebate is for \$25, which makes this great addition to an automatic timer almost free!



2 Rainwater Downspout Re-direct Hose.

A re-direct hose diverts your rainwater into a rock lined swale or depression in the garden.

Redirecting and slowing the flow of rainwater that runs off of your roof to the street can prevent damage to your home and foundation, provide water to your plants, promote infiltration and groundwater recharge, and help minimize erosion, runoff and stormwater pollution. The rebate is for \$40 per downspout for a max of two downspouts.



3 Rainwater Collection.

From barrels to large tanks, the rain gutters on your house can be directed into covered containers and provide irrigation water for your garden during dry times. In addition to saving water, rain catchment systems help prevent stormwater runoff and pollution and promote groundwater recharge. The rebate is for \$25 per barrel (barrels with a storage capacity of 50-100 gallons); or \$25 per 100 gallons of storage capacity (tanks/cisterns with a storage capacity of 100-3,000 gallons). If you get a 3,000 gallon tank or more, you could get a \$750 rebate!

For details visit: www.soquelcreekwater.org/conserving-water/rebates

WDO Program

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community effort that stemmed from the Saturday morning workshop, a redesign of the District's WDO program has emerged. Through the WDO program, which allows developers to build and acquire a water service if they save 2x the amount of water they are projected to use, an enhanced toilet rebate may soon be available. Instead of our current \$100 toilet rebate for residential customers, an enhanced rebate of approximately \$300 would be funded through developers' WDO fees that would cover the cost of parts (i.e. tank, bowl and seat) and contractor-performed labor.

If the Board approves the enhanced toilet rebate program, we will likely be unveiling the details in mid-December or early January. Please keep your eyes on the website for more details!

Groundwater Replenishment Project Update

PUREWater Soquel
Replenishing Mid-County Groundwater

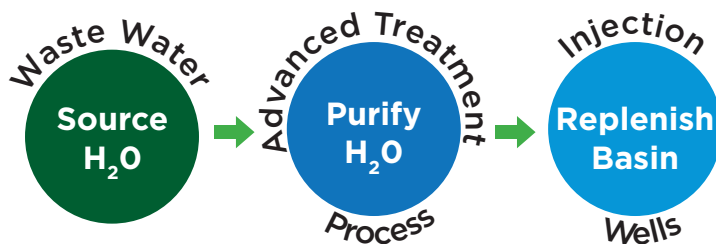
OUR GROUNDWATER SUPPLY IS CRITICALLY OVERDRAFTED AND SEAWATER INTRUSION HAS BEEN DETECTED AT THE COASTLINE.

Thus, a new source of supply is needed to replenish the groundwater basin and to ensure meeting current and future water needs.

The District continues to make progress on its groundwater replenishment project with adopting a new name and seeking public input on the environmental review.

What is Pure Water Soquel?

The District's groundwater replenishment project, now called Pure Water Soquel, involves taking municipal wastewater from the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District or the City of Santa Cruz and using advanced water purification methods to produce 1,500 acre-feet per year (488 million gallons per year) of high-quality water. The purified water would then be injected into the groundwater to replenish the groundwater basin and provide a barrier against seawater intrusion.



Why Purified Water?

Many communities with long-term water shortages have either implemented or are currently evaluating purified water projects. Orange County Water District has been purifying recycled water to use as groundwater replenishment for over 40 years! Utilities in San Diego, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey, and Silicon Valley are all seriously considering purified water as a part of their water supply portfolios.

What are the Project Benefits?

RELIABILITY

- Available year-round, even in times of drought
- Provides resiliency and diversification for customers' water supply

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Provides a barrier against seawater intrusion
- Promotes beneficial reuse of treated wastewater that currently goes out to the Pacific Ocean

HIGH-QUALITY WATER

- Produces purified water that meets all state and federal regulations

TIMELINESS

- Ability to build the project in a timely manner before seawater intrusion worsens

What are the Current Activities?

The District is currently conducting several technical studies and preparing an environmental impact report (EIR). The first step in the EIR process is called scoping, which will help the District define the environmental issues to be evaluated in the EIR. Release of a Notice of Preparation/Initial Study will occur in late November and initiates the start of the scoping period on the environmental topics, potential effects, mitigation measures, and range of alternatives to be analyzed in the project EIR. Public comments, both oral and written, are welcome during this scoping period.

For more information on the Pure Water Soquel project including the technical studies and scoping process, visit www.soquelcreekwater.org/purewatersoquel

Liquid Spotlight: Carla James

THIS EDITION'S EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON WATER QUALITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CARLA JAMES.

Carla has worked as the District's Water Quality Program Coordinator since 2013. For 12 years prior to joining the District, she served multiple water and wastewater agencies in Monterey County, performing hydrologic and water quality analysis on potable surface and groundwater sources, plus domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater. She holds California State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Certification as a Treatment and Distribution Operator, as well as a California Water Environment Association Laboratory Analyst, and American Water Works Association Water Use Efficiency Practitioner certificates. She has a degree in Biological Sciences from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Carla spends her days ensuring compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards. In many cases, by Board mandate, Soquel Creek Water District takes measures beyond those standards by monitoring more frequently than required. Carla makes sure that data gathered from all water quality analyses is readily available for use by regulatory agencies, consultants, and the public.



She also prepares the District's annual Consumer Confidence Report, and she especially enjoys communicating with customers who have water quality related questions.

When she's not monitoring water quality, you may find her enjoying time with her three children, exploring the great outdoors, hiking and admiring cool rocks and interesting plants. Next time you fill up your glass, think of Carla James—working hard to ensure the high quality of our water resource.



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More information is available at:
www.soquelcreekwater.org

Other ways to connect with us!



An advertisement for lawn replacement. It features a photograph of a green plant growing in a pot. The text reads: "REPLACE YOUR LAWN THIS FALL. Plants set in the fall REQUIRE LESS WATER & look better come spring! Check our website for rebates! www.soquelcreekwater.org". The website address is repeated at the bottom of the ad.