

What's On Tap



AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Water Supply Shortage Continues Despite Rainfall

ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN ABOVE-AVERAGE RAINFALL so far this winter, here at Soquel Creek Water District (District) we still have a water supply shortage. We recognize this message is counterintuitive and requires a bit of explanation.

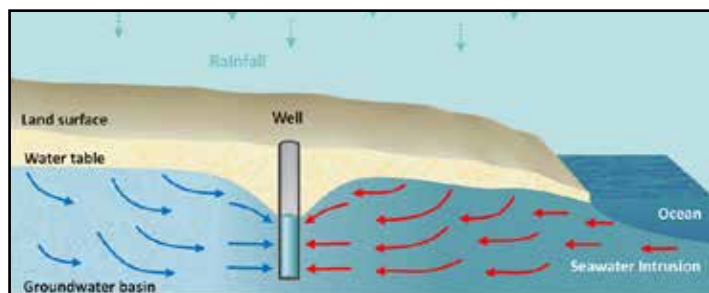
Groundwater is the District's **only** source of water and is relied upon by thousands of other private well pumpers in the region as well as other agencies and small water systems. Despite extensive conservation efforts by customers, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is in a state

The water shortage in our District goes beyond the drought.

of critical overdraft because more water has historically been pumped out than has

naturally been recharged through rainfall. Overdraft of the groundwater basin is not sustainable and seawater intrusion is present in the Pleasure Point, Aptos, Seascape, and La Selva Beach areas.

The water shortage in our District goes beyond the drought. To address the overdraft problems we developed the Community Water Plan (CWP) with input from our community. The CWP—our roadmap to meeting our goal of sustainability by 2040—is



When the volume of groundwater in the basin is reduced, it allows seawater intrusion to occur.

comprised of three key components: 1) Continued water conservation and zero impact development; 2) Pro-active groundwater management; and 3) Securing supplemental water supplies. The synergies of this multi-faceted approach is aimed at protecting our groundwater supply from seawater intrusion moving farther inland.

Based on our Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the Board, in April, may elect to extend the current Stage 3 Water Supply Shortage Emergency through 2017 and early 2018.

What does this mean for you as a customer?

We are asking our customers to continue with their conservation efforts and to learn more about our water supply problems. Customers looking to save

See Shortage, p2

New Toilet Rebate Now Available for Residential Customers

THE DISTRICT HAS A NEW AND ENHANCED TOILET REBATE which pays up to \$300 for parts and contracted labor! To qualify for the rebate, residential customers must replace toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush (GPF) or more with ultra-high efficiency toilets that use 0.8 GPF or less. Changing out a toilet is one of the easiest ways to lower a household's indoor water use. With this rebate, most installations should come at little or no additional cost.

See Rebate, p4



Supplemental Water Supply Update

To ensure resiliency, the District's Community Water Plan is based on the need and value of maintaining a diversified water portfolio. The District is keeping three supplemental supply options on the table—Pure Water Soquel, river water transfers and desalinated water. Below is a brief status update on each option.

On January 17, 2017 the District Board adopted Guiding Principles that serve as the standard of reasoning and action in the development and implementation of the Community Water Plan. You can read these principles on our website at www.soquelcreekwater.org/our-water/community-water-plan.

PUREWater Soquel

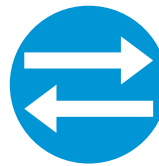
Replenishing Mid-County Groundwater



This water recycling project includes using purified water to replenish the groundwater basin. We are currently preparing an environmental impact report (EIR) and expect a draft EIR to be released in Summer 2017. The District is working with the City of Santa Cruz on a source water agreement which would capture about 25% of the existing treated effluent that is currently sent out to the ocean and redirect it for beneficial reuse. We view this as a win-win for the ocean environment and for the District, as it allows us to focus on a purification facility that doesn't need to treat raw wastewater.

For descriptions of each supply option being considered visit www.soquelcreekwater.org

River Water Transfers



The District continues to work with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department on a 5-year pilot project to purchase a small amount of treated river water, if available, in the winter months. We are currently working on testing how different pipe materials in our system will react to river water, creating an operational plan, and amending our permit with the State. We view this pilot project as an opportunity to further understand the water quality and operational issues for a potential longer-term project.

Desalination in Moss Landing



We continue to track the DeepWater Desal Project to potentially supply desalinated water to the District. The draft EIR for this project is expected to be released in Summer 2017.

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water may take advantage of one of our rebates to replace devices (toilets, clothes washers, greywater systems, etc.) and actions such as replacing turf with water-wise landscaping.

Consider contacting us to schedule a free water-wise home or business visit to help identify the most effective ways to save water.

While we wish we could say “We’re out of the woods,” in regards to our water supply challenges, we are optimistic that your continued efforts to save water, coupled with our efforts to secure supplemental water, will bring a day in which we can say those words.

District Customers Install Greywater System

ALTHOUGH THE GROUND IS FULLY SATURATED RIGHT NOW, Mr. Piercy and Mrs. Roddy, District Customers in Soquel, are prepared for the dry summer months ahead with a new greywater laundry to landscape system. Instead of turning on the irrigation system to water the



One of the drain outlet valves is covered and soaks into a mulch basin.

ornamental plants and fruit trees in their back yard, they turn a valve to irrigate with their laundry rinse water. This fall, their house was the demonstration site for the one day hands-on workshop that is taught each semester as part of the Cabrillo College Extension Program.

When Mr. Piercy first started looking into putting a greywater system in, he wanted to make sure he did it correctly and to code. Through the class, he learned how to install a system that is safe and will get the water from the washing machine to the plants that need it.

Jim Heaney, who teaches the Cabrillo class, donated his expertise and time to install the three-way valve and prepare the basic plumbing before the class. The homeowners paid for the materials which cost about \$200. The rebate they received from the Soquel Creek Water District was \$150.

The day of the class, the students and homeowners learned how to safely install the greywater system, dug the trenches, laid down the pipe, connected the outlet valves, and filled it in with mulch. Students learned about appropriate plant choices, safe soaps, and how to maintain, clean, and operate

the system. The spring is a great time to install a greywater system when the ground is soft and easy to dig in.

For the next Cabrillo class, Mr. Heaney is looking for a volunteer demonstration house that has the right set-up to show how a laundry to landscape system is installed.

An ideal laundry to landscape system demonstration site is where the washing machine is close to an outside wall, is upslope from an adjacent garden area, and has space for a class to assemble.

“After it was installed, I was surprised at how easy my greywater system is to operate.”
~Mr. Piercy



Mulch basin for greywater system with Boogy the dog.

The next class is scheduled for April 29th from 9am–4pm. If you're interested in offering your house as the site for a greywater system installation you can send an email to savewater@soquelcreekwater.org to get on the list for consideration. This one day public workshop only costs \$40 with the support of the Soquel Creek Water District and the Water Conservation Coalition of Santa Cruz County. Register for the *Greywater Recycling System: A Hands-on Installation Workshop* through Cabrillo College Extension Program at www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/green.html.

State Rolls Out New Lead Sampling in Schools Requirement

THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD LAUNCHED its effort to encourage K-12 schools in California to have their drinking water tested for lead. Community water systems are now required to test for lead in drinking water at the schools in their service areas if sampling is requested by school officials in writing. Schools covered by the requirement include public, private, charter, magnet, and non-public K-12 schools. Preschools and day-care centers are not included.

The District takes lead exposure seriously and will comply with this new requirement and respond within the regulatory timeframe to any K-12 schools in our service area that request lead sampling. Parents should contact their children's school officials and not Soquel Creek Water District to inquire about testing of the school's drinking water.

The District currently monitors the tap water in 30 homes every three years that have lead-soldered plumbing. In the most recent testing, lead was detected in only one sample, at a level well below the action level. A summary of the District's compliance results can be found at: www.soquelcreekwater.org/lead

Toilet Rebate

Continued from page 1

Currently, only the toilet models listed in the box below qualify for the rebate. All have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label, proving that they are highly water-efficient and provide superior performance.

Niagara Conservation - 0.8 GPF Single Flush Stealth® Toilet (two piece, one piece, and side handle versions available)

Niagara Conservation- 0.95/0.5 GPF Dual Flush Stealth® Toilet

Proflo - 0.8 GPF PF9800 Series Ultra High-Efficiency Two Piece Toilet

Go to soquelcreekwater.org/toiletrebate to read about rebate requirements and download an application.

The Enhanced Toilet Rebate program is funded by new development projects in our community that are required to offset two times their expected water demand through the Water Demand Offset (WDO) Program. For more information on the WDO program visit soquelcreekwater.org/conserving-water/water-demand-offset-program



WaterWISE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES

Join us for our free community education series this year! Our 2017 topics will cover water supply production, water quality, water conservation, basin overdraft, seawater intrusion, and regional management efforts. For more details visit: soquelcreekwater.org/waterwise

May 12, 2017 | Coastal Monitoring Well Demo

July 20, 2017 | Community Water Plan & Pure Water Soquel Update Lecture

October 12, 2017 | Imagine a Day Without Water Lecture



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Other ways to connect with us!

