

What's On Tap



AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Turf Removal Superstars

Five properties in Soquel Creek Water District were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation at the District's Open House on July 20 for replacing turf grass with water-wise landscaping. Three residential property owners and two Home Owners Associations did a tremendous job of redesigning their landscapes to add color, shape, and variety to their properties while striving to save water. The District supported their efforts by granting rebates up to \$1 per square foot, with a maximum of \$1,000 for single-family residential customers, and \$10,000 for multi-family residential and commercial customers per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

Beachcliff and Capitola Knolls Home Owners Associations removed over 20,000 square feet of turf over the last few years. Beachcliff's landscape at Sumner Ave. and Clubhouse Dr. in Aptos and Capitola Knoll's landscape at Kennedy Dr. and Monterey Ave. in Capitola are establishing nicely. Take a look at them when you are in the neighborhood!



Capitola Knolls



Beachcliff

Kurt Fouts in Capitola replaced the turf in his front yard with a beautiful, water-wise landscape in 2011 and is currently removing turf in his back yard. His garden features a dry creek bed that directs, slows, and sinks the water from the roof downspouts into the landscape.



Chris Miroyan of Aptos removed her whole front lawn and created a seating area with meandering paths lined with colorful flowering plants like lavender, salvias and grevillea.

Stephen and Renée Fehrman of La Selva Beach replaced most of the turf in their backyard with low water using plants that complement the wild lands surrounding their property and benefit hummingbirds and butterflies.



before



after

The State of California is still offering their rebate which can provide an additional dollar per square foot of turf removed. Before you get out the shovel, please schedule a pre-approval inspection and read details for the turf removal rebate on the District's website at soquelcreekwater.org/rebates.

New Mobile Education Trailer Unveiled

On July 20 we unveiled the first-of-its-kind mobile education trailer at our Open House. This interactive and engaging mobile unit was created to help educate our community about the proposed Pure Water Soquel project. From bright and colorful information panels, to hands-on-samples of actual materials involved in the water purification process, guests of all ages can gain a better understanding of the Pure Water Soquel project that is being evaluated and how it fits into the Community Water Plan.



Would you like to have us bring our mobile learning center to an organization, church, club, or school that you're involved with?

Contact:
Vai Campbell
831-475-8501 x142
vaidehic@soquelcreekwater.org

District Recognized with Two Transparency Awards

We are proud to announce that we were recognized with two transparency awards earlier this year. On April 24, the California Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) re-accredited the “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” Award to the District. The District was first honored with a “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” Award in 2015 when it was the first special district in Santa Cruz County to be recognized for their transparency efforts. We completed eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports with the State Controller in a timely manner. We also fulfilled

15 website requirements required by the SDLF that include providing readily available information to the public on our website, such as board agendas and packets, board meeting minutes, the current budget, and the most recent financial audit.

Then on May 8, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) bestowed the District with a ‘Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting’ for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and an impartial panel deemed the District embodies a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story.

The Importance of Water Infrastructure

We are committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water for more than 40,000 customers. We carefully manage the operations of 15 production wells, 10 treatment plants, 14 pump stations, 18 tanks, 166 miles of pipeline, and over 80 monitoring wells. The investment into our infrastructure is a vital component to providing safe and reliable drinking water. Most residents and businesses do not give much thought to the invisible services we provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year until a water main breaks or they are without water. The District is constantly taking action to maintain and plan for future infrastructure in the following ways:

Water Main Replacements — Our extensive system has been constructed over many years and as it ages it becomes necessary to replace or upgrade portions of the water distribution system. The Clubhouse Drive Main Replacement project is currently underway which replaces approximately 2,600 linear feet of failing water main pipe on Clubhouse Drive in Aptos (between St. Andrews Dr. and close to Sumner Ave.). Work is on schedule and should be completed in October 2017.

Water Main Flushing — Water main flushing is an important activity for water agencies to maintain high-quality water. The traditional method wasted a lot of water and the District suspended its flushing program in 2014 due to the water shortage conditions. In May 2016, the District re-initiated its Flushing Program when it began using a new, waste-free filtering system to circulate and clean the water in a closed-loop system. The water passes through filters which removes the sediment



Water main replacement work on Clubhouse Dr.

and particulates and is returned to the district's water pipes. No water is flushed into the street!

Well Rehabilitation and Tank Maintenance — Much of our water system is nestled throughout our community near homes, parks, schools and businesses. On a day-to-day basis, our crews oversee the water production operations through computerized systems as well as frequent site visits. In addition, the District conducts a maintenance program for our groundwater wells, treatment plants, and water storage tanks which includes replacing pumps, repairing wells, and recoating the interior and exterior of our water tanks to ensure reliability and maximize the lifespan of our infrastructure.

Water Reliability — The District has recently completed construction of two pump stations and is designing a water tank to facilitate moving water between service areas. In addition, we plan to install a second water transmission main to serve La Selva Beach, creating redundancy and increasing water reliability.

Country Club Well Use Temporarily Discontinued

As of July 21, we have temporarily discontinued use of Country Club well as we explore a permanent treatment process for this well to comply with new state regulations for 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) in drinking water that will go into effect January 2018.

More information on TCP can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/123TCP.shtml.

Get to Know Your Water Meter and Your House Valve

Your water meter is the best tool you have for conserving water and monitoring your property for leaks. If you're not sure where your water meter is located, please take some time to look for it. In most cases, meters are located near the street facing the front of a home or business. Once you've found it, follow the instructions on our website (soquelcreekwater.org/customer-service/read-your-meter) to learn how to access and read your meter, and how to check for leaks. If you need help with any of these steps, please give us a call and we will gladly send a customer service representative out to assist you.

It's also very important to keep the area around your meter box clear of parked cars, overgrown vegetation, construction materials, etc. so that we can quickly find and access it in the event we need to shut the water off in an emergency. In the past, we've seen customers install new landscape or build

decks or retaining walls over their meter boxes, resulting in high costs to the customer to restore access.

Another valuable tool for managing your water use and isolating leaks is a house valve or water shut-off valve. House valves are usually found on the incoming water line at or near the entry point of the water line going into a home or business. If you suspect or know of a leak, you should immediately turn the water off and check the meter to see if the leak continues. If it doesn't continue, you know the leak is within your home or business itself. If it continues, it is likely located at a point in your service line between the house valve and the meter. In this case, please call us right away at 831-475-8500 to turn off the water at the meter. If you do not have a house valve, it's a good idea to have one installed by a licensed plumber.



Residential Toilet Rebate

Over 250 District customers have received a rebate of up to \$300 for replacing their older toilets with ultra-high efficiency toilets (UHETs) since January 2017. UHETs use less than a gallon of water per flush, yet still deliver high flushing performance! While we sometimes hear from customers that they're skeptical about whether the UHETs perform well, they have undergone extensive third-party testing and have been rated in the highest possible category for great flushing performance. District staff has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from customers who have received one or more UHET rebates. For more information, visit soquelcreekwater.org/conserving-water/rebates



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!



WaterWISE
COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES

Join us for our last free community education series this year!

October 12, 2017 | Imagine a Day Without Water

For more details: soquelcreekwater.org/waterwise