

# What's On Tap



AT THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

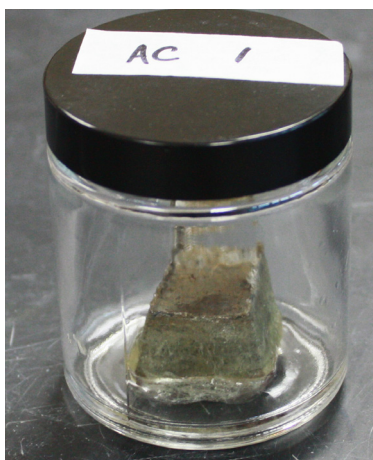
## Community Water Plan Update

The Community Water Plan is the District's roadmap to meeting our goal of water sustainability by 2040. Part of that plan is securing a supplemental water supply to protect our groundwater resources from further seawater intrusion and meet the needs of our community. Here is an update on two of the four supplemental supply options that the District is currently evaluating.



### Water Transfer: Aiming to Ensure Water Compatibility and Quality

**THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WATER DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT STAFF,** and consulting engineering firm Black & Veatch initiated a water quality study in November 2017 to gain insight into how the City's surface water interacts with the District's existing water mains and service lines. Pipe samples and water were harvested from the District's distribution system and sent to Virginia Tech University where jar testing and scale analysis is being performed. Additional analysis will involve adjusting the samples of the City's surface water to have chemistry characteristics (pH) closer to the District's groundwater. This will determine if corrosion inhibitors could aid the compatibility of mixing both waters. This study is expected to last 4-6 months and will provide answers and recommendations for accepting water from the City of Santa Cruz in the Fall of 2018.



*A piece of pipe from the District's water system is being evaluated for integrity changes as part of the study.*



### Stormwater Capture: Making Progress on Site Evaluations

**PARTNERING WITH THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ** we have identified several locations that may have high potential for stormwater recharge and infiltration. This could help recharge our aquifers by redirecting stormwater—which normally runs out to the ocean—into collection basins or drywells where it can percolate into the groundwater basin.

We are working with a Danish company, Ramboll, to perform electro-magnetic surveying on the selected sites. This work will identify where well-draining soils like sand are located and where there may be clay layers that act as a barrier to recharge. The process will help pinpoint specific areas for us to do soil boring sampling.



*Ramboll using the electro-magnetic survey tool at the Seascape Golf Course.*

In addition, we will be collecting stormwater runoff samples in these areas to analyze for water quality and determine if there are constituents in the stormwater that we should consider when selecting a location for recharge.

# Get Schooled on Water

## THE DISTRICT OFFERS A FREE WATER AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

from entertaining musical shows to curriculum workshops. The mission of the program is to build awareness and respect of our local water resources and share with our youth how we are working to sustain the water supply and infrastructure. The District strives to provide a school education program that is innovative, hands-on, and grade level appropriate to meet California and National education standards.

### PRESENTATIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

The District offers 1-2 hour presentations on a variety of water topics. We also provide field trips to local groundwater wells and the Mobile Education Trailer to explain the purification process used in our proposed Pure Water Soquel project.

### FREE RESOURCES

Teachers can request a class set of grade specific water education activity booklets. We also have water conservation stickers, posters, pencils, and videos available.

### ASSEMBLY SHOWS

Schools within the District service area can schedule a free water awareness assembly show. The assemblies feature music, games, costumes, and audience participation. This year's featured artist is ZunZun's Water Beat Show.

### CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

We offer an annual free K-12th grade water curriculum workshop called *Water Education Workshop: Connecting Real Life to Science, History-Social Science and Common Core*. Teachers receive free water education resources. The next workshop is January 27, 2018 at the County Office of Education.

### PROJECT WET ACTIVITY BOX

Materials for Project WET activities are available to borrow. New this year are class sets of rain gauges that can be lent to students to collect and measure the rain.



ZunZun performing at Main Street School.

Details of the water education program are available on our website at [soquelcreekwater.org/schools/school-program](http://soquelcreekwater.org/schools/school-program). Contact Vai Campbell, Communications Specialist for details [vaidehic@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:vaidehic@soquelcreekwater.org)

## Residential Toilet Rebate

**Over 435 District customers have received a rebate** of

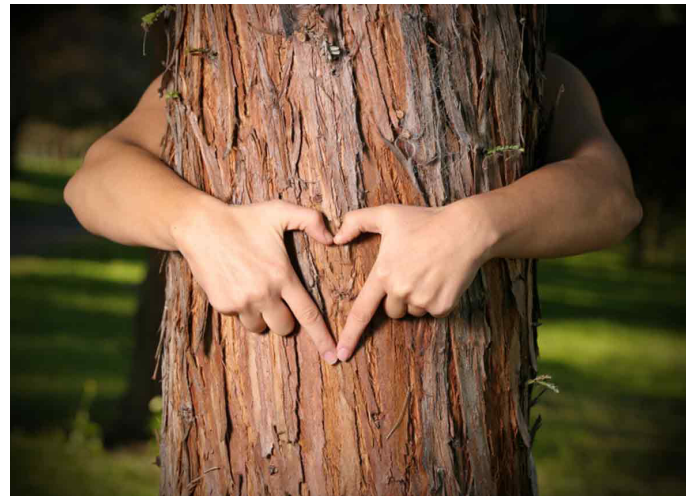
up to \$300 for replacing their older toilets with ultra-high efficiency toilets (UHETs) since January 2017.

UHETs use less than a gallon of water per flush, yet still deliver high flushing performance! District staff has received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the toilets from customers who have received one or more UHET rebates. For more information, visit [soquelcreekwater.org/conserving-water/rebates](http://soquelcreekwater.org/conserving-water/rebates).



# Take Care of Your Trees

**TREES ARE BEAUTIFUL AS WELL AS BENEFICIAL** to our health and well-being because they clean our air and water and provide a calming effect in today's fast-paced world. They keep us cooler in the summer and help break the cold winter winds. Trees are a critical piece of 'green infrastructure' that includes soils and water. The roots of trees create pathways down through the soil that help the rainfall replenish our groundwater supply.



As the changing climate brings more extreme weather patterns including hotter, drier weather, it's time to consider ways to help our trees survive and thrive. How do we keep trees healthy and vital as water becomes more precious? Allowing trees to die as a consequence of reduced watering is costly economically and environmentally and can also create hazardous conditions, from branches breaking off to whole trees falling over. Responsible choices to help keep trees alive and healthy can include choosing trees over lawn. Removing turf grass and setting aside a portion of the 'saved' water for trees and water efficient landscapes is a good long-term investment. We can enjoy the benefits trees

provide at a low cost by using water efficiently and by looking at other ways to keep trees thriving. Think about using gray water to irrigate trees and other strategies such as on-site stormwater detention in order to help the rains sink into the soil rather than run off. The District offers rebates to encourage all of these practices, as well as free handouts with tips on how to water trees efficiently. Consider the long-term benefits that trees offer when making landscaping decisions. Please visit [Soquelcreekwater.org](http://Soquelcreekwater.org) or call (831) 475-8501 ext. 146 for more information. And THANK YOU for helping to make our community statewide leaders in water use efficiency!

## Water Rates Advisory Committee

**THE DISTRICT FORMED A WATER RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE** in May 2017 to assist with the evaluation of potential rate structure alternatives and to promote public engagement in our rate setting process. The committee is comprised of ten customers of Soquel Creek Water District, two members of the Board of Directors, and District staff. The committee has met multiple times over the last six months to design a rate structure that promotes fairness and equity, financial sustainability, and encourages conservation. Raftelis Financial Consultants have been hired to assist in this evaluation process and will be presenting their recommendations to the Board in December and January.



**New rates become effective for water consumed after January 1, 2018. These rates will appear on your statement beginning February 1, 2018.**

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**IN SEPTEMBER 2017, THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE** designated California's first ever Water Professionals Appreciation Week, which launched Oct. 7th.

***“Our economy and our environment depend on water professionals working every single day to maintain and improve our water systems. Water truly is the lifeblood of our state and their work is indispensable.”***

***~Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa)***

Water Professionals Appreciation Week is a proactive and exciting occasion to showcase the variety of staff in our industry who work tirelessly to keep a safe and dependable source

of water flowing. It is also a great opportunity to highlight rewarding career prospects to young professionals and students, and to cultivate the next generation of water leaders.

We'd like to introduce you to the hard working 'people behind the pipes' of the Soquel Creek Water District. These are the folks who keep our water flowing safely and reliably to the homes and businesses of our community.

Each year, the District pumps, treats, and delivers almost a billion gallons of drinking water through 15 production wells and treatment facilities, 18 storage tanks, and 166 miles of pipeline to 15,800 connections. We are proud to serve approximately 40,000 people!



*Photo from staff recognition ceremony in September 2017.*



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Other ways to connect with us!

