

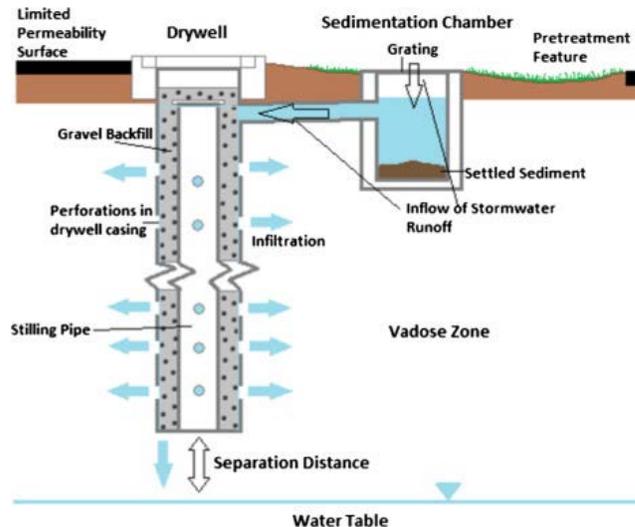


The Soquel Creek Water District and County of Santa Cruz are Investigating Stormwater Recharge in the Mid-County Region



What is Stormwater Recharge?

During winter storms, water runs off our urban areas and flows into creeks and storm drains, destined for the ocean. When this happens, the water doesn't reach the groundwater below which is the only source of drinking water for thousands of people in Santa Cruz, Capitola, Soquel, Aptos and La Selva Beach. The Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) and the County are investigating stormwater recharge as a way to help turn a small amount of the water that runs off into the ocean into a valuable resource! Stormwater recharge benefits include: aquifer recharge, reduced flooding, and better water quality in our natural environment.



There are numerous different designs for stormwater recharge projects. In areas with open space, stormwater recharge is sometimes done with large spreading basins. In areas without open land, or those which may have an impermeable clay top layer of the soil, drywells may be used. These gravity-fed wells infiltrate stormwater 10 + feet below the surface into a layer of sand or gravel. They can feature pretreatment to clean the water, do not require energy to operate, and have a small footprint.



Potential Stormwater Recharge Sites

Currently, the County and Soquel Creek Water are looking at several locations as sites for possible drywells.

- Seascape Golf Course 1st Fairway
- Seascape Golf Course 14th Fairway
- 38th Ave and Brommer Street Detention Basin

These locations are at the end of storm drains which handle runoff from large urban areas. Right now, the stormwater runoff at these spots flows off into more drains which ultimately lead to the ocean.

The next step is seeing if the subsurface soils are suitable for recharge. Sand and gravel will infiltrate water much more quickly than clay soils. To do this, we are drilling out a soil sample at each location using a small drill rig and testing how quickly water put into the new hole percolates into the subsurface.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the drilling?

A: The drilling will allow us to see what types of soil exist at each prospective site and whether they are suitable for recharge of stormwater. It will also allow us to see how quickly water percolates through those soils.

Q: How is this being funded?

A: This investigatory work is being funded through a state grant.

Q: What is the next step in this project?

A: Once we have more information on the subsurface soils, an Engineer will draft a preliminary design for a drywell(s). At that time, project benefit and feasibility will be assessed.

Q: Where are the sites that are being investigated?

A: There are 4 golf course sites which are being investigated. Three sites along the 1st fairway at storm drain outlets and another adjacent to the 14th fairway. Another location, at the flood detention basin at the corner of 38th Ave and Brommer Street is also being investigated.

Q: When is the drilling being done?

A: May 22 – 23rd and May 28 – 31st. Drilling will not be done every day at every location. Each location will experience 1 –2 days of drilling.

Q: How long will the drilling last?

A: Drilling will begin no earlier than 8am and should conclude by 5pm on most days.

Q: How can I get more information about this project?

A: Please contact Alyssa Abbey at Soquel Creek Water District at (831)475-8500 ext. 124 or Sierra Ryan at the County of Santa Cruz at (831)454-3133.