Current and Future Groundwater Management Activities

Soquel Creek Water District
March 4, 2014
Current and Future District Activities

• **Moving pumping inland away from the coast**
  ◦ Construction of O’Neill Well has begun
  ◦ New wells do not add volume capacity of District’s overall total pumping, instead they relocate pumping away from coast.

• **Maintain and Analyze Monitoring Well Data**
  ◦ Maintain over 75 monitoring wells throughout District
  ◦ Expanded monitoring near District’s newer wells to detect and measure interference
  ◦ Next Quarterly Monitoring Report to be received March 18

**Peer Review of Hydrology Data and Analysis**
  ◦ Work to be completed in April/May 2014

• **Rehab. Existing Facilities to maintain/improve efficiency and water quality**
  ◦ Work on Main Street and Aptos Jr. High wells in 2014
Current and Future District Activities

- **Update Groundwater Management Plan**
  - Waiting for Peer Review to be completed.
  - Update and revision to be completed in 2014

- **Preparing Annual Report of the Soquel-Aptos Area Basin**
  - To be presented to the Board in June/July 2014

- **Addressing Chromium-6**
  - This is naturally occurring and affects one-third of our District wells.
  - Stopped operations of one well in the La Selva Beach area
  - State’s Draft Maximum Contaminant Level for Cr6 is 10 parts per billion (ppb). District is currently testing a treatment process with the goal of achieving 7 ppb, blended.
Current and Future District Activities

- Developing a Groundwater Model
  - Scope of work and presentation on March 18
  - Model can be used to better understand the ability to transfer/use water between agencies, feasibility of groundwater replenishment projects

- Determining the location of the freshwater/seawater interface
  - Initiated discussions with USGS
  - Coordinating with Stanford University’s Geophysical Imaging Project
Current and Future District Activities

- **Mid-County Groundwater Stakeholder Committee**
  - Broaden engagement with all groundwater basin users
  - Work regionally with County of Santa Cruz, Central Water District, and other public and private pumpers
  - Anticipate a yearlong process to have exploratory discussions on groundwater basin conditions and develop a set of recommendations

- **Consider Development of a Groundwater Replenishment District**
  - Could be formed through the existing Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA)
  - Primary function of the Replenishment District is to directly or indirectly replenish an overdrafted groundwater basin.
Current and Future District Activities

• **Discuss Declaration of a Groundwater Emergency** (outlined in District’s 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, section 5)
  ◦ Needs to have peer review of hydrological analysis completed
  ◦ May be declared when it is demonstrated that a groundwater overdraft exceeding the sustainable yield threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.
  ◦ Prior to declaring, District shall consult with neighboring agencies (Central Water District, Pajaro Valley WMA, City of SC, and County of SC) to explore joint options and programs that could be undertaken or adopted in lieu of a declaration.
  ◦ An emergency shall be declared by resolution of the Board after a public hearing
  ◦ Board shall also request County to perform actions to non-District pumpers within our basin management area.