

From: Rosemary Menard <RMenard@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 5:27 PM

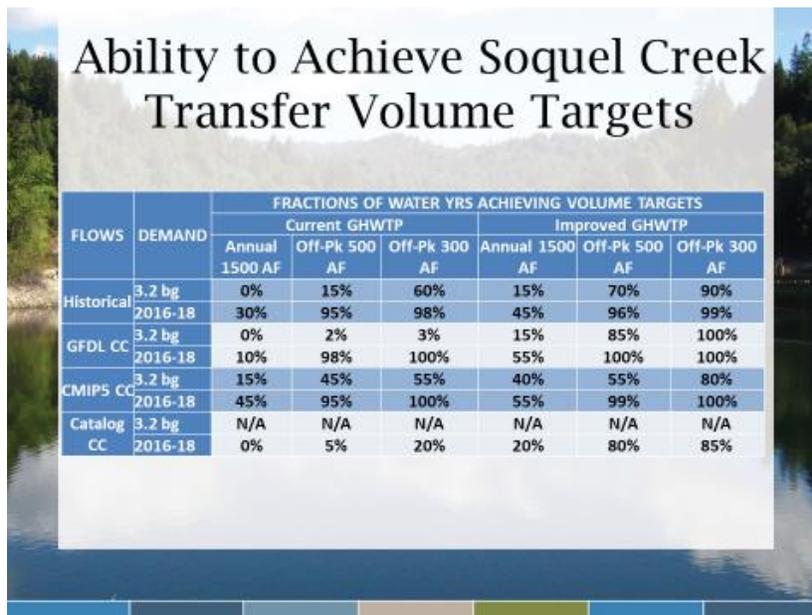
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Subject: Your Guest Commentary in today's Sentinel

Good morning all:

Imagine my surprise when reading the Guest Commentary in today's Sentinel to find myself being referred to and quoted to support your continuing claim that Santa Cruz has the water to supply to the Soquel Creek Water District to address the seawater intrusion issue in their basin when **I am on the record** in several forums, including the April 1st Water Commission meeting, as **saying just the opposite**.

As shown in the slide below that was presented at the April 1st Water Commission meeting, under none of the demand or flow scenarios presented in the slide can Santa Cruz reliably provide the water that Soquel Creek needs to effectively manage the sea water intrusion threat that it faces in its portion of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin.



Ability to Achieve Soquel Creek Transfer Volume Targets

FLOWS	DEMAND	FRACTIONS OF WATER YRS ACHIEVING VOLUME TARGETS					
		Current GHWTP			Improved GHWTP		
		Annual 1500 AF	Off-Pk 500 AF	Off-Pk 300 AF	Annual 1500 AF	Off-Pk 500 AF	Off-Pk 300 AF
Historical	3.2 bg	0%	15%	60%	15%	70%	90%
	2016-18	30%	95%	98%	45%	96%	99%
GFDL CC	3.2 bg	0%	2%	3%	15%	85%	100%
	2016-18	10%	98%	100%	55%	100%	100%
CMIP5 CC	3.2 bg	15%	45%	55%	40%	55%	80%
	2016-18	45%	95%	100%	55%	99%	100%
Catalog CC	3.2 bg	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2016-18	0%	5%	20%	20%	80%	85%

Also, your Guest Commentary begins with a serious error by equating a lowered demand with an increased supply. Your analysis apparently forgets that the size of the gap under the 3.2 billion gallon water demand was HUGE – nearly 40% of total estimated demand, and that that lowering the assumption about near term demand only reduces and **does not eliminate** the gap. The table below, also part of the presentation at the April 1st Water Commission meeting, presents these results. As shown, in the best case – the historical flow and the 2.6 billion gallon demand, the size of the gap is still nearly 800 million gallons or 2/3rds of the gap in under the 3.2 billion gallon case. Having lower demand does not eliminate the City's need to develop a reliable drought supply to ensure that we will be able to meet demand during drought conditions, and likely makes developing a reliable drought supply more important than ever because the lower demand means it will be more difficult to reduce demand through emergency restrictions.

Updates on the “Gap” Current-System Worst-Drought Peak-Season Shortages (mg)

Drought Year	Historical		GFDL Clim Chg		CMIP 5 Clim Chg		Catalog Clim Chg	
	3.2 bg	2016-18	3.2 bg	2016-18	3.2 bg	2016-18	3.2 bg	2016-18
Yr 1	728	0	1,109	419	816	241	1,067	315
Yr 2	1,141	781	956	570	864	454	1,276	834
Yr 3	--	--	--	--	794	408	--	--
Total	1,869	781	2,066	989	2,474	1,103	2,343	1,149

The details of how we did the analysis of supply and demand and assumptions we made in doing it were presented in detail at the April 1st Water Commission meeting. I would like to encourage you to take the time to review that presentation, which you can find at the link provided on the Water Commission’s website and reproduced for your convenience here:

To see the presentation from the **April 1, 2019 joint meeting of the Water Commission and former Water Supply Advisory Committee members**, use this link in your browser: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13QH9BKSqj0svTJT4QlvBMR1WWUTcAYH8/view?usp=sharing>

The need to address the issue of seawater intrusion in the Santa Cruz Mid-County basin presents a significant challenge for both the Soquel Creek Water District and for the City of Santa Cruz. I’m convinced that there isn’t enough surface water to reliably solve both the City’s need for a drought supply and to protect groundwater resources in our part of the basin from seawater intrusion **and** to reliably meet Soquel’s need for water to create and maintain a seawater intrusion barrier in its service area.

I recognize that it is not in your interest to accept the analysis that the City has done and that it is unlikely that you will stop pursuing the objective you have defined. However, as I have done on several occasions in the past, I respectfully request that you stop misrepresenting the information presented by the City or implying in any way that any analysis we have done, are doing, or will do in the future supports your position. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Thank you

Rosemary

Rosemary Menard
Water Director
City of Santa Cruz
rmenard@cityofsantacruz.com
Office: 831-420-5205
Cell: 831-345-6309

OPINION GUEST COMMENTARY, SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Soquel Creek should reexamine water need

By [Scott McGilvray](#) | Guest Commentary,
May 12, 2019 at 5:00 pm

Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) has defined its water supply need as 500 million gallons per year. That statement of need is used as justification for the recycled water Pure Water Soquel project, budgeted at \$95 million. Meanwhile, Santa Cruz Water Department Director Rosemary Menard has recently announced that the annual water demand in Santa Cruz is 2.7 billion gallons per year, not 3.2 billion gallons as previously believed.

Does not the discovery of 500 million gallons of surplus water justify reexamination of the need for Pure Water Soquel?

A reduction of 500 million gallons in water demand is the second revision made by the Santa Cruz Water Department since 2014. At that time, the Santa Cruz annual water demand was estimated to be 3.8 billion gallons per year. In sum, we have learned over the last six years that the water need for Santa Cruz to meet its own annual demand is 1.1 billion gallons less than thought in 2014, when the two districts were pursuing the desalination plant.

SqCWD defines its water need this way: 500 million gallons of water, each year, every year. That fixed definition of need artificially makes the surplus that Santa Cruz has on a yearly basis seem less valuable than it actually is. If SqCWD would increase its time window and receive an average of 500 million gallons per year, the amount of surplus Santa Cruz water that could be harvested and transferred to SqCWD would easily suffice.

This suggestion — to reexamine how SqCWD characterizes its water need by extending the time period to a number of years — is not just wishful thinking from some citizens. To the contrary, both Santa Cruz Water Director Menard and Santa Cruz County Water Resources Director John Ricker made that request during the comment period for Pure Water Soquel's Draft EIR. Ms. Menard's letter of Aug. 18, 2018, stated:

"An analysis should be completed that substantiates the need to receive 1,500 AFY (500 million gallons) each year opposed to a potentially varied allotment of water transferred with annual or biannual maximum transfers that achieve the same supply reliability objectives."

SqCWD ignored the advice and did not address this recommendation in responses to comments on the Draft EIR.

Five hundred million gallons of surplus water is a lot to think about. And 1.1 billion gallons of surplus water is even more reason that SqCWD should reexamine their situation and reconsider their plans.

Scott McGilvray operates a for-profit consulting business "Wateraware" He has also been active in Desal Alternatives and Water for Santa Cruz County for the last eight years.