

# Drinking Water Source Assessment Potentially Contaminating Activity Update

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*Water System*

**Soquel Creek Water District**

*Water Source*

**Aptos Creek Well**

*Update Date*

**March, 2015**

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California SWRCB DDW  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
DDW Monterey District

<b>District No.</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>System No.</b>	<b>4410017</b>
<b>Source No.</b>	<b>002</b>
<b>PS Code</b>	<b>4410017-002</b>

## Vulnerability Summary

District Name: <b>DDW Monterey District</b>	District No.: <b>05</b>	County : <b>Santa Cruz</b>
System Name: <b>Soquel Creek Water District</b>	System No.: <b>4410017</b>	
Source Name: <b>Aptos Creek Well</b>	Source No.: <b>002</b>	PS Code: <b>4410017-002</b>

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: **March 20, 2015**

### THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SYSTEM CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

A source water assessment was conducted for the Aptos Creek Well of the Soquel Creek Water District water system in March, 2015.

The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants in the well:

- Historic gas stations
- Automobile repair shops
- Dry cleaners
- Parking lots
- Transportation corridors- highways/streets/historic railroad
- NPDES/WDR permitted discharges
- Underground storage tanks
- Surface water – streams
- Drinking water treatment plants
- Parks
- Water supply wells
- High density housing

### Discussion of Vulnerability

Although there have been no contaminants detected in the water supply from this well, the source is still considered vulnerable to some activities located above the drinking water source.

- At gas stations, spills during filling vehicles and during filling of fuel storage tanks is a possibility that if not contained can cause contamination. Contaminants associated with operations at gas stations include oils, solvents, and miscellaneous wastes.
- Automobile repair activities may result in accidental or intentional dumping of chemicals into soils. Potential contaminants include waste oils, solvents, and acids, paints.

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- NPDES discharges permitted for the T. Hopkins well's pump to waste are identified as a PCA. The risk associated with these permitted discharges is very low because the water discharged is pumped directly from the underlying groundwater aquifer is generally high quality water.
- The dry cleaners at 415 Trout Gulch Rd., Aptos, CA has not had any reported spills or leaks of solvents.
- Emissions from exhausts, leaking hydrocarbons, chemical spills associated with accidents involving hazardous transportation vehicles, and flares used by law enforcement are potential contaminants that could be introduced into the environment along transportation corridors and in parking lots.
- Underground ground storage tanks can potentially leak. Leaks sometime take some time to detect. Contaminants associated with USTs include diesel fuel, gasoline, heating oil, and other chemical and petroleum products. The status of the five USTs shown on Figures 1 and 2 are:
  - Active UST at 8028 Soquel Dr within 2-year capture zone – cleanup case opened in April 2000 and closed in June 2000.
  - Active UST at 8026 Soquel Dr within 2-year capture zone – cleanup case opened in January 1975 and closed in December 2001.
  - Inactive UST at 8060 Soquel Dr within 2-year capture zone – no reported leaks
  - Inactive UST at 214 Shoreview Dr within 10-year capture zone – cleanup case opened in February 1995 and closed in April 1995.
  - Inactive UST at 7996 Soquel Dr within 10-year capture zone – no reported leaks
- Aptos Creek runs nearby the Aptos Creek well within the 2-year capture zone. Creeks and streams in this area pose a low risk for contaminating the well's water source. Microbiological contamination may be the only likely contaminant, however, the well is not deemed under the influence of surface water and has sufficient in-ground filtration.
- Fertilizers (nitrates), herbicides, and insecticides used in parks are a potential source of contamination to the underlying groundwater. This can be enhanced if over-fertilization and over-watering is practiced.
- The T. Hopkins well located within the 5-year capture zone, is a potential conduit for contamination to enter the underlying aquifers if not secured. This well, and all District wells, are secured in a locked facility. A wellhead water drinking treatment plant is associated with the T. Hopkins well. On-site storage and use of sodium hypochlorite (12.5%) for chlorination and precipitant is also potential sources of contamination to the Aptos Creek well. The sodium hypochlorite is stored in a double contained polyethylene tank, with an issued HazMat permit from the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services, who perform annual inspections of the tank.

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- High density housing surrounding the well poses a risk to water quality from leaking sewer pipes, illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, automotive oils and chemicals, lawn and garden products such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, and urban storm water runoff.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

California Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
1 Lower Ragsdale, Building 1, Suite 120  
Monterey, CA 93940

You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:

Kim Adamson, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
5180 Soquel Drive  
PO Box 1550  
Capitola, CA 95010-1550  
(831) 475-8500

Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program

## Vulnerability Ranking - Groundwater

District Name: **DDW Monterey District** District No.: **05** County : **Santa Cruz**  
 System Name: **Soquel Creek Water District** System No.: **4410017**  
 Source Name: **Aptos Creek Well** Source No.: **002** PS Code: **4410017-002**

Completed by: **Hydrometrics WRI**

Date: **March 20, 2015**

Zone	PCA (Risk Ranking)	PCA Risk Points	Zone Points	PBE Points	Vulnerability Score
		VH = 7 H = 5 M = 3 L = 1	A = 5 B5 = 3 B10 = 1 Unknown=0	L = 5 M = 3 H = 1	Risk + Zone + PBE points
A	Historic gas stations (VH)	7	5	3	15
A	Automobile- Repair shops (H)	5	5	3	13
B5	Dry cleaners (VH)	7	3	3	13
A	Parking lots/malls (>50 spaces) (M)	3	5	3	11
A	Transportation Corridors- Freeways/state highways (M)	3	5	3	11
A	Transportation Corridors- Railroads (M)	3	5	3	11
A	Transportation Corridors- Historic railroad right-of-ways (M)	3	5	3	11
B5	NPDES/WDR permitted discharges (H)	5	3	3	11
A	USTs- Decommissioned - inactive tanks (L)	1	5	3	9
A	USTs- Upgraded and/or registered - active tanks (L)	1	5	3	9
A	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	5	3	9
A	Surface water - streams/ lakes/rivers (L)	1	5	3	9
B5	Drinking water treatment plants (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Housing - high density (>1 house/0.5 acres) (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Parks (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Wells - Water supply (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Transportation Corridors- Freeways/state highways (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Transportation Corridors- Railroads (M)	3	3	3	9
B5	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	3	3	7
B5	Surface water - streams/ lakes/rivers (L)	1	3	3	7
B10	Parking lots/malls (>50 spaces) (M)	3	1	3	7

*Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program*

Zone	PCA (Risk Ranking)	PCA Risk Points	Zone Points	PBE Points	Vulnerability Score
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B10	Septic systems - high density (>1/acre) (VH if in Zone A, otherwise M)	3	1	3	7
B10	Housing - high density (>1 house/0.5 acres) (M)	3	1	3	7
B10	Parks (M)	3	1	3	7
B10	Transportation Corridors- Freeways/state highways (M)	3	1	3	7
B10	Transportation Corridors- Railroads (M)	3	1	3	7
B10	Schools (L)	1	1	3	5
B10	USTs- Decommissioned - inactive tanks (L)	1	1	3	5
B10	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	1	3	5

## Explanation of Source Water Assessments and Definition of Terms

A source water assessment was recently completed for this drinking water source. The assessment identifies the vulnerability of the drinking water supply to contamination from typical human activities. The assessments are intended to facilitate and provide the basic information necessary for a local community to develop a program to protect the drinking water supply.

A summary of the complete assessment is provided here. For more information, contact the agency or individual that prepared the assessment (shown in summary). You may also contact the local Department of Public Health Drinking Water Field Operations Branch district office (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Documents/DDWEM/OriginalDistrictMapCDPH.pdf>).

Additional information about assessments can be found at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DWSAP.aspx>

Terms used in this summary:

**Source Water Assessment:** An assessment is an evaluation of a drinking water source to determine the "possible contaminating activities" (PCAs) to which the source is most vulnerable. The assessment includes: a delineation of protection zones around the source; an inventory of the types of PCAs within the source protection zones; and an analysis to determine the PCAs to which the source is most vulnerable. The information is compiled into a report that includes a map, calculations, checklists, and a summary of the findings.

**Possible Contaminating Activity (PCA):** A PCA is a current or historic human activity that is an actual or potential origin of contamination for a drinking water source. PCAs include activities that use, store, produce or dispose of chemicals that have the potential to contaminate drinking water supplies. There are 110 types of PCAs in the California DWSAP program.

**PCA Risk Ranking:** Each type of PCA is assigned a risk ranking (Very High, High, Moderate, or Low). The risk ranking is based on the contaminant(s) typically associated with that PCA, the likelihood of release from that type of facility based on historical experience, and the mobility of the contaminant(s).

**PCA Inventory:** The PCA inventory is a review using local knowledge, databases, and on-site evaluations to identify the occurrence and approximate location of PCAs in the source water zones. The inventory for the basic DWSAP assessments is a presence-absence review. If a type of PCA occurs in a zone, a "Yes" is noted in the inventory for that zone, regardless of whether there is one or many of that type of facility within the zone. If a PCA has been associated with a contaminant detected in the water supply, a notation is made in the PCA inventory.

**Source Water Zones or Areas:** These are areas located around and typically adjacent to a drinking water source that have been identified as initial protection areas.

For groundwater sources, there are typically three concentric circular zones around a source (Zones A, B5 and B10). The sizes of the are determined based on characteristics of the source. PCAs located in the inner Zone A are considered more of a risk to the water supply than PCAs located in the middle Zone B5. Similarly, PCAs located in Zone B5 are considered more of a risk than PCAs located in the outer Zone B10.

For surface water sources, the watershed is defined as the overall protection area, and as an option, zones are defined closer to the source. Two types of zones are typically established. Zone A is the area within and near the surface water body and its tributaries. Zone B is an area within 2,500 feet of the intake, not including areas in Zone A. For surface water sources, PCAs located in Zone A are considered a greater threat than PCAs located in Zone B. PCAs located on the watershed outside of the zones are considered to be of less risk to the water supply. If zones have not been defined, PCAs are considered to be of equal risk regardless of location on the watershed.

**Physical Barrier Effectiveness (PBE):** The PBE for a source is an evaluation of the ability of the source and the surrounding area to prevent the movement of contaminants into the source. The PBE is based on the construction and operation features of the source, and the characteristics of the surrounding area. A source is assigned a PBE of Low, Moderate or High, where High indicates that the physical barriers of the source and site are very effective in preventing the movement of contaminants. By design, typical groundwater sources will have Moderate PBE, while typical surface water sources will have Low PBE. This is due to the greater exposure of surface water sources to contamination.

**Vulnerability Ranking:** The vulnerability ranking is a summary of the PCAs identified in the assessment prioritized by the risk that they pose to the water supply. The prioritization is based on the risk associated with a PCA, the zone in which it occurs, and the PBE of the source. In the vulnerability ranking, points are assigned as follows:

PCA risk ranking	Very High = 7	High = 5	Moderate = 3	Low = 1	Unknown in any zone = 0
Zone (Groundwater)	A = 5	B5 = 3	B10 = 1		
Zone (Surface water with zones)	A = 5	B = 3	Watershed = 1		
Zone (Surface water without zones)	Watershed = 5				
Physical Barrier Effectiveness	Low = 5	Moderate = 3	High = 1		

The points for each type of PCA in each zone are totaled to give a vulnerability score, and the PCAs are ranked in order from the highest score to the lowest score. PCAs associated with detected contaminants are ranked at the top, regardless of vulnerability score. By definition, groundwater sources are not considered vulnerable to PCAs with scores less than 8, and surface water sources are not considered vulnerable to PCAs with scores less than 11. It should be noted that the vulnerability ranking scores do not have a direct quantitative value. Rather, the points are used only to relatively rank the types of PCAs for an individual source.

Note: Some of the summaries do not include a vulnerability ranking. If the assessment was done on paper and the details were not entered into the database, the vulnerability ranking is not available here. In addition, alternate methods of determining vulnerability were allowed in some cases, and the vulnerability ranking is not in the database.

**Vulnerability Summary:** The source is considered most vulnerable to the PCAs with the highest score, and to PCAs associated with detected contaminants. These PCAs are noted in the vulnerability summary. Further details or discussion may be provided in the vulnerability discussion.