

# Drinking Water Source Assessment

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*Water System*

**Soquel Creek Water District**

*Water Source*

**O'Neill Ranch Well**

*Assessment Date*

**September, 2014**

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California Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
CDPH Monterey District

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

## Vulnerability Summary

District Name: CDPH Monterey	District No.: 05	County : Santa Cruz
System Name: Soquel Creek Water District	System No.: 4410017	
Source Name: O'Neill Ranch Well	Source No.:	PS Code: 4410017-

Completed by: Nick Byler, Hydrometrics WRI

Date: September 18, 2014

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

A source water assessment was conducted for the O'Neill Ranch Well of the Soquel Creek Water District water system in September, 2014.

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

- Historic gas stations
- Automobile - repair shops
- Junk/scrap/salvage yard (historic)
- Sewer collection systems - residential
- Utility stations - maintenance areas
- Septic systems - low density (<1/acre)
- NPDES/WDR permitted discharges
- Dry cleaners

### Discussion of Vulnerability

Iron, manganese, turbidity, and color are the only constituents of concern in the groundwater at the source well. Elevated iron and manganese are naturally occurring in the Purisima Formation, from which the O'Neill Ranch Well produces its water. Onsite iron and manganese treatment will take place prior to the pumped water entering the distribution system. This treatment will also treat the turbidity and color issues.

Despite no other contaminants being detected in the water supply, the source is still considered vulnerable to some activities located above the drinking water source.

- Historic gas stations at 2750 41st Avenue (now a strip mall) and 3801 Soquel Drive (now a Honda car dealership) have the highest vulnerability score. These gas stations have been closed for many years, the underground storage tanks removed, and they have been replaced with a strip mall and a car dealership. The historic gas station at 3810 Soquel Drive is outside of the O'Neill Ranch well's capture zones.

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

- The Soquel Collision Center is located just within the two year capture zone. Hydrocarbons and solvents if spilled or improperly disposed of would be the contaminants of concern from this facility.
- The Rodeo Mobile Estates mobile home park is located to the northwest of the O'Neill Ranch well. Historically, this site was a junk yard.
- As the surrounding land use northwest and east is mostly residential, septic systems or sewer transmission lines have the potential to impact the soil and groundwater near the well if they leak.
- The waste discharge permitted under the NPDES No. CAS000002, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ was a general permit for storm discharges associated with construction and land disturbance activities related to the construction of the shopping center just south of the well and Soquel Drive. This historic discharge was a low threat discharge to local groundwater.
- At the address of the Rodeo Mobile Estates mobile home park there was a historical dry cleaners called the Dry Cleaning Lady. This most likely existed before the mobile home park was constructed. No dry cleaners currently occur in the well's capture zone.

On-site storage and use of sodium hypochlorite (12.5%) for chlorination and precipitant, and diesel for the generator are also potential sources of contamination to the 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. The diesel tank also is inspected annually by the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services.

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, AC 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: **CDPH Monterey** District No.: **05** County : **Santa Cruz**  
 System Name: **Soquel Creek Water District** System No.: **4410017**  
 Source Name: **O'Neill Ranch Well** Source No.: PS Code: **4410017-**

Completed by: **Nick Byler, Hydrometrics WRI** Date: **September 18, 2014**

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	1	13
A	Automobile- Repair shops (H)	5	5	1	11
A	Junk/scrap/salvage yards (H)	5	5	1	11
A	Sewer collection systems- Residential (H, if in Zone A, otherwise L)	5	5	1	11
A	Utility stations - maintenance areas (H)	5	5	1	11
A	Septic systems – low density (<1/acre) (H in Zone A, otherwise L)	5	5	1	11
A	NPDES/WDR permitted discharges (H)	5	5	1	11
B5	Dry cleaners (VH)	7	3	1	11
B5	Historic gas stations (VH)	7	3	1	11
A	Parking lots/malls (>50 spaces) (M)	3	5	1	9
A	Drinking water treatment plants (M)	3	5	1	9
A	Housing - high density (>1 house/0.5 acres) (M)	3	5	1	9
A	Waste transfer/recycling stations (M)	3	5	1	9
B5	Automobile- Repair shops (H)	5	3	1	9
B5	Junk/scrap/salvage yards (H)	5	3	1	9
B5	Utility stations - maintenance areas (H)	5	3	1	9
B5	NPDES/WDR permitted discharges (H)	5	3	1	9
B10	Dry cleaners (VH)	7	1	1	9
B10	Historic gas stations (VH)	7	1	1	9
A	USTs- Decommissioned - inactive tanks (L)	1	5	1	7
A	USTs- Upgraded and/or registered - active tanks (L)	1	5	1	7
A	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	5	1	7
B5	Parking lots/malls (>50 spaces) (M)	3	3	1	7
B5	Drinking water treatment plants (M)	3	3	1	7
B5	Housing - high density (>1 house/0.5 acres) (M)	3	3	1	7
B5	Waste transfer/recycling stations (M)	3	3	1	7
B10	Automobile- Repair shops (H)	5	1	1	7
B10	Junk/scrap/salvage yards (H)	5	1	1	7
B10	Utility stations - maintenance areas (H)	5	1	1	7

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

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
B10	NPDES/WDR permitted discharges (H)	5	1	1	7
B5	Sewer collection systems- Residential (H, if in Zone A, otherwise L)	1	3	1	5
B5	Septic systems – low density (<1/acre) (H in Zone A, otherwise L)	1	3	1	5
B5	USTs- Decommissioned - inactive tanks (L)	1	3	1	5
B5	USTs- Upgraded and/or registered - active tanks (L)	1	3	1	5
B5	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	3	1	5
B10	Parking lots/malls (>50 spaces) (M)	3	1	1	5
B10	Drinking water treatment plants (M)	3	1	1	5
B10	Waste transfer/recycling stations (M)	3	1	1	5
B10	Sewer collection systems- Residential (H, if in Zone A, otherwise L)	1	1	1	3
B10	Septic systems – low density (<1/acre) (H in Zone A, otherwise L)	1	1	1	3
B10	USTs- Decommissioned - inactive tanks (L)	1	1	1	3
B10	USTs- Upgraded and/or registered - active tanks (L)	1	1	1	3
B10	Transportation Corridors- Roads/ Streets (L)	1	1	1	3

## 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.