

# **APPENDIX A**

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## **Notice of Preparation**

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**Board of Directors**

Bruce Daniels, *President*  
Dr. Thomas R. LaHue, *Vice President*  
John W. Beebe  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe  
Daniel F. Kriege

Laura D. Brown, *General Manager*

July 5, 2006

**Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**  
**Re: Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project**

**Lead Agency:**

Soquel Creek Water District  
P. O. Box 158  
5180 Soquel Drive  
Soquel, CA 95073

**Consulting Firm:**

Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104

The Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD or District) is proposing a Well Master Plan Project. The project consists of developing four municipal groundwater wells and treatment plants, as needed, to improve redundancy and flexibility in SqCWDs water system while redistributing pumping away from coastal areas and thus, reduce the potential for saltwater intrusion.

SqCWD will act as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Well Master Plan Project. If you are an interested property owner, individual or member of an interested organization, we invite your comments concerning any effects the projects may have upon your property or upon the environment. Also, please share this notice with anyone else you feel may be interested in the proposed projects.

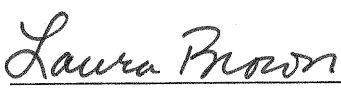
**Due to time limits mandated by State law, responses are due within 30 days of the receipt of this Notice.**

Written responses should be mailed to:

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
P. O. Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158  
Email: [laurab@soquelcreekwater.org](mailto:laurab@soquelcreekwater.org)

Or you may address the SqCWD's Board of Directors at a public scoping meeting that will be held at the SqCWD Offices, located at 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073 on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 7:00pm.

Attachment 1 provides an overview of the scoping process and Draft EIR schedule, the project background, and a description of the alternatives. Attachment 2 shows the location of the proposed wells. Attachment 3 shows the environmental factors potentially affected by the proposed project that will be addressed in the EIR.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Brown  
General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District

Date July 5, 2006

# ATTACHMENT 1

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## Scoping and Draft EIR Schedule

SqCWD is in the process of seeking input on the scope and content of environmental information relevant to the proposed project, including input on alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIR. The Draft EIR is scheduled for circulation in Winter 2006.

## Background

The SqCWD currently derives 100 percent of its water supplies from local groundwater resources. The SqCWD has been monitoring the level and quality of groundwater in the District since the 1980s. Groundwater monitoring results indicate saltwater intrusion may be occurring in some areas of the District. Hydrogeologic studies in the vicinity of the SqCWD area indicate that collectively, SqCWD, the City of Santa Cruz, Central Water District (CWD), and other public and private groundwater users exceed the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin. The SqCWD is currently implementing measures to reduce its groundwater pumping in the basin. In addition to reduced groundwater pumping and consistent with the AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan for the Soquel–Aptos Area, the SqCWD is seeking to replace production from wells located along the coast or in depressed groundwater areas. The purpose of selecting new wells sites is to more evenly distribute pumping throughout the District to reduce the potential for saltwater intrusion and move toward obtaining a balanced, regional drawdown of groundwater sources.

The SqCWD water supply system consists of 18 production wells, only 16 of which are currently active, roughly 130 miles of pipeline, and 18 water storage tanks. Over time, the District's wells, some of which are 20 to 60 years old, have lost production capacity and have grown increasingly vulnerable to mechanical failure. At least three of these wells (Monterey<sup>1</sup>, Aptos Creek, and Maplethorpe) are at or near the end of their useful operational life. Other wells (Estates, Madeline, and T. Hopkins) can only be operated for limited periods during the summer season as the pumps break suction after prolonged pumping.

The SqCWD water production, storage, and distribution system is operated within four individual water service areas that are herein referred to as Service Areas I, II, III, and IV (see **Attachment 2**). Although interconnections between Service Areas I and II, and between Service Areas III and IV allow for some movement of water between service areas, the transfer of water between Service Areas I and II east to Service Areas III and IV is not currently possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Restoring production from Monterey Well is being evaluated.

To comply with the California Waterworks Standards contained in Chapter 16, Title 22, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the SqCWD should have sufficient capacity from its combined individual sources (groundwater production wells) to meet maximum day water demand independent of any water stored in tanks. Total source capacity of all active wells in the District is more than sufficient to meet legal compliance. However, each service area is predominantly dependent on its own internal supply with only limited ability to import water from adjacent service areas. Thus, the adequacy of source supply was calculated for each service area under various well conditions. The results of the assessment indicate the loss of the largest groundwater production well in Service Area I at a critical time would substantially reduce the independent capacity to meet maximum day demand in Service Area I and could essentially eliminate the ability to hydraulically transfer source capacity to Service Area II. Of all of the service areas, however, Service Area III is most precarious from a source capacity standpoint in that if the largest-producing well was to go out of service, the remaining wells could not meet current maximum day demand.

The SqCWD is preparing the Well Master Plan EIR to consider the potential environmental impacts of changes to its well system and in response to a court's judgment for the plaintiff in the *Habitat vs. SqCWD*. In that case, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared for the O'Neill Ranch well were legally challenged. Issues brought forth in *Save the Habitat vs. SqCWD* included taking a 'piecemeal' approach to well installation, failing to address the collective effects of proposed pumping changes on local groundwater aquifers and on creeks and streams, and insufficiently addressing growth inducement potential.

## Project Description

The WMP calls for the installation of three new groundwater production wells (O'Neill Ranch, Cunnison Lane or Austrian Way, and Granite Way–Aptos Village), the conversion of an existing irrigation well to a municipal well (Polo Grounds), and the destruction of two deteriorating production wells (Aptos Creek and Maplethorpe). Although the Cunnison Lane and Austrian Way well sites are alternate sites, project-level analyses for both sites will be presented in the EIR. All proposed wells would be completed in the Purisima Formation, requiring treatment for iron (Fe) and manganese (Mg). Some infrastructure improvements would be necessary to connect the new wells to the existing conveyance system. Proposed well site characteristics are summarized in **Table 1**.

The proposed wells would restore lost capacity of the water supply system and would enable the District to shift pumping away from impaired areas. The goal of the WMP is not to increase total production in the system, but rather, to make necessary infrastructure improvements to an aging system and improve the management of groundwater resources. Restoring and improving the system's pumping capacity will not translate into increased production from the Purisima Formation, but will enable the District to adequately respond to peak, maximum day demand in all four service areas, improve operational flexibility, reduce pumping durations for individual wells, and reduce the stress placed on any given well. Furthermore, because groundwater production wells lose capacity over time, it should be assumed that the initial capacity of new

wells will gradually decline, particularly in the Purisima Formation where iron bacteria build-up clogs well screens.

**TABLE 1**  
**WELL MASTER PLAN SUMMARY**

Well Name	Location	Estimated Initial Capacity	Service Area(s)	Associated Infrastructure Improvements
O'Neill Ranch	41 <sup>st</sup> Ave / Soquel Dr	500–1,000 gpm	I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Fe and Mg removal treatment plant</li> <li>b) Emergency stationary generator</li> <li>c) 1,500' pipeline to connect with SqCWD water system at Soquel Dr/Daubenbiss Ave</li> <li>d) Placement of engineered fill and retaining wall to stabilize site</li> <li>e) Removal of Coast live oaks is likely</li> </ul>
Cunnison Lane or Austrian Way	Cunnison Ln / Soquel Dr; Austrian Way/Jennifer Dr	unknown	I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Fe and Mg removal treatment plant</li> <li>b) Emergency stationary generator</li> </ul>
Granite Way-Aptos Village	Granite Way/Cathedral Dr	350 gpm	II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) 700-800' of new raw water piping to connect to existing T-Hopkins treatment plant</li> </ul>
Polo Grounds	Polo Grounds Regional Park	500–750 gpm	III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Install larger pump and motor</li> <li>b) Emergency stationary generator</li> <li>c) Fe and Mg treatment plant</li> <li>d) 3,900' extension of existing sewer main along N. Polo Dr</li> <li>e) 2,750' of water main to connect to existing water distribution system at east end of S. Polo Dr</li> </ul>

Typical production well and treatment plant footprints would be about 100 feet by 150 feet in area. A building would contain the production well, pump motor, and electrical control panel. All proposed treatment plants would include the disinfection system, an iron and manganese removal filter, a reaction vessel, a washwater reservoir, and secondary containment for sodium hypochlorite and any other hazardous chemicals stored onsite.<sup>2</sup> With the exception of the Cunnison Lane and O'Neill Ranch well sites, the new wells would connect to the existing storm drain system for discharge of raw groundwater during startup/shutdown and periodic flushing. Startup/shutdown water from the Cunnison Lane and O'Neill Ranch well sites would be discharged to the adjacent creeks. In addition, each well site would be connected to the sanitary sewer for minor wastewater discharges and/or iron and manganese concentrate discharge from the treatment plants.

## Project Alternatives

A No Project Alternative, required under CEQA to be evaluated in an EIR, will identify reasonably foreseeable consequences of the failure to implement the proposed project. In addition, the EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of project alternatives that attain the basic

<sup>2</sup> Raw water pumped at the proposed Granite Way Well site would be treated at T. Hopkins Treatment Plant. Thus, this well site would not include disinfection and treatment facilities and thus, would not require secondary containment for hazardous chemicals used during the treatment process.

objectives of the project, but would avoid or reduce significant effects of the project. This could include avoidance of sensitive areas, design/management practices, and variations in construction practices.

## **Additional Information**

Additional information about the SqCWD Well Master Plan Project can be obtained from the SqCWD website.

[www.soquelcreekwater.com](http://www.soquelcreekwater.com)

The contact for project-related questions is:

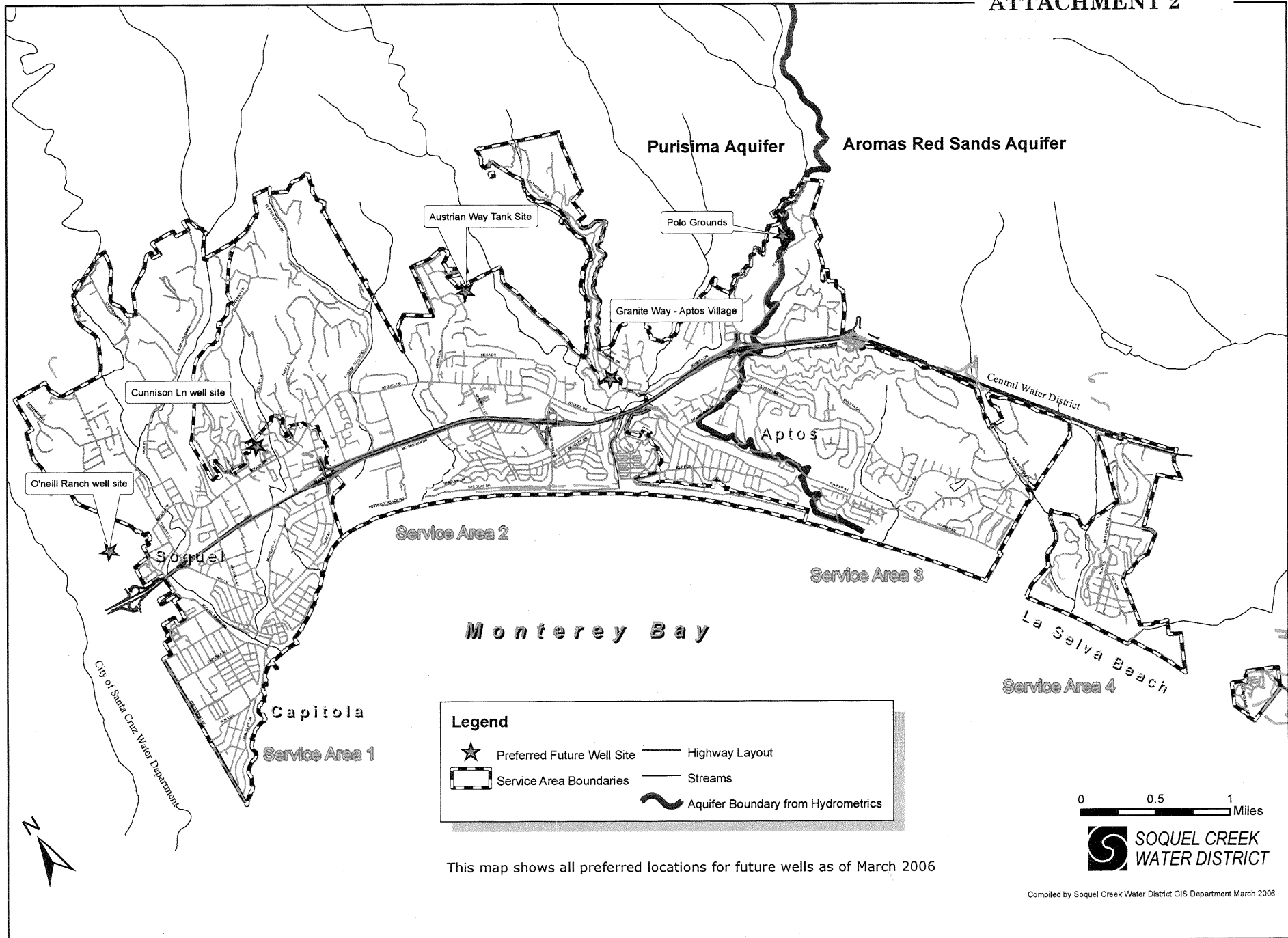
Jeff Gailey  
Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer  
Soquel Creek Water District  
5180 Soquel Drive  
Soquel, CA 95073

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

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Map of preferred future well sites and service area boundaries.





# ATTACHMENT 3

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## Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below potentially would be affected by this project.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology & Soils     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population / Growth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services & Utilities             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Resources |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water Hydrology & Water Quality |   |   |

## APPENDIX B

### Comments Received on NOP

Comment Letter Format	Name of Commenter	Title	Organization/ Affiliation	Date
Letter	Clarke Wales	District Manager	Central Water District	8/2/06
Letter	Linnette Almond, P.E.	Deputy Water Director / Engineering Manager	City of Santa Cruz Water Department	7/12/06
Letter	Betsey Lynberg	Redevelopment Agency Administrator	County of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency	8/1/06
Letter	Paia Levine	Deputy Environmental Coordinator	County of Santa Cruz Planning Department	8/3/06
Letter	Thomas L. Bolich	District Engineer	Santa Cruz County Sanitation District	7/26/06
Email	Dick English	Resident		7/9/06
Email	Doug Deitch	Executive Director	Monterey Bay Conservancy	7/14/06
Email	Frank Brommenschenkel		DBA Frank B. & Associates	8/7/06
Handwritten Letter	Lynn Larson	Artist / Gardner		7/9/06
Verbal Comments at Scoping Meeting	Steve Erlach	Resident		7/18/06

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**CENTRAL WATER DISTRICT**  
400 Cox Road – Post Office Box 1869  
Aptos, California 95001-1869  
(831) 688-2767

RECEIVED  
AUG 3 2006  
S.C.W.D.

August 2, 2006

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
P.O. Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158

Re: Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR for the Well Master Plan

Dear Laura,

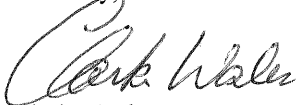
Central Water District (CWD) has received the Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) regarding the Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project. We understand that the project objectives include reducing saltwater intrusion and moving toward more balanced regional groundwater drawdown. The project objectives will be achieved in part by constructing three new production wells and acquiring the use of an existing irrigation well. The DEIR objectives include evaluating potential impacts associated with physical and operational changes to SqCWD's well system, including the collective impacts of proposed pumping changes on groundwater conditions.

The Central Water District obtains 100 percent of its water supply from wells at two locations, Rob Roy Junction and Cox Road. The Rob Roy wells are nearest to SqCWD's existing production wells. Both the Cox Road and Rob Roy wells are relatively near one of SqCWD's proposed new production wells (Polo Grounds) and another SqCWD well that has been inactive since 1987 but was recently refurbished (Aptos Jr. High School). SqCWD's planned use of the Polo Grounds and Aptos Jr. High School wells is intended to allow reduced pumping from SqCWD wells located closer to the coast where ongoing saltwater intrusion is being observed in monitoring wells.

CWD requests that the DEIR address the potential impact of SqCWD's planned future groundwater pumping on CWD's existing groundwater use and long-term groundwater supply. SqCWD's planned use of the Polo Grounds and Aptos Jr. High School wells will constitute a significant pumping increase in that area. CWD is concerned that there may be interference between these wells and CWD's Rob Roy and Cox wells that may impact the operation of CWD's wells. Furthermore, increased pumping from the Polo Grounds and Aptos Jr. High School wells may exacerbate the local impacts of ongoing regional groundwater overdraft, and thus threaten the long-term viability of CWD's existing groundwater supply.

CWD also requests that the DEIR address the potential for ongoing saltwater intrusion related to the planned continued production from SqCWD's existing wells along the coast between Aptos and La Selva Beach. Monitoring data collected by SqCWD indicate that groundwater pumping is causing water quality degradation and the ongoing loss of potable aquifer along the coast due to saltwater intrusion. CWD is concerned that use of its Rob Roy wells may become impacted by this ongoing situation. The extent to which the proposed project is reasonably expected to correct this problem should be addressed by the DEIR. To the extent that the proposed project is not expected to correct this problem, the DEIR should address other measures needed to mitigate the impact of SqCWD's planned future pumping on saltwater intrusion.

Sincerely,



Clarke Wales  
District Manager

CW:es



**WATER DEPARTMENT**

809 Center Street, Room 102, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5200 • Fax (831) 420-5201

July 12, 2006

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
P. O. Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158

RECEIVED  
JUL 14 2006  
S.C.W.D.

**RE: Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR for the Well Master Plan**

This letter is in response to the Notice of Preparation for the Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project. The City of Santa Cruz Water Department has reviewed available information on the project and has the following comments and recommendations for environmental analysis:

The City understands and appreciates the District plans to bolster its mechanical system in a manner to develop system redundancy/reliance that can provide peak capacities in each sub area of its water system. The City's concern with the District's plan for new facilities location is that it may shift production from Sub Area 4 (Aromas Red Sands) to the Purisima and/or shift production from Purisima Aquifer Zones B, C, D, E, and F into the A and AA Zones. While this may abate seawater intrusion in Sub Area 4 and obtain a better quality groundwater and higher yielding well, we believe it will further stress (over stress) the Purisima aquifer zones that have historically provided the City supply from the Beltz Well field, which is the very portion of the Purisima aquifer that is most vulnerable to seawater intrusion. Please include an analysis of any potential shift in annual production to the Purisima portion of your District, or between discrete aquifer zones within the Purisima. This analysis should include a description of impacts to the recharge that supports City well field operation as well as any increased potential for seawater intrusion due to any shift in pumping stress (annual production) to the Purisima A and AA zones located on the west side of the District's service area.

Please describe, specifically, the long term impact of the District's proposed O'Neill Ranch well operations on the Purisima zones that yield groundwater to the Beltz Well Field, including impacts to recharge and increased potential for seawater intrusion.

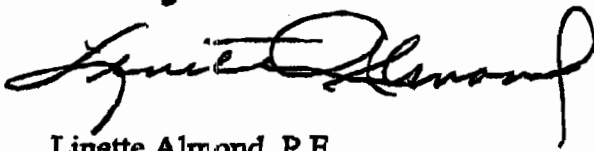
Please describe the impact of the O'Neill Ranch well on the City's Beltz Wells including the Well #4 or its replacement facility. The City is currently conducting a siting study for the replacement well. The results of the study will be available in the next couple of months.

Re: Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR for the Well Master Plan

Page: 2

Date: July 12, 2006

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linette Almond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Linette Almond, P.E.

Deputy Water Director/ Engineering Manager

Cc: Bill Kocher  
Curtis Hopkins  
Jenn Hyman



# County of Santa Cruz

## REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 510, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4000

(831) 454-2280 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

BETSEY LYNBERG, AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

August 1, 2006

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
P.O. Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project

Dear Ms. Brown:

As you know, the Santa Cruz County Redevelopment Agency owns the property where the O'Neill Ranch well site is proposed and that the option agreement held by the Water District for acquisition of this site has expired. Following our receipt of the Notice of Preparation, Agency staff contacted District staff requesting additional information. We have now reviewed the proposed site map suggesting a lot split and the proposed well site layout. The proposed well layout would require removal of oak woodland, grading, extensive wall construction, and does not appear to include any screening or buffering of the proposed equipment. This plan is not acceptable. Without further explanation of the well requirements and evaluation of alternative well and equipment configurations the Agency staff is not in the position to recommend renewing the option agreement at this time. As previously mentioned I encourage the water district to identify and evaluate potential alternative sites that could meet the requirements of the District's Service Area 1. As such it is recommended that the Draft Environmental Impact Report evaluate:

1. Alternative sites to the Agency owned property for Service Area 1.
2. Alternative well and equipment configurations for the Agency owned property. Alternative configurations should consider the potential requirements of a legal land division, as well as acquisition of the entire property. As well the configuration should consider County policies and regulations for the protection of the riparian corridor and oak woodland, as well as grading, noise, access, storage of chemicals, and setbacks to adjoining residential property. In addition, consideration should be given to the highly visible nature of this location at the cross roads of two major arterial streets and thus the appropriate design of the proposed facility. The Agency goal is to create pleasing visual corridor along Soquel Drive that does not detract from it's importance as a gateway to Soquel Village and its location across from new commercial development and adjacent to

RECEIVED  
AUG 2 2006  
S.C.W.D.

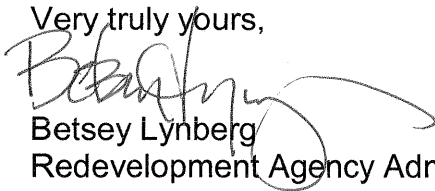


Soquel Creek Water District  
August 1, 2006  
Page 2

future commercial development to the west.

In order to facilitate a dialogue regarding the potential acquisition of the Agency's property and the requirements of the District's preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report I suggest that we arrange to meet and discuss this matter as soon as possible. I can be reached at 454-2280.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Betsey Lynberg", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Betsey Lynberg  
Redevelopment Agency Administrator



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123  
TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

August 3, 2006

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District  
PO Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158

RE: Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report for Soquel Creek Well Master Plan Project

Dear Ms. Brown:

We have reviewed the NOP for the project mentioned above and the County of Santa Cruz has the following comments:

Under CEQA regulations the County of Santa Cruz will be a Responsible Agency, responsible for issuing permits and/or land use approvals for the proposed development. The County will therefore rely on the EIR for environmental analysis for those permits and/or approvals. In order for the EIR to be complete for that purpose it should address the following topics:

- 1) Conformance of the proposed facilities with the land use policies in the 1994 County General Plan and implementing ordinances, particularly regulations protecting riparian resources, limiting tree removal, minimizing disturbance (including requirements for development to occur in the least environmentally sensitive portions of a given property), minimizing grading, prohibiting certain development on slopes steeper than thirty percent, noise limits, aquifer and water supply protection, and zoning regulations such as minimum requirements for net developable land for land divisions. This comment specifically refers to the proposed facility on Soquel Drive but is be applicable to the other proposed sites as well.
- 2) One of the alternatives evaluated should be moving the proposed facilities on Soquel Drive to the western portion of the property where impacts appear to be less likely.
- 3) The EIR should evaluate how overall water production in the basin and from individual aquifer layers will affect seawater intrusion, base flow in Soquel Creek, Rodeo Gulch, and other waterways, and other wells.
- 4) The EIR should evaluate the proximity of proposed well sites to hazardous material facilities, gas stations, and contaminated sites, and show how well location and construction will not increase the potential for groundwater contamination or movement of contaminants.

If conflicts with County policies and regulations are noted, alternative sites and/or designs should be considered that eliminate or minimize such conflicts.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the NOP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paia Levine', with a stylized 'P' and a long horizontal stroke.

Paia Levine  
Deputy Environmental Coordinator

CC:

Tom Burns, Planning Director

Ken Hart, Environmental Coordinator

John Ricker, Environmental Health Services Program Manager

Betsey Lynberg, Administrator, Redevelopment Agency

Barry Samuel, Director, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services



# Santa Cruz County Sanitation District

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073  
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2089 TDD: (831) 454-2123

THOMAS L. BOLICH, DISTRICT ENGINEER

July 26, 2006

MS. LAURA BROWN, GENERAL MANAGER  
SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 158  
Soquel, CA 95073-0158

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 2006  
S.C.W.D.

SUBJECT: SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT WELL MASTER PLAN  
PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT


Dear Ms. Brown:

The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District (District) received the notice of preparation of a draft environmental impact report for the Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project. This letter is in response to the proposed project and addresses some of the Districts' questions about the plan. The notice of the draft EIR explains that the wells will have treatment for iron and manganese removal and will discharge the wastewater to the sewer. The District would like to request information regarding discharge amounts, flow rates, and treatment systems for all new well sites that will be connected to the sanitary sewer. Specifically, how much wastewater will be discharged to the sewer and at what flow. In addition, the District would like to have the locations where each site will connect to the sanitary sewer. It is important that we have this information in order to assess sewer service availability in each area as well as sewer use fees and pretreatment requirements.

Please forward detailed plans for the treatment units and sewer discharge points when they are available. If you have questions for the District please feel free to contact Amy Gross at 477-3907.

Yours truly,

THOMAS L. BOLICH  
District Engineer

By:   
Russ Bateson  
Sanitation Operations Manager

AG:rw

Copy to: Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA. 94104

Mr. Jeff Gailey, Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer  
Soquel Creek Water District

soquelcreek\_well.wpd

**From:** Dick English [mailto:rpenglish@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 09, 2006 5:22 PM  
**To:** Laura Brown  
**Subject:** Draft EIR Comments

Laura,

I continue to be impressed with the forward-thinking that is apparent in the work from Soquel Creek. I only have two minor suggestions on the EIR:

1. The chemical symbol for manganese is Mn (Mg is magnesium).
2. On page 1-3, the sentence describing the typical contents of a pump station did not include the telemetry equipment that you mentioned to me in our discussion in your office.

Best regards,

Dick English

831-689-9125(H) 539-3299(C)  
227 Sand Street  
Aptos, CA 95003



**Laura Brown**

**From:** Laura Brown  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2006 5:40 PM  
**To:** 'ddeitch@pogonip.org'  
**Subject:** Response to Information Request  
**Attachments:** DougDietchreposneJuly2006.xls

Dear Mr. Deitch:

This is in response to the message you left on my voice mail yesterday as well as an earlier message to our conservation staff. I have paraphrased your requests to the best of my understanding and provided responses below:

**1. A number for the overdraft and saltwater intrusion resource loss in the SqCWD portion of the Aromas aquifer.**

I believe the following excerpt from the SqCWD Integrated Resources Plan adopted earlier this year covers the information you desire. The full text of this document is available for review on the District's website as well as the technical analysis referred to as Johnson et al., 2004, which is a report titled "Groundwater Assessment of Alternative Conjunctive Use Scenarios — Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model" and located by clicking "District Reports Online" under Quick Links on the left side of the home page ([www.soquelcreekwater.org](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org))

**5.6.2 Aromas Area**

Based on the review of coastal groundwater levels, groundwater pumping, and saltwater intrusion, the estimated beneficial reduction of groundwater production in the Aromas aquifer should approach upwards of several hundred acre-feet per year (Johnson et al., 2004). Reductions of up to 100 afy would be needed in the Seascape well, in addition to a combined production cutback in the Bonita and San Andreas wells of at least 100 afy, to halt the landward advancement of the saltwater wedge. Additional reductions could be desirable to reduce overdraft until the PVWMA implements measures to stem saltwater intrusion. Overall, production would need to be reduced by an estimated 200 afy to avoid exceeding the sustainable yield for SqCWD wells in the Aromas area of 1,800 afy and to reduce potential saltwater intrusion. This analysis, however, does not consider other groundwater users in the area, and the estimates of necessary reductions in groundwater pumping could be higher in the event that unaccounted-for extractions by other groundwater users offset the beneficial changes resulting from SqCWD actions in the Aromas aquifer.

**2. What is SqCWD's reaction to PVWMA's unwillingness to move forward with expansion of the coastal distribution system as stated in the BMP EIS that would provide a benefit of 2,000 AFY?**

First of all, I do not recall that the PVWMA BMP EIS makes a commitment to extending the coastal distribution system as you imply. All discussions between our two agencies correlated expansion of the coastal distribution system with the potential partnership project that involved SqCWD participating in the import pipeline construction and purchasing outside water supply to bring through the pipeline and indirectly bank in the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin. As described in Figure 15 of the SqCWD's Integrated Resources Plan, under this project, the SqCWD would pay for the coastal distribution extension as a means to bank approximately 1,000 AFY of the water we would import. Please note that the amount of productive ag land served by the conceptual northern coastal distribution system expansion is approximately 500 acres, which would have a water demand of approximately 1,000 AFY not the 2,000 AFY you mentioned.

There are two reasons why SqCWD is not pressuring PVWMA to construct a northern extension of the coastal distribution system:

- 1) There is currently insufficient water supply to serve this area so constructing the distribution system expansion would be of no benefit. The import pipeline project has been deferred while PVWMA and several partner agencies complete an evaluation of the pipeline as a multi-purpose project.
- 2) SqCWD considered two conjunctive use options in its Integrated Resources Plan and conducted a

7/18/2006

public hearing after extensive notification (I checked and you were included on the mailing list.) The Board of Directors, for numerous reasons, has decided to pursue the ocean desalination project with Santa Cruz, which if successful would more than meet our long-term projected supplemental supply needs for both the Purisima and Aromas portions of the District.

3. **You requested our conservation staff to provide daily savings from SqCWD's conservation programs including toilet rebates and the water demand offset program.**  
Please see the attached chart.

I hope this sufficiently addresses your request.

Laura Brown

7/18/2006

	Savings (afy)	Savings (gallons per day)
Toilets	114.7	102398
Clothes washers	30.8	27496
Commercial wahsers	2.5	2232
Surveys (1700)	38	34000
Rest. spray values	10.4	9285
WDO	60.6	54100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>229,511</b>

surveys assume 20 gals/day (20 x 1700)

**Water savings from the below programs are not included in total above due to difficulty quantifying.**

Leak Detection  
 Tier Rate  
 Metering  
 Public Info./outreach  
 School Education  
 Retrofit of Resale  
 WBIC  
 Syn Turf  
 Demo Garden  
 Water Prohibition Ordinance  
 Water Efficiency Requirements



## Denise Alexander

---

**From:** Laura Brown  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2006 1:43 PM  
**To:** Denise Alexander  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Information Request/Comments to Scoping

**Attachments:** YAHOO WATER DOC-1.doc



YAHOO WATER  
DOC-1.doc (2 MB)

Laura,

Yes, I confirm my request, per your email below, and also request that copies of my plan as outlined in my op-ed be delivered to every board member for their personal review and consideration, over and above the current scoping process. Also, I would like to incorporate Bruce Laclergue's comments to Pajaro EIS in 2004, as well as SCWD's comments and MBC's comments during this same Pajaro EIS process and ESA's responses (ESA will have all these documents handy).

Also, please include the link below, my comments from May/2000, as well please.

<http://pogonip.org/eir.htm>

If you have any questions or need any clarifications or assistance in providing the requested documents/comments, please don't hesitate to call me.

Thank you,

Doug

ED MBC

818-4201

Laura Brown wrote:

Doug,

Please confirm that your request is that the following e-mail and op-ed pieces be submitted to the SqCWD Board of Directors as your comments in response to the Notice of Preparation for Soquel Creek Water District's Well Master Plan Project EIR.

Laura Brown

General Manager

Soquel Creek Water District

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas Deitch [mailto:ddeitch@got.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2006 11:47 AM

To: Laura Brown

Cc: ddeitch@pogonip.org

Subject: Re: Response to Information Request/Comments to Scoping

Laura,

I believe you will find comments/requests from MBC, County of SC by Bruce Laclergue, and SCWD contained in

\*Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Revised Basin Management Plan Project-Final Environmental Impact Statement Responses to Comments Document/March-2004

(prepared by ESA, I believe) (please see bold red portion of your email to me below.)

\*to consider extension of PVWMA coastal distribution system.

This was not followed up on by SCWD and the response prepared by ESA was no more than an unsubstantiated "not justified" response.

For this and other reasons, I believe a different and second environmental and hydrologic consultant should be considered for a second opinion and consulting for EIR.

A potential, though non illegal, "conflict of interest" may exist in ESA's participation in environmental consulting for the two "competing" agencies (PVWMA and SCWD) in their quest for water from the same basin.

Please also include my plan in my two part op-ed and comments above, attached hereto, as an alternative for revaluation.

Also, please put on the scoping comment record that I again specifically request that SCWD declare a groundwater emergency and request that the County of Santa Cruz move to do the same as required by their "Well Ordinance"

Thank you,\

Doug Deitch

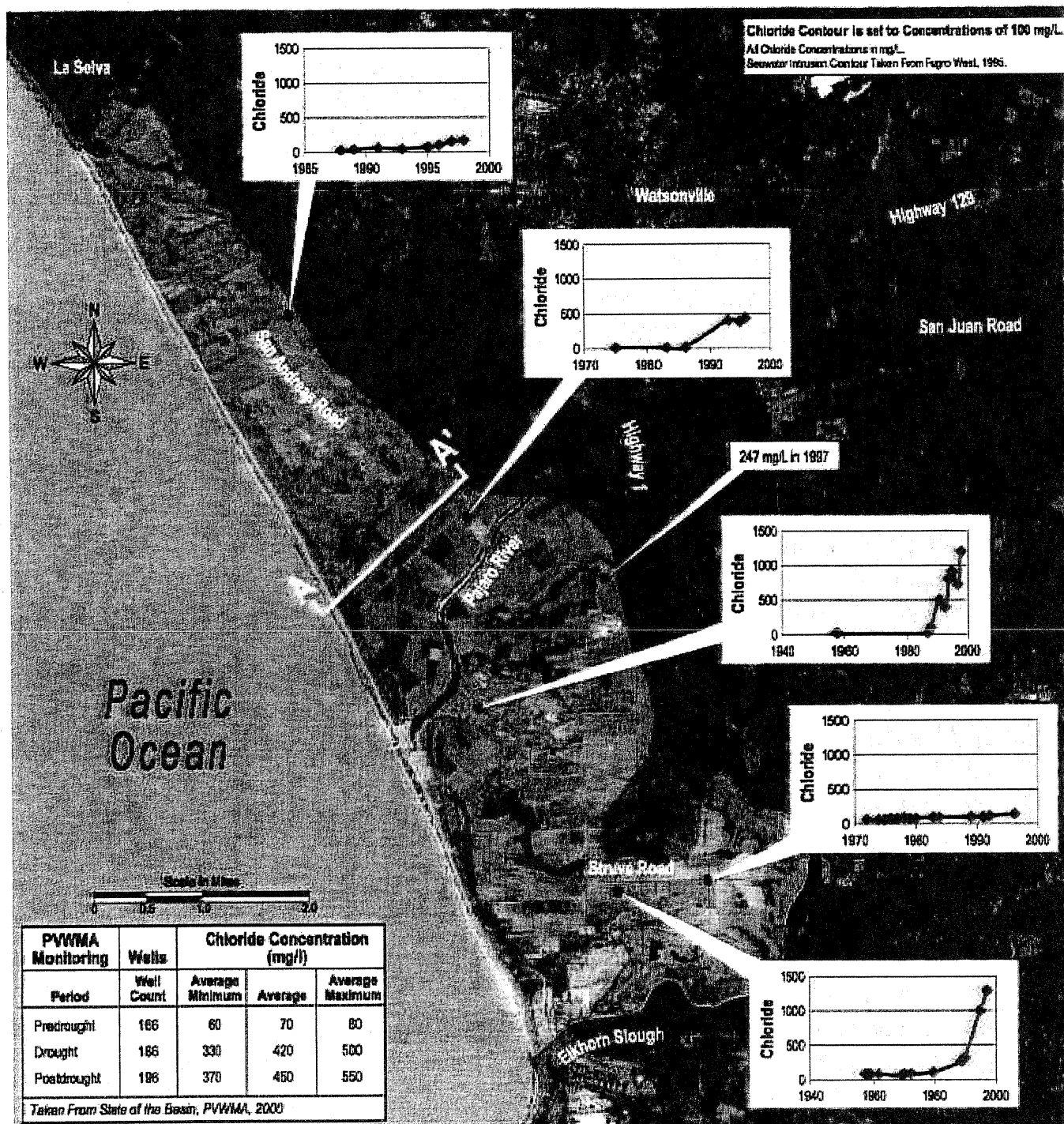
ED

Monterey Bay Conservancy (MBC)

\* \*

# OUR INCONVENIENT TRUTH

## PART ONE



My very wise and beloved late Hungarian mother often used to say to me, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink." For well over ten years I have found this expression very accurate in respect to our Santa Cruz community and our water problems and deficits here. So, starting today with this column, with which the editorial board of the Sentinel has graciously provided me the opportunity to publish a two part op-ed piece, I'm going to attempt to lead this horse, our community, to the water which is available to us right here and right now.

Some of you readers might recall that around a year ago I, through my nonprofit Monterey Bay Conservancy, ran full page ads twice in this paper describing our water crisis, our "inconvenient truth", and its principal cause --too many berries. I also described the dire economic, social, and environmental consequences which result from this berry based economy which requires us to use up our water supplies and other local resources in the way we are doing. For your reference, I have rerun this page again to accompany this op-ed piece. I hope you will review it. At the page's end, I said, "I'll be back to you soon...." with a water solution.

Well, I'm back, and here it is. In today's piece, I will lead us to the water that we already have here locally, but don't quite yet realize it. Water with which we can successfully address all of our region's water needs without either desalinized or imported water, nor even new dams or reservoirs, using only the abundant natural system we already have in place here -- our existing ground waters -- in a reasonable manner.

In the follow up piece, I will describe how we can secure this water for our community's future needs and security, and then how we can use it sustainably, reasonably, and productively to create what I term the "global exemplar social, economic, and natural system" for our planet -- based necessarily and primarily on sustainable local water policies -- right here in our part of the Monterey Bay.

So first: where's the water?

Well, if you read this paper, you would know that a pipeline is possibly going to be built in the South County and that water will be imported through this pipeline from the Central Valley Project and elsewhere.

This and other local sources will eliminate the huge water overdrafts, salt water intrusion problems, and massive water resource losses which plague us from Soquel Creek Water District through Pajaro. Consequently, one might reasonably conclude that this "pipeline" and water imported through it must be our salvation.

Wrong.

While it is true that a pipeline may be built and that water may be imported through it, this cannot fairly be described as "the solution" to our water deficit. Why? Because, unfortunately, what is not explained or understood by our community, and apparently by the elected officials/decision makers in this County, is this key fact: once our agricultural well pumping practices are changed (or, as the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency calls it, "optimized") twice as much water will be newly and sustainably available to our local wells and groundwater in Pajaro than will be imported through the possible new pipeline

In fact, the Pajaro Basin Management Plan indicates that, on average, only around 13,400 acre feet of water yearly is expected to be imported through the new pipeline to address the 45,000 acre foot yearly Pajaro and Soquel Creek Water District (SCWD) overdraft.

I include SCWD here, as well, because SCWD gets one third of its supplies from this same shared Pajaro Basin groundwater. Though unacknowledged by SCWD (or anybody else, for that matter) Pajaro's water abuse and resource loss is SCWD's problem, as well. La Selva Beach's critical salt-water problems and SCWD's "SEASCAPE WELL" are examples.

What also goes unexplained is that this plan hinges on the most important fact/assumption that twice this amount of water -- that is, 26,000 acre feet yearly -- will then be available from Pajaro's (and SCWD's) local ground water and wells once agricultural well pumping is redirected from the coastal area to other more inland locations in the Pajaro Basin. This critical fact/assumption, by the way, has been operative and pivotal in all PVWMA water planning since 1993...

Most simply put, when we stop pumping agricultural wells on around 8,000 acres of ag lands near the coast in Pajaro, and redistribute the pumping inland, the yearly sustainable yield of the Pajaro Basin wells will more than double from the present 24,000 acre feet a year to 50,000 acre feet per year. By stopping the coastal agricultural pumping, we will gain 26,000 acre-feet of new local, sustainable groundwater supplies. This is a huge increase in the local water supply.

This key fact/assumption is contained in an obscure appendix of the Basin Management Plan (Technical Memoranda 4 for Subtasks 6.1, Baseline Conditions and Basin Sustainable Yield Analysis, Raines, Melton, and Corolla, Inc., May 31, 2000) that nobody of consequence here in our community seems to have read or be aware of. I would suggest that a reading of this appendix become required reading for our local decision makers and anyone else interested.

Consequently, the “pipeline” and imported water is not the real solution. Instead, stopping agricultural well pumping in the 8,000 coastal area, which will produce twice the amount of new supply yearly from our natural groundwater system than the pipeline is expected to, is the most important and necessary step which we must take, in any event, to solve our local water crisis,

In my next article, we’ll discuss how we can go about doing this.

## OUR INCONVENIENT TRUTH

### PART TWO

There is a very well known book on water made into a four part PBS TV series: Cadillac Desert, The American West and Its Disappearing Water, written by the late Marc Reisner.

Prior to his recent death, Reisner visited Pajaro Valley in 1998 and spoke here at a community water meeting. During his talk, in answer to a question (mine), Reisner said that he knew of no worse water abuse and resource loss to saltwater intrusion anywhere than was (and still is) occurring in Pajaro.

Reisner was specifically referring to “Our Inconvenient Truth”==the fact that up to 15,000 acre feet yearly of our groundwater resource is lost to the sea and salt water intrusion because of over pumping to grow berries. This crop uses around 90% of Pajaro’s (as well as Soquel Creek’s) water -- three times as much yearly as is sustainable -- causing a 200% overdraft. This yearly resource loss is twice the city of Watsonville’s yearly use, twice Santa Cruz’s and Soquel Creek’s water needs for the next 50+ years, 7.5 new Santa Cruz Desal plants, or put another way, a

supply that easily could serve a human population of well over 125,000 -- in a county that has a population of less than 250,000.

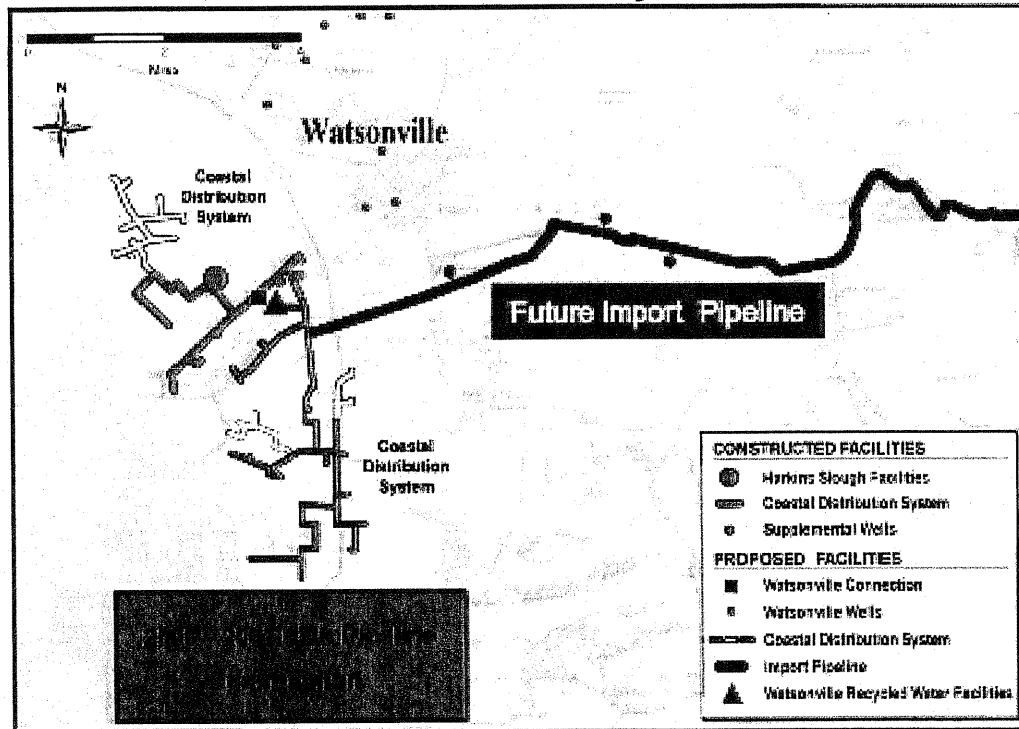
As was pointed out in the first part of my op-ed, there is only one way to stop this hemorrhaging of seawater into our aquifer, and that is to stop all ag well pumping in the 8,000 acre coastal area and redistribute that ag well pumping to other inland areas of the aquifer. Once we've done that, we will then be able to pump sustainably over twice the amount of water as we currently can-- that is, 50,000 acre feet per year instead of only 24,000 acre feet per year.

I also pointed out that the new pipeline, if ever built, is only expected to import to Pajaro, on average, around one half that amount, or 13,400 acre feet a year. Consequently, I characterized "stopping pumping at the coast", rather than "the new pipeline" as real solution to our water crisis.

Well, there are two ways to stop ag well pumping at the coast and solve our water dilemma. The first way and current choice of PVWMA (which by the terms of the current law-the Pajaro Valley Management Act- is controlled by the agricultural community) is depicted in the accompanying graphic.



## PVWMA BMP Projects



Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

RMC

In this plan, a pipeline will bring an average of 13,400 acre-feet of imported water yearly plus other local supplies to the 8,000 acre coastal salt water intruded area. This will allow the feudal current model of our local berry economy to remain uninterrupted at its current state and scale. It will utilize the entire 13,400 acre-feet of newly imported water plus the 26,000 acre-feet of new local sustainable groundwater and more for....guess what==berries.

The second way to stop pumping on this land is to buy it. And here's why we should.

First, a coastal acquisition of this scale – in that case, for purpose of “saving the North Coast” (the 7,500 acre Coast Dairies Ranch)- has already been successfully achieved. This demonstrates unequivocally that future development constraints on coastal

property, preservation of agriculture, and habitat and resource protection are valued highly by us.

Consider the parallel nature of buying and fallowing this 8000 acres. Besides being, in and of itself, a huge 50,000 acre feet per year conservation and "new water supply project" and the only potential regional water solution which immediately and with certainty cures the immense current annual saltwater intrusion resource loss, such a purchase would also open miles of beach and coast front property to public use. Additionally, these acres serve as home to some of the most threatened world class and ecologically valuable and critical habitats; namely, the Elkhorn Slough and Watsonville Wetlands systems -- as well as, of course, thousands of acres of some of the world's best farmland.

This solution helps us live within our means in a sustainable and reasonable manner.

Let's look at the benefits of this approach. At 3 acre feet per year per acre for berries, fallowing 8,000 acres would conserve around 24,000 acre feet per year (coincidentally the same amount of water as the current total basin sustainable annual yield). Additionally, acquisition of and cessation of coastal ag well pumping on this land would also produce increased water revenue because the Pajaro basin yield, a water product which is currently sold by the acre foot, would more than double from 24,000 acre feet per year to 50,000 acre feet per year-again, with no further saltwater intrusion resource loss. At \$300 an acre-foot, this would generate \$15 million dollars a year in water revenue == more than enough to finance this property's acquisition.

So, what would it cost to buy this land? Well, according to the BLM Environmental Impact Statement prepared for PVWMA, the cost for the land would be around \$29,000 per acre or \$232 million. Additionally figured into costs was around \$160 million in

lost ag production and 5,000 lost farmworker jobs if this fallowing plan was followed.

This tells us that each farmworker job lost produces only \$32,000 of ag revenue for the employer, not enough to pay a local living wage even if the entire amount were dedicated to this purpose. These farmworker positions, therefore, are hardly the greatest job opportunity or circumstance for our community members.

But how could we ever compensate for this ag revenue and job loss if we pursued this course?

Here's how-according to LAFCO parameters, 5,000 living wage jobs could easily be created on less than 250 acres in the City of Watsonville, a federal enterprise zone with tax credit job creation incentives. On less than another 250 acres, 5,000 decent and affordable housing units could easily be constructed as well, to provide the housing for the new jobs and households. At 4 people per household, this represents a retooling of 5,000 farmworker jobs into the kind of new jobs we need here, and helps lift 20,000 of our residents out of abject poverty and into decent housing and steady taxpaying status.

It is true that this could cost us up to 500 acres of ag land urbanized and annexed to Watsonville. However, this also would create a model for our region which would preserve the balance of the 30,000+ acres of ag lands remaining in perpetuity with local, sustainable ground water, the best kind, available to meet our entire community's needs from Santa Cruz through Pajaro, in a more diversified and robust economy.

Most importantly, this plan would stop the flooding of seawater into our groundwaters, which yearly creates this massive ground water resource loss of around 15,000 acre-feet of water a year.

What's the value of this annual loss? Well, at the very low end that Santa Cruz anticipates paying for its new desalination plant (not including operations and maintenance), that's a rate of around \$20 million per 1,000 acre feet of water, or an annual loss of around \$300 million – most “inconveniently” almost \$70 million more loss annually than the entire cost of buying this land...

Note..please see..“Watsonville Approves New General Plan”

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/May/24/local/stories/03local.htm>

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May 24, 2006

# Watsonville City Council OKs growth plan

**BY DONNA JONES**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

WATSONVILLE — Water, housing, jobs, traffic — all have been hot topics during the two-plus years it's taken to build a blueprint for city growth in the coming decades.

Then there was Runway 8-26, a secondary strip at Watsonville Municipal Airport that the City Council redesignated a year ago so that the hundreds of homes called for in the general plan could one day be built.

Even as the City Council moved Tuesday to adopt the new general plan, Watsonville Vista 2030, many of the issues were still on the table.

But after nearly four hours of discussion, the council adopted the plan that city leaders hope will create as many as 5,700 new homes and 7,500 new jobs in the next 25 years.

Overcrowded housing is causing social problems like gang violence, said Councilman Manuel Bersamin, before joining the majority in a 6-1 vote.

"We have a great housing challenge, and we have to move on this now," he said.

Councilman Dale Skillicorn was the lone holdout, saying there was no reason not to make sure all questions were answered first.

Before the vote, representatives from groups as diverse as the county Farm Bureau and the Sierra Club expressed

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continuing concerns.

Ed Ortega of the Farm Bureau said he wasn't convinced the city's projection of nearly no increase in water use was realistic. The plan depends too heavily on conservation and a faulty calculation of what would be gained from converting farmland to residential and commercial use, he said.

"These are important issues," Ortega said. "Take the time to review them rather than vote hastily."

The runway question, however, prompted the most discussion.

Fueling the debate was an April 21 letter from the acting chief of the state Division of Aeronautics calling for the council to overturn its earlier decision to designate the runway "low activity" and eliminate safety zones that would limit development in the Buena Vista area north of the airport.

Vic Suarez, who lives in the Freedom area and whose 17-year-old son is a pilot, was one of several speakers who urged the council to deal with the letter before passing the plan.

"I'm not opposed to development. Our community is growing," Suarez said. "But I want responsible development that respects the function and needs of our airport and needs of the community."

But to some speakers, housing and jobs come before the airport.


Amy Newell, a Watsonville resident who has represented the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council in land-use discussions, encouraged council members to close the runway. The strip is used so the airport can stay open in certain wind and fog conditions, but Newell said airports in major cities close due to weather conditions all the time, delaying or canceling flights.


"People are inconvenienced, and life goes on," Newell said. "Frankly, I just think it's wrong for a small portion of our population, whether for recreational or business purposes, to hold our city hostage when that's the only way our city can grow."


Contact Donna Jones at [djones@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:djones@santacruzsentinel.com).

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**Laura Brown**

---

**From:** Laura Brown  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2006 10:54 AM  
**To:** 'Frank Brommenschenkel'  
**Subject:** RE: Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Brommenschenkel,

I reviewed your e-mail with the District's consulting hydrogeologist, and he confirmed that he would complete the technical analysis required to respond to your questions in the work he is performing for the Draft EIR. This document will be available for your review and comment prior to being adopted. The analysis required to address several of your questions has not yet been completed.

With respect to question 5, it would be very helpful if you could provide us the location, well depth and screen intervals (depths) for the Mar Vista Water Company wells so we can be sure that we have accurate information upon which to conduct an impact analysis.

Also, please provide any additional questions you may wish to be addressed in the EIR by the end of the week so we can be sure to respond to them in the draft document.

Sincerely,  
Laura D. Brown  
General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District

---

**From:** Frank Brommenschenkel [mailto:frank.brommen@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 07, 2006 5:48 PM  
**To:** Laura Brown  
**Subject:** Re: Draft EIR

Laura,

Thanks for your call and email today. I now have found your web site and have reviewed the NOP. Without looking through all the other documents I have the following questions:

1. Has a Safe Yield for the Groundwater Basin and the current management plan been established?
2. What is the projected decrease in water levels from the planned production of the Granite Way - Aptos Village Well?
3. Have adjacent wells in the vicinity of the proposed wells been taken into consideration in the site selection process?
4. What reports have been completed to support the proposed wells and pumping plan?
5. What is the projected impact, water level wise, to the Mar Vista Water Company to the east of Aptos?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Laura Brown  
**To:** Frank Brommenschenkel  
**Sent:** Monday, August 07, 2006 2:44 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Brommenschenkel,

The Notice of Preparation and Project Description for the Well Master Plan EIR are available at [www.soquelcreekwater.org](http://www.soquelcreekwater.org)

On the home page, the link to these documents is under the heading "What's New" and is highlighted in yellow.

8/10/2006



If you have any difficulty accessing the information or any questions, please contact me.

As we discussed, the comment period for the Notice of Preparation closed today; however, since I was out of town, I will waive this deadline for you. Please have any comments to me by this Friday, August 11 so that our consultants are able to address them in the Draft EIR, which is now being prepared.

I apologize for any inconvenience my absence caused you.

Sincerely,  
Laura D. Brown  
General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District

---

**From:** Frank Brommenschenkel [mailto:frank.brommen@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2006 7:40 AM  
**To:** Laura Brown  
**Subject:** Draft EIR

Laura Brown,

Can you provide me a site where the draft EIR for your Soquel Creek Water District Well Master Plan Project is available for reviewing. I have a Client that would like me to take a look at it.

Please get back to me.

Frank Brommenschenkel  
DBA Frank B & Associates  
134 Davis St.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
805-525-4200 Phone  
805-525-7284 Fax  
[frank.brommen@verizon.net](mailto:frank.brommen@verizon.net)

8/10/2006

July 9 - 2006

RECEIVED  
JUL 11 2006  
S.C.W.D.

Dear Laura Brown,

Thank you for the  
NOTICE OF PREPARATION of a DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT REPORT  
RE: Soquel Creek Water District Master  
PLAN PROJECT

---

I am an active environmentalist and an  
organic gardener. This proposed plan  
feels Good to me. If I were asked  
to vote YES or NO today it would be YES

---

Thank you for your  
enormous work.

Stay well.

Lynn Larson -  
ARTIST / GARDNER

831-685-3814

**SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 18, 2006**

=====

**1. ROLL CALL**

President Daniels called the Regular Session to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Daniels, President  
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Vice President  
Dan Kriege  
Jack Beebe  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe

**Staff Members Present:**

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Robert Stevens, Assistant General Manager  
Bob Bosso, District Counsel  
Jeff Gailey, Engineering Manager  
Gary Lamprecht, Operations & Maintenance Manager  
Ron Duncan, Conservation/Customer Service Field Manager  
Mike Wilson, Associate Engineer  
Denise Alexander, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

**Others Present:**

Leslie Moulton, Kelly White and Pete Hudson with Environmental Science Associates  
John Ricker and Kristen Kittleson with County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services  
4 members of the public

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The draft minutes of June 20, 2006 were presented for approval.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Beebe: To approve the minutes of June 20, 2006 as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
---

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

General Manager Laura Brown introduced new staff member Mike Wilson who recently joined the District as an associate engineer. Mr. Wilson briefly commented on his prior water related work experience. The Board welcomed Mr. Wilson.

#### 4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

##### 4.1 Well Master Plan Project Level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – Receive Public Comments Re: Scope of EIR

Engineering Manager Jeff Gailey stated that the Notice of Preparation had been filed and a scoping meeting was scheduled to receive public comment. Mr. Gailey provided a presentation of the proposed Well Master Plan stating that infrastructure improvements to the District's aging system were necessary to improve groundwater resources management and provide the redundancy and flexibility in the District's water production and system to meet peak demand in the various service areas. The objective is to promote uniform drawdown of the aquifers and to move pumping away from the coast and depressed groundwater areas; limit pumping to less than 12 hours/day per well; ensure reliable water supply when individual wells are out of service and to ensure adequate system capacity to respond to peaks in daily demand. He stated that 26 different parcels were considered before the proposed well sites were selected. A copy of the presentation that includes the criteria for selecting the well sites, plan overview, the location of the proposed well sites, EIR issues and an implementation schedule is attached as **Exhibit A**.

Proposed well sites are: O'Neill Ranch, Cunnison Lane, Austrian Way Tank, Granite Way-Aptos Village and Polo Grounds (conversion of existing irrigation well). He commented on the features of each well site noting the advantages and disadvantages.

President Daniels opened the Public Hearing.

Steve Erlach, a resident of Cunnison Lane, stated that the Cunnison Lane well site is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from a coastal area that is already over-pumped. His two wells are within 500 feet of the proposed well site and could be adversely affected. He inquired about the Quik Stop site and was concerned that suction from a large capacity well in that area could potentially draw any remaining MTBE contaminants up Cunnison Lane. He asked the Board to consider sites farther inland.

General Manager Laura Brown stated that in addition to the comments provided to the Board in the packet, a series of emails were subsequently received from Mr. Doug Deitch. A copy of the comments submitted by Mr. Deitch, including comments over and above the

current scoping process were distributed to the Board, and are attached as **Exhibit B.**

J. Gailey stated that Leslie Moulton, Kelly White and Pete Hudson with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) were present.

No one else wished to speak.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Jaffe: To close the public hearing. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Leslie Moulton with ESA stated they were present to answer any questions concerning process and to hear comments from the public and the Board with regard to the EIR scope of analysis.

The following recommendations in preparation of the EIR were stated by the Board:

- Emphasize that to manage water supply by mitigating the impact of new development, the District has instituted a Water Demand Offset Program that requires new development to offset their water demand.
- Be explicit regarding capacity and describe the water budget for each of the proposed wells being identified as a new water source, and state that once the supplemental supply source is in place, future production will be decreased.
- Identify the name of the various plans being implemented by the District and the results. Reiterate that the goal of the District is not to increase, but to reduce pumping in the impaired groundwater areas and to distribute pumping within the various aquifer layers.
- The language in the EIR should be easily understood by the general public i.e. pumping water instead of production.
- Impacts on streams and neighboring wells should be thoroughly analyzed and explicit.
- Change language in Background, first paragraph on page 1-1 to read: ....*the SqCWD is seeking to replace **or reduce** production from wells located along the coast, in depressed groundwater areas **or other impacted or sensitive zones**, i.e. La Selva and Main Street.*
- Address MTBE issue and possible interaction at Cunnison Lane well site.

- Classify Cunnison Lane and Austrian Way Tank sites as potential sites, not as an either or alternate.
- Under Project Description on page 1-3, define “flushing” of what.
- Under Service Area 1 *and throughout the document.* add the total peak demand in the sentence, “*The total source capacity of all wells in Service Area I is estimated at 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm) and the total peak demand is \_\_\_\_\_*”.
- Change language in Current Groundwater Conditions, fifth paragraph on page 9 to read: *Saltwater intrusion can severely ~~impair~~ (choose a better word) the quality of groundwater and can ~~take hundreds of years to reverse and replace~~ rarely be reversed.*
- Change footnote on page 11 to read: *...the Aromas and **Purisima** aquifers are currently being overdrafted.*
- Omit sentence in Well Site Design, first paragraph on page 15, ~~*All new wells would connect to the existing storm drain system for discharge of raw groundwater during startup/shutdown and periodic flushing.*~~
- Be consistent by stating the distance of each well site from the coast and private wells in the vicinity.

Discussion ensued regarding Maplethorpe Well not being a viable site to build a treatment plant.

Ms. Moulton stated that a source water assessment of all known contaminants within the 5 to 10 year radius of the well project would be addressed in the EIR.

Ms. White stated that the first draft EIR is planned for completion in November/December of this year.

The Board thanked ESA staff for attending the meeting.

## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

### 5.1 District Participation in County’s Proposed Fisheries Program for 2006

L. Brown introduced John Ricker and Kristen Kittleson with Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services, Water Resources Section, whose reports on the Santa Cruz Stream Habitat and Juvenile Salmonid Sampling Program and Current and Historical Salmonid Sampling Efforts were included with the staff report. Mr.

Ricker stated they were present to answer any questions the Board might have.

Director LaHue thanked Mr. Ricker and Ms. Kittleson for the reports. He commented that it was important to him to see that the data is being compiled/correlated and he inquired about how the data would be used. He stated he would like to review the data at some point, and in a manner he could understand. Mr. Ricker stated they are in the process of reformatting an existing report to get the watershed data into a standardized database.

With regard to the number of sites to be sampled in the Aptos Watershed, Ms. Kittleson corrected the report to state that the total proposed sites to be sampled would be two in Aptos Creek, not four, and two in Valencia Creek.

In response to an inquiry from Director Kriege, Mr. Ricker stated that data had also been collected from the other streams on two prior occasions in 1981 and 1994. He further stated that seven fisheries biologists were sent a request for proposals and only one would be selected to perform the fieldwork.

President Daniels stated that climate change seems to have an impact on how the numbers fluctuate and in order to use the data to monitor and measure restoration activities, a significant analysis will have to be done. Ms. Kittleson stated that once all the data is together, there will be more of an opportunity to do an analysis and track trends. Mr. Ricker stated that a proper analysis covering a whole range of hydrological conditions would require at least 10 years worth of data and that 3 years of data is indicative only. The current sampling technique is reproducible and stable.

L. Brown commented that consideration had been given to contacting the Community Foundation to inquire about applying for grant money to do the setup and/or data analysis.

President Daniels stated he was happy to see that the monitoring is being associated with the restoration activity, and he suggested approaching other local organizations to solicit funding for the project.

In response to an inquiry from Director Jaffe, Mr. Ricker stated that the monitoring can be somewhat different depending on location but as far as coordinating the data, the methodologies and monitoring approaches are similar and all the agencies are communicating and working together.

The Board thanked Mr. Ricker and Ms. Kittleson for developing the proposed work plan and attending the meeting.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve the proposed Santa Cruz County Stream Habitat and Juvenile Salmonid Sampling Program 2006 and authorize the District to contribute \$10,000 toward the project. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**President Daniels suggested hearing Item 5.3 at this time so the applicant would not have to wait.**

- 5.2 Conditional “Will Serve” Water Service Application for John Orlando, 7342 Mesa Drive, Aptos, APN 039-092-49

Conservation and Customer Service Field Manager Ron Duncan responded to an inquiry from Director LaHue regarding the square footage limit on accessory dwelling units (ADUs). L. Brown added that information that defined ADUs was received from the County and staff is in the process of drafting a policy for Board approval that would provide guidelines on how to apply the offsets. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Kriege: To authorize the District’s standard Conditional Will Serve letter indicating that the District will serve the new house proposed to be added to the site located at 7342 Mesa Drive in Aptos, APN 039-092-49. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 5.3 Conditional “Will Serve” Water Service Application for Slatter Construction, 6-Lot Subdivision at 6125 Abbey Road, Aptos, APN 037-221-35

J. Gailey provided a brief overview of the staff report and stated that the applicant Michael Bethke with Slatter Construction was present.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: President Daniels: To authorize the District’s standard Conditional Will Serve letter indicating that the District will serve the 6-lot Subdivision to be located at 6125 Abbey Road in Aptos, if all conditions are met, APN 037-221-35. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bethke stated he has been communicating with conservation staff regarding the “Go Green” Water Demand Offset Program. He



complimented the District's new staff engineer Mike Wilson, who has been very helpful throughout the application process.

#### 5.4 Potential Additional Water Conservation Rebate Programs

R. Duncan provided an overview of the staff report stating that staff is proposing 5 new rebate options to the District's water conservation rebate programs. A description and cost/benefit analysis of the following five candidates was given: Turf Replacement, Weather-based Irrigation Controllers; Irrigation Spray Nozzles; Cisterns (water harvesting) and High Efficiency Toilets (HETs). He responded to questions from the Board.

Discussion ensued and the following recommendations were stated:

- Clarify the calculations of water saved per year for turf replacement.
- Increase the minimum size cistern rebate to 200 – 500 gallons.
- Eliminate \$75 rebate on the 1.6 gpf toilet and evaluate a better threshold to increase the rebate on the newer 1.0 gpf and dual-flush HETs.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: President Daniels: To accept the rebate programs on Turf Replacement, Weather-based Irrigation Controllers and Irrigation Spray Nozzles as proposed and to return to the Board with modifications to the HET rebate program that would eliminate the 1.6 gpf toilet rebate and increase the rebate on the newer HETs, and to increase the minimum size threshold to 200 gallons for the cistern rebate program. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

President Daniels stated that because of hard water, the irrigation spray nozzles rebate should be offered every 5, rather than 10 years. The Board concurred.

Director Jaffe commented he was very supportive of the weather-based irrigation controllers.

#### 5.5 Approve Annual Statement of Investment Policy, Fiscal Year 2006-07, Final Acceptances

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Beebe: To approve the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Investment Policy. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5.6 Ratify the General Manager's Actions in Making Emergency Repairs to the Ledyard Well Pump Motor

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director LaHue: To ratify the General Manager's actions in declaring an emergency and waiving normal bidding procedures for work associated with the Ledyard Well pump motor and to ratify the payment of \$5,545.86 incurred in the emergency removal and repair of the Ledyard Well pump motor. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5.7 La Selva Beach Main Replacements, Phase II, Bid Award

J. Gailey reported that four bids were received and opened on July 11, 2006 for the above noted project. Earthworks Paving Contractors, Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$714,000 and the bid is \$174,000 higher than staff's estimate which is due to a significant increase in construction costs. He recommended reallocating the additional funds needed from the La Selva Beach Main Replacements, Phase III budget to complete Phase II. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Beebe: To authorize funds in the amount of \$174,000 to be allocated from the La Selva Beach Main Replacements, Phase III budget in order to complete the budget for the La Selva Beach Main Replacements, Phase II Project and to adopt **Resolution No. 06-21** for award of contract to the lowest qualified bidder for the La Selva Beach Main Replacements, Phase II Project, CWO 06-41. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

President Daniels complimented the Engineering staff for doing a good job noting that the construction projects run smoothly.

5.8 McCormick Woods Subdivision, Tract No. 1505, APN 036-094-35 – Grant Final Acceptance

MOTION: Director Beebe; Second: President Daniels: To grant final acceptance for the 5-lot subdivision project located at McCormick Avenue and Park Avenue in Capitola known as the McCormick Woods Subdivision, Tract No. 1505 in Capitola, APN 036-094-35, CWO 06-15. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 5.9 New Water Service Connection Application for Charles Del Monte, 4285 Opal Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, APN 033-162-56

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Kriege: To authorize one of the District's standard combination water connections to be installed at 4285 Opal Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, APN 033-162-56. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
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**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 6.1 Small Claims Report for May 2006

No action was required.

**7. STATUS REPORTS**

- 7.1 Engineering – J. Gailey commented on a prior letter to the Board from the Redwood Drive Homeowners Association regarding paving failures that they attributed to the District. Staff observed the road and did not find evidence that water from the District's tank was present. The final phase of the Aptos Jr. High Well and Treatment Plant project is expected to be completed in August.
- 7.2 Operations & Maintenance – Operations & Maintenance Manager Gary Lamprecht provided an update on the Rosedale Well stating that the Operations Supervisor did a flushing and he felt that the rehabilitation work seems to have been successful. Both Rosedale and Ledyard Wells were disinfected and are back on line.
- 7.3 Communications & Conservation – R. Duncan showed samples of new water-wise grasses that do not require water during the dry season, and he encouraged the Board to take samples home. He noted that Engineering Technician Carol Carr informed a developer about the "Go Green" WDO Program and staff plans to meet with him tomorrow to discuss offsetting 15 acre/feet. Mr. Duncan is in the process of submitting an application for an EPA Water Efficiency Leadership Award highlighting the "Go Green" Program. The District will be participating in the annual energy solar tour in October and a booth will be setup to distribute literature on the "Go Green" program at a District location/site that has "Gone Green".

President Daniels thanked Mr. Duncan for the WDO Table stating it really helps him to understand how things are going and the progress

being made. He also acknowledged the nice water wasting advertisement he saw in the Capitola Times and Mid-County Post.

7.4 District Counsel – Bob Bosso mentioned he hasn't heard anything further regarding the injury involving the steps claim at Soquel Creek and other than advice to staff on various items, he has nothing else to report.

7.5 General Manager – L. Brown apprised the Board she would be on vacation from July 20 through August 6.

B. Bosso stated that the Conflict of Interest training for Board members has been postponed to accommodate any change in Board membership as a result of the election.

7.6 Work Plan and Special Assignments - nothing further was discussed.

8. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

L. Brown stated that a letter was received from Mr. Richard Wameling regarding the District providing service to new development when water supply is already depleted. A copy of Mr. Wameling's letter and a draft response letter to Mr. Wameling to be signed by President Daniels was distributed to the Board, attached as **Exhibit C**.

9. **REPORT OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

June Warrants and May/June Credit Card Analysis

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: President Daniels: To accept the June Warrants and May/June Credit Card Analysis as paid. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
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10. **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, President Daniels adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on August 15, 2006.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Denise Alexander, Board Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Daniels, President