



Tim Carson <admin@midcountygroundwater.org>

When Will the Water Optimization Report Become Public?

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency <admin@midcountygroundwater.org>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 12:50 PM

To: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Steinbruner,

This email is to confirm receipt of your comments.

Regards,
Tim Carson

Administrative Services
Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency
admin@midcountygroundwater.org



Tim Carson <admin@midcountygroundwater.org>

When Will the Water Optimization Report Become Public?

Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 7:18 PM

To: MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board <comment@midcountygroundwater.org>

Cc: "Peisch Amanda@DWR" <amanda.peisch@water.ca.gov>, Katherine Dlubac <katherine.dlubac@water.ca.gov>, Sierra Ryan <sierra.ryan@santacruzcountyca.gov>, Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Dear MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board,

I respectfully request a public discussion of the status of the Water Optimization Report that has been funded in part by a \$7.6million grant from the California Dept. of Water Resources in 2022.

The Report, scheduled by Soquel Creek Water District staff for release to the District Board in February, 2024 has now fallen off the District calendar completely.

I understand that this Report is instrumental in implementing the MidCounty Groundwater Agency Sustainability Plan, yet the information remains illusive to the public.

In reading the March 19, 2024 Soquel Creek Water District Board agenda staff report for "Water Resources" update on the PureWater Soquel Project, I found this update on the Water Optimization Study:

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant Optimization Study (Study)
o Groundwater and hydraulic modeling continues. Groundwater modeling is being used to evaluate project alternatives and scenarios for their ability to meet basin sustainability and help the City meet their water supply shortage gap during drought periods. Hydraulic modeling is being used to inform infrastructure upgrades that would be needed to implement select project scenarios, and it also provides critical information (i.e. water age and distribution system blending ratios) that will be needed to evaluate potential water quality impacts.

o Project scenarios within four alternative tracks are being modeled:

- 1) Baseline with transfers using existing infrastructure (includes District's operation of Pure Water Soquel (PWS) and the City of Santa Cruz's (City) operation of four aquifer storage & recovery (ASR) wells);*
- 2) Expanded City ASR (up to 4 new ASR wells) with transfers;*
- 3) Optimize existing PWS capacity of 1,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) (includes three existing PWS seawater intrusion prevention (SWIP) wells with options to add SWIP injection and extraction wells) with transfers; and*
- 4) Expand PWS Capacity up to 3,000 AFY (for Indirect or Direct Potable Reuse).*

o When modeling is complete and the City & District have selected four alternatives to be further analyzed for economic & financial impacts, water quality impacts, and environmental needs, staff plans to present a Study update to the Board

<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/546?fileID=2004> (Consent Item 4.3 page 53)

According to the MGA website information regarding this work, the public money is to be used to: benefit:

Projects funded by the grant include the relocation of coastal wells, increased aquifer injection to improve groundwater supplies, and groundwater and hydraulic modeling needed for informed sustainable groundwater management.

Please discuss the status of this work publicly at the March 21 MGA meeting during Item 6.3 Staff Reports.

I further respectfully request that the MGA schedule a presentation by DWR staff to review the results of the State-funded AEM survey results in the MidCounty Basin areas at the next regular meeting on June 20, 2024.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner