

From: [Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency](#)
To: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Status of Approval for Modified PureWater Soquel Project Conveyance Permits for Stream Crossings?
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 11:48:13 AM

Dear Ms. Steinbruner,

Thank you for your email. This is to confirm your email (3 of 3) was received. Consistent with the MGA's policy, written communications received are posted on the [MGA website](#) and Board members are informed of the written communications.

Best,

Tim Carson

On Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 9:05 AM Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board,

The Soquel Creek Water District Board will consider yet another potentially significant modification to the PureWater Soquel Project at their October 5, 2021 Board meeting, according to the calendar in the September 7, 2021 Board agenda packet.

(See page 5): https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_09072021-261?packet=true

I urge your Board to review this information as soon as it is available and to comment on the CEQA Determination. I asked the Board last night during public comment on the Consent Agenda to please conduct the review of this proposed (Second) Addendum in a public hearing, but it is currently not listed as a public hearing item.

I want to make you aware of the following information regarding the issues of permitting problems and changes in the Soquel Creek Water District's Modified PureWater Soquel Project.

To date, Mr. Packard has not answered my questions regarding the State Waterboard's oversight of the potential chloramine-laden effluent leaks in conveyance pipes at any of the multiple stream and riparian crossings, including the San Lorenzo River.

This is yet another reason that the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife staff needs to be taking an active role in developing adequate and enforceable mitigations for this Modified Project. However it appears that is not the case, per Public Records Act request response.

On August 17, 2021, I submitted a Public Records Act request to CDFW for correspondence with Soquel Creek Water District and/or the City of Santa Cruz regarding the Project. I am alarmed by the CDFW response of August 30, 2021 that "No Records Exist".

[View Message\(s\)](#)

Request / Incident Summary

Request Type:	Public Records Act Request
Contact E-Mail:	ki6tkb@yahoo.com
Reference No:	R001431-081721
Status:	No Record(s) Exist

I am very concerned that Soquel Creek Water District has not been consulting CDFW to develop an effective and enforceable Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, as the public was assured of when the District certified the Project EIR in 2018.

Under CEQA, a project that affects the habitat of an endangered, rare or threatened species is considered to be a project of statewide significance that requires state agency review of the project's EIR (14 Cal Code Regs 15206(b)(5).

Soquel Creek Water District, as the lead agency, is required to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtain written findings on the impact of the project on the continued existence of any endangered or threatened speices, in compliance with Public Resources Code 21104.2.

This has not happened.

I respectfully ask that your Board discuss this publicly due to the fact that the Modified PureWater Soquel Project is an integral element of the MidCounty Groundwater Agency's Sustainable Groundwater Plan.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

To: Packard, Harvey@Waterboards <harvey.packard@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Hammer, Phillip@Waterboards <phillip.hammer@waterboards.ca.gov>; Keeling, Matt@Waterboards <matt.keeling@waterboards.ca.gov>; wesley.stokes@wildlife.ca.gov <wesley.stokes@wildlife.ca.gov>; Serena Stumpf <serena.stumpf@wildlife.ca.gov>; Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021, 12:13:54 PM PDT
Subject: Re: Status of Approval for Modified PureWater Soquel Project Conveyance Permits for Stream Crossings?

Dear Mr. Packard,

I very much appreciate the update on the PureWater Soquel Project conveyance system with regard to the San Lorenzo River crossing.

What information was the Water Board requesting of Soquel Creek Water District associated with the application denial September 11, 2020?

Will the State Water Board oversee any mitigations regarding that crossing to address the chloramine levels now planned in the effluent? The effluent conveyance system will still have to cross the San Lorenzo River at some point, attached to a bridge.

I am copying State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife officials on this message as well, as they have recently indicated they are unaware of the significant Project Modifications.

The Project has been modified to include an additional nBAF treatment facility at the Santa Cruz City Wastewater Treatment Facility because of elevated nitrate, ammonia and total organic carbon levels in the secondary treated sewage water supply. The District has elected to use this treatment system that would require adding chloramine to the pressurized effluent enroute to the Advanced Water Treatment Facility in Live Oak four miles away, crossing multiple waterways and streams.

How will the State Water Board work with the District to establish mitigations that would reduce risk of effluent leaks over the San Lorenzo River and the multiple other stream crossings planned in the Project conveyance system? Chloramine is toxic to all aquatic life, is not volatile, and could pose great threat to water quality in the Project area.

I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

On Friday, June 18, 2021, 10:00:23 AM PDT, Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Packard,
Thank you for this information.

I am glad to know that the effluent pipeline will not be crossing beneath the San Lorenzo River.

What was the supplemental information that your agency requested of Soquel Creek Water District?

What capacity is the Water Board still involved with the Modified PureWater Soquel Project permitting?

Thank you for your help.
Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

On Friday, June 18, 2021, 09:28:29 AM PDT, Packard, Harvey@Waterboards <harvey.packard@waterboards.ca.gov> wrote:

Hello Ms. Steinbruner,

I asked staff for an update on this project and learned that we issued a denial without prejudice on Sept. 11, 2020, because supplemental information we requested was not forthcoming. The District then withdrew its application because they changed their stream crossing methods enough so that they are not taking action in waters of the state. They are trenching either above a culvert through a roadway cover, hand mining below a culvert that is through a road, or are mounting the pipeline onto a pipe bridge. So the Water Board will not be involved in the permitting of the pipeline project.

Thanks, Harvey

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Keeling, Matt@Waterboards <Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Packard, Harvey@Waterboards <Harvey.Packard@waterboards.ca.gov>; Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Subject: Status of Approval for Modified PureWater Soquel Project Conveyance Permits for Stream Crossings?

EXTERNAL:

Dear Mr. Keeling,

In reviewing actions of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, I note that Soquel Creek Water District applied for a permit for PureWater Soquel Project conveyance systems crossing stream areas on August 2, 2020.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/sep_23/item16_att1.pdf

What is the status of that permit application? Has the Board considered the recent significant modifications to the PureWater Soquel Project that would now include chloramine in the effluent of the eight miles of pressurized conveyance system, crossing under the San Lorenzo River and over multiple other streams?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner