



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday June 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

[Microsoft Teams Meeting:](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 3 of the Packet.

A. **OPENING**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Introduction of two new Commissioners, Frank Cheap and Paul Lego

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 3, 2021; April 7, 2021**

C. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's area of responsibility, but not on today's agenda.

D. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Opportunity for Commissioners to report on matters that are not on today's agenda.

E. **STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Water Advisory Commission Work Program and Communication with Supervisors.**
Commissioners to report on their discussions with the Supervisors or at-large community they represent. Focus will be on the Work Plan for the Commission, and coordination with other Commissions.

G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES**

1. Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Issues
2. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management Issues
3. Mid-County Groundwater Mgt
4. Pajaro Floodplain Management
5. Coordination with Other Commissions
6. Homeless encampments and Water Issues

H. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email and Attachment from Emma Olin at Soquel Creek Water District with a Pure Water Soquel update.

I. **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:**

May 11, 2021

10. [DOC-2021-415 : AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DAVENPORT COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT: Public hearing to consider ordinance amending Title 3 of the District Code establishing 2021-22 water service charges, and ordinance amending Title 4 of the District Code establishing 2021-22 sewer service charges, for the Davenport County Sanitation District; direct the Clerk of the Board to place the ordinance on the May 18, 2021 agenda for final adoption; set Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. or thereafter, as the date and time for a public hearing on the service charge reports; and take related actions, as outlined in the memorandum of the District Engineer](#)
29. [DOC-2021-392 : Adopt resolution amending Resolution 279-75 to create the classification and set the salary range for the Water Resources Program Manager, and take related actions, as recommended by the Personnel Director](#)
42. [DOC-2021-403 : Adopt resolution confirming the established benefit assessments/service charges for County Service Area 12, Wastewater Management \(CSA 12\) for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2021-22; adopt resolution setting a public hearing for June 8, 2021, on the proposed FY 2021-22 Assessment/Service Charge Reports for CSA 12; and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

May 18, 2021

14. [10784 : AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DAVENPORT COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT: Adopt Ordinance No. D-97 amending District Code Title 4, Chapter 4.08, Article III, Sections 4.08.160 through 4.08.180 Sewer Service Charges and adopt Ordinance No. D-98 amending District Code Title 3, Chapter 3.08, Article III, Sections 3.08.160 through 3.08.180 Water Service Charges \(Ordinances approved in concept on May 11, 2021\)](#)

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

L. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE CONTACT SIERRA RYAN (831) 345-5202, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the California Governor's Office, and Santa Cruz County Health Officer, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will be held virtually. You will NOT be able to attend the meeting in person as per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and N-25-20.

The public may conference into the meeting by clicking the link below or calling in (audio only) using the Conference ID:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

If you are asked to join in the Teams with an application, click on "No thanks" and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

Or call in (audio only)

+1 916-318-9542

Phone Conference ID: 648 308 631#

United States, Sacramento

- Once in the meeting, please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- If disruptive sound is coming from your device/phone line, the moderator will mute your device and you will have to unmute yourself to participate.
- If you are dialing in by phone, press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute yourself.

Commissioners are expected to join with a video camera. Public attendees may choose to have their cameras on or off.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 4:00 pm so that we can start at 4:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 3:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 4:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

- All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.
- Cherie Bobbe, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Bobbe will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.
- Sierra Ryan, staff, will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions. Sierra will monitor her email during the meeting.
- There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.
- During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak. Also please "raise your hand" to speak by clicking on the hand symbol in the upper right.
- If you are having any trouble joining you can send a message to Sierra (email sierra.ryan@santacruzcounty.us or text 831-345-5202. There will be a public comment period for each item. You can also contact Sierra on technical issues.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128

MEETING MINUTES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday February 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the last page.

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order 4:01

2. Roll Call

Present: Monkerud, Wilson, Sharp, Berry, Lockwood, Bobbe, Largay (came late)

Absent: None

Staff: Sierra Ryan, Audrey Levine Environmental Health

Others: Piret Harmon (Scotts Valley Water District; Tim Carson, Regional Water Management Foundation; Becky Steinbruner; Mark Strudley

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 16, 2020

Slight correction to minutes made based on request by Tim Carson. Moved by Wilson, Seconded by Lockwood, approved unanimously (Bobbe abstained).

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

One member of the public commented, no action taken.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Berry: SOSL on April 17th at 9am, theme resiliency and recovery. City of Santa Cruz just got a 30-year permit for endangered species.

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Dr. Audrey Levine on the County Water Quality program and updated laboratory capabilities*

Staff gave a presentation of the scope of the water resources program and monitoring activities and laboratory. Topics covered include certification, capabilities, fire recovery, and molecular source tracking. The presentation is posted on the website. No action taken.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *indicates items for more in-depth discussion

1. **Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Issues**
Commissioner Lockwood discussed the Watsonville Slough Systems EIR certification, a \$1.2Mil conservation program, advancing the College Lake Integrated Resource Management Program, seeing groundwater extraction levels decline, updating of their GSP. No action taken.
2. **Santa Margarita Groundwater Management Issues**
Staff gave a brief update, no action taken.
3. **Mid-County Groundwater Mgt**
Brief discussion of use of chloramines in PureWater Soquel Project, no action taken.
4. **County Environmental Code Compliance**
Not Discussed
5. **Karst Protection and General Plan Update**
Brief discussion of UCSC Long Range Development Plan EIR. No action taken.
6. **Pajaro River Flood Control**
Brief discussion of recent funding. No action taken.
7. **Coordination with Other Commissions**
Brief discussion around informal coordination and request for commissioners to speak to their supervisors regarding topics of interest. No action taken.
8. **Water Supply for Cannabis Operations**
Not discussed
9. **Water Advisory Commission Work Program**
Brief discussion, decided to bring it back at a later date. No action taken.
10. **Septic System Management and draft Local Area Management Plan (LAMP)*** -
Will likely go to the Board of Supervisors in March and to the Regional Board in June. No action taken.
11. **Fire Impacts on Water***
Staff shared the debris removal website,
<https://calema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a7d8004f30334bacbab22d819dd2a>. No action taken.
12. **Homeless encampments and Water Issues***
Staff gave a brief update. No action taken.

G. INFORMATION AGENDA

H. CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioners indicated they would like to be notified of new correspondence by email and those correspondences should be include in packet for the next meeting.

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

Jan 26, 2021

11. [10035 : Consider the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement by and among the City of Watsonville, the County of Monterey, the County of Santa Cruz, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone No. 7, to form the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency; authorize the Chair to sign the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement; consider the Indemnity Agreement regarding the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project; and authorize the Chair to sign the Indemnity Agreement, as outlined in the memorandum of the Deputy CAO/Director of Public Works](#)
37. [10095 : Approve agreement with Balance Hydrologics in the amount of \\$164,975.20 for the development and installation of a Monitoring Network to track success towards groundwater sustainability, and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Coordination with other commissions
- Work Program
- Invite Mark Strudley to present on Pajaro issues.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Berry moves, Monkerud seconds, meeting adjourned at 6:01

PLEASE CONTACT SIERRA RYAN (831) 345-5202, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Action items: **Sierra will post the presentation from Audrey on the WAC website**



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128

MEETING MINUTES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday April 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

[Microsoft Teams Meeting:](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 3 of the Packet.

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order 4:04

2. Roll Call

Present: Monkerud, Wilson, Lockwood, Berry, Sharp

Absent with notification: Largay

Vacant: District 1

Staff: Sierra Ryan, Nathan Salazar, Mark Strudley

Other: Paul Lego, Frank Cheap, Piret Harmon SVWD, Sarah Perez City of SC

3. Election of Officers:

Lockwood is nominated Chair, Berry is nominated Vice Chair. Monkerud motion, Wilson seconds, Passes unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 3, 2021

Minutes were not attached, will have to approve at the next meeting

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Berry announced that the State of San Lorenzo River Symposium will be April 17th, and on May 5th there will be an Integrated Regional Water Management hosted forum on homelessness and water issues.

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Presentation by Nathan Salazar on the County's Drinking Water Regulatory Program.**

Salazar gave a presentation on the responsibility and authority of the County under the Local Primacy Agency. The presentation is available on the WAC website. No action taken.

2. **Update from Mark Strudley on the Pajaro River Flood Control Project**

Significant milestones have been reached recently. The levees went in place in 1949, flooded in the 1950s, and in 1966 congress authorized levee reconstruction. Santa Cruz and Monterey counties have been in discussion with the Army Corps for this reconstruction ever since.

Flooding in the 1990s rekindled the effort. The county does not need to go back to go to congress to ask for approval for design and construction. Funding is now in place and the County is hoping to sign the design agreement in the next month. Recently formed a new governing body known as the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency. There are some challenges to meet the statutory flow requirements and protect habitat. No action taken.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Issues

The PV Water Board is undertaking new rates setting. Updates on the College Lake project which now has 30% design plans. No action taken.

2. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management Issues

Issues discussed included the City of Santa Cruz Water Rights and HCP, SMGWA monitoring well RFP, and the possible consolidation of SLVWD and SVWD.

3. Mid-County Groundwater Mgt

The MGA is updated their bylaws and JPA, submitted their second annual report, and released a metering program RFP

4. Coordination with Other Commissions

There has been recent discussion through the inter-commission working group of a Spring check-in meeting on zoom with representatives from the three commissions (WAC, Commission on the Environment, and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission). Currently Linda, Carol, and Chris are the representatives. Decided to bring this back for further discussion through the work plan at the next meeting.

5. Water Advisory Commission Work Program and Communication with Supervisors

All Commissioners will reach out to their supervisors in advance of the June meeting.

6. Septic System Management and draft Local Area Management Plan (LAMP)

Not discussed

7. Fire Impacts on Water

Not discussed

8. Homeless encampments and Water Issues

Not discussed

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Becky Steinbruner


I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

February 2, 2021


20. [DOC-2021-95 : Accept and file the Santa Cruz County Water Resources Management Status Report for 2020, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#) *Accepted and filed By Consent Vote [Unanimous]* 

[Letter of Wendy Killou, State Water Resources Control Board - Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Local Primacy Agency Annual Evaluation](#)

February 23, 2021

36. [DOC-2021-131 : Accept and file the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission report for calendar years 2019 and 2020, and take related actions, as recommended by Chair McPherson Accepted and filed By Consent Vote \[Unanimous\]](#) 
49. [DOC-2021-144 : Approve amendment to agreement with San Lorenzo Valley Water District in the amount of \\$43,926, for a new total contract amount of \\$305,226, to complete work to meet the grant provisions for development of the San Lorenzo Watershed Conjunctive Use Plan, and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

March 9, 2021

32. [10302 : Accept and file report on the County of Santa Cruz Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Local Agency Management Plan \(LAMP\) for permitting and managing septic systems, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#) 

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commission Work Plan

L. ADJOURNMENT at 6:02

PLEASE CONTACT SIERRA RYAN (831) 345-5202, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Draft Water Advisory Commission Work Plan – December 2018

Commented [1]: Dec 5, 2018 update

Background

The Water Advisory Commission was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens appointed by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at large. The two at large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the County. John Ricker, Water Resources Division Director in the EHS division of the Health Service Agency, serves as administrative secretary to the Commission.

Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission utilizes discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, Environmental Health Services (EHS), and Public Works (DPW)) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues. For more information about the Commission's role go [here](#).

In 2014 discussion between the various commissions (Commission on the Environment (COE), Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) and Water Advisory Commission (WAC)) that have significant overlap in their scopes regarding protection of water resources and related environmental values was initiated. At this time, the Inter-Commission Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) was formed in an attempt to clarify the distinct and shared areas of focus of each commission. The WAC generally identified some focus areas at that time, including:

1. Soquel/Santa Cruz Supply Development — Mid-County Groundwater Management
2. Pajaro Groundwater Management
3. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management
4. County Environmental Planning and Code Compliance Performance
5. Karst Protection Zone Program Development
6. Pajaro River Flood Control
7. Others as needed
8. Coordination with other Commissions
 - A. Code Compliance
 - B. Drought Response
 - C. Coho recovery
 - D. Cannabis cultivation
 - E. San Lorenzo River Alliance
 - F. Others as needed

However, the status of these issues and the WAC role in them was not discussed at that time and a recommendation was made that the WAC develop a brief work plan to both facilitate progress on the issues and provide background for new WAC commissioners, members of other

commissions as well as the Board of Supervisors (BOS). This was further supported at the May 2017 joint commission meeting where each commission was encouraged to identify priority focus areas to keep the BOS apprised of.

Since 2014 the WAC has been occupied with reviewing commercial cannabis cultivation policy, County-wide drought response, water conservation, karst protection zone planning and related matters. For more background please see the Environmental Health Department's Water Resources Annual Reports here:

2016-2017:

http://scceh.com/Portals/6/Env_Health/water_resources/NEW%20WAC/WAC%202016-17%20Biennial%20Report.pdf

2014-2015:

http://scceh.com/Portals/6/Env_Health/water_resources/NEW%20WAC/WAC%202014-15%20Bi-Annual%20Report.pdf

Work Plan Discussion

1) Soquel/Santa Cruz Supply Development - Mid-County Groundwater Management

Issue Brief:

Unlike some other areas of California, all of our water is local. The Mid-County Basin includes two primary aquifers: the Purisima Aquifer Formation and the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer. The basin is shared with other pumpers throughout our area, including City of Santa Cruz, Central Water District, small mutual water companies, and private well owners. The Mid-County Groundwater Basin area covers the mid-Santa Cruz County region and extends from Branciforte Creek in the west through Aptos and La Selva Beach to the east; from the Zayante fault (somewhat below Summit Road) in the north to the ocean in the south. The basin is currently in a state of overdraft, which means more water is being extracted than can be naturally replenished by rainfall. This condition has led to seawater intrusion detected at our coastline and, if left unresolved, will contaminate the groundwater wells (municipal and private wells) and make them unusable to produce drinking water. The City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District both have supply issues which are reliant on a functioning Mid-County Basin. Addressing the historic groundwater overdraft and the need to protect instream flows for fish, while developing resilient and flexible regional water supply alternatives, is of paramount importance to the WAC.

For more information go [here](#).

Current Status:

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a groundwater management agency (the Mid-County Groundwater Agency) has been formed. Current focus of the agency includes evaluating relationships between groundwater and surface water including model results regarding pumping impacts by use type and location, proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, receiving input on model results, and a draft proposal for developing measurable objectives from the committee. Currently, the Soquel Creek Water District is pursuing the “Pure Water Soquel” groundwater replenishment and seawater intrusion prevention project and the City of Santa Cruz is pursuing the “Santa Cruz Water Rights Project”. Both of these projects have the potential to contribute toward resolving the overdraft in the Mid-County Groundwater Basin. Additionally, these districts began implementation of the water transfer pilot project in early December, 2018. This project will help evaluate the efficacy of a future, larger scale conjunctive use project that will also be enabled by the Santa Cruz Water Rights Project.

WAC Role:

While the County is not a water purveyor, coordination of regional supply planning with regard to the mid-county groundwater basin benefits private well owners within the County jurisdiction as well as groundwater dependent ecosystems within County jurisdiction and municipal water supplies dependent on sustainable groundwater management. Similarly, while the County is not a fisheries regulatory agency per se, development of water supply flexibility, which includes providing adequate instream flows for fish, is well-aligned with County environmental values and other instream beneficial uses of water. Of particular note in the Mid-County Groundwater Basin management is the fact that Soquel Creek water rights were adjudicated in 1975, however a structure for implementing the adjudication was never implemented. While the adjudication only touches on groundwater tangentially, the close relationship between groundwater management and instream flows is more widely accepted under SGMA than it was at the time of the adjudication and a unique opportunity now presents itself to bring local ground and surface water management policies into better alignment. The WAC should maintain a focus on this issue, support regional supply planning efforts (especially in regard to developing conjunctive use and groundwater recharge opportunities), proactively engage the BOS in advancing support for sustainable regional water supply alternatives as they emerge, and consider advising the BOS to pursue more rigorous and formal implementation of the adjudication in order to ensure preservation of the beneficial uses of Soquel Creek.

2) Pajaro Groundwater Management

Issue Brief:

The Pajaro Valley basin is bounded on the west by Monterey Bay and on the east by the San Andreas Fault, adjacent pre-Quaternary formations, and the Santa Cruz Mountains beyond. The basin’s northern boundary is the surface expression of the geologic contact between Quaternary alluvium of the Pajaro Valley and marine sedimentary deposits of the Pliocene Purisima Formation. The southern basin boundary is a drainage divide in the Carneros Hills between the Elkhorn Slough to the north and the Moro Cojo Slough and lower Salinas River valley and the

Salinas Valley-Langley groundwater subbasin to the south. The Pajaro River and its tributaries, including Corralitos, Salsipuedes, Browns Valley, Green Valley, and Casserly Creeks, drain the Pajaro basin. Additional drainage is supplied by Carneros Creek in Monterey County. In the northwestern region of the Pajaro Valley a network of sloughs provides drainage. The basin provides water to the City of Watsonville, numerous private parcels, the thriving agricultural industry, and endangered species. This basin is in critical overdraft. Its issues are similar to those of the Mid-County Groundwater Basin, and addressing groundwater overdraft and the needs for flood control and protection of instream flows for fish and other special-status species in the Pajaro basin, is of paramount importance to the WAC.

For more information go [here](#).

Current Status:

The Pajaro Basin has been managed by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency since 1984 and the PVWMA formed a groundwater sustainability agency in 2015. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is currently exploring a basin boundary modification proposal that adjusts a small portion of the Purisima Formation Basin to Pajaro Valley Basin, and adjusts a portion of the Pajaro Valley Basin to the Salinas Valley Basin. Additionally, PVWMA is implementing numerous projects in their Basin Management Plan (BMP) including

- Demand Management (Conservation)
- Increased Recycled Water Storage
- Increased Recycled Water Deliveries
- Harkins Slough Facility Upgrades
- Watsonville Slough Project
- College Lake with Inland Pipeline
- Murphy Crossing with Recharge Basins

WAC Role:

While the County is not a water purveyor, coordination of regional water supply planning for sustainable groundwater basin management provides benefit to private well owners, groundwater dependent ecosystems within County jurisdiction, and municipal water supplies affected by basin sustainability. Similarly, while the County is not a fisheries regulatory agency per se, development of water supply flexibility, which provides adequate instream flows for fish and protection of other beneficial uses of water, is well-aligned with County environmental values. The WAC has recommended declaration of a groundwater emergency in the Pajaro basin in the past and should maintain its focus on ensuring that adequate measures are being taken to alleviate the overdraft situation there (per County Code Section 7.70.130 Groundwater emergencies), support regional supply planning efforts (especially regarding the development of conjunctive use and groundwater recharge opportunities) and proactively engage the BOS in advancing support for supply alternatives and more sustainable groundwater management strategies as they emerge in this basin, including Pajaro River flood control management strategies that support protecting groundwater recharge.

3) Santa Margarita Groundwater Management

Issue Brief:

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for residents living within the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin (SMGB) boundary. Groundwater is also important to stream base flow in the summer months. Rainfall is the only source of recharge in the basin. The groundwater basin is shared by users including the Scotts Valley Water District (SVWD), the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD), Mount Hermon Association (MHA), as well as local businesses and residents using private wells. To that end, SVWD, SLVWD, and County of Santa Cruz (County) recognize that sustainable groundwater management is essential to ensuring reliable and resilient water systems and they wish to continue to work cooperatively on implementing SGMA.

The Basin is made up of the Santa Margarita sandstone, Monterey shale and the Lompico and Butano formations. The basin is now in a state of overdraft due to decades of over pumping — taking water out at a higher rate than it can be recharged into the basin. Groundwater levels are now approximately 200 feet below their natural levels. While these levels are no longer decreasing, recovery is still far away. Low groundwater levels mean less water in the streams for fish and wildlife, and less water security for people. The Scotts Valley Water District prepares annual reports that focus on groundwater conditions and system operations in the Scotts Valley area of the Santa Margarita Basin. Previously the DWR Bulletin 118 (DWR 2003) did not identify SMGB as a groundwater basin, but rather recognized three smaller basins in its vicinity: Scotts Valley Basin, Felton Area Basin, and Santa Cruz Purisima Formation. These basins did not accurately reflect the groundwater supply resources supporting the North Santa Cruz County communities. SVWD, with support from SLVWD and County, prepared a boundary modification request that was submitted to DWR in January 2016 and approved in August 2016.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a groundwater management agency (the Santa Margarita Groundwater Management Agency) has been formed for this basin as well.

For more information go [here](#).

Current Status:

Current focus of the agency includes developing a groundwater model, developing a work plan to prepare a groundwater sustainability plan, public outreach and education and developing a groundwater sustainability plan. The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency has recently selected EKI Environment and Water to evaluate and make recommendations for upgrades to the existing Santa Margarita Groundwater Model, for use in developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin. The Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency has also recently selected California State University Sacramento to assist with the joint goal-setting process that will help establish a solid foundation for the planning work that will be required during the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development effort of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

WAC Role:

As with the other groundwater basins previously mentioned, coordination of regional supply planning for a sustainable groundwater basin, management benefits private well owners within the County jurisdiction as well as groundwater dependent ecosystems within County jurisdiction and municipal water supplies influenced by groundwater basin management. Similarly, while the County is not a fisheries regulatory agency per-se, development of water supply flexibility which includes provision of adequate instream flows for fish, is well-aligned with County environmental values and supports other instream beneficial uses of water.

4) County Environmental Planning and Code Compliance Performance

Issue Brief:

The WAC has been aware that implementation of County environmental and resource protection codes (Title 16) has been marginally effective. Due to the dynamics of staffing, the pre-existing historic, non-conforming development that dominates most watersheds in the County, population pressure and other challenges, implementation of these codes is challenging. Given the presence of special status listed species such as steelhead and coho in County streams and the fact that Santa Cruz County relies solely on local water, effective implementation of these codes is a high priority.

Current Status:

While staffing in the Code Compliance unit of the Planning Department is currently comprised of experienced and dedicated individuals, focus is often diverted from issues that have broader impacts on water resources to issues that are elevated by neighborhood conflicts—particularly regarding enforcement of the County’s new commercial cannabis ordinance. For example, long-standing programs such as timber harvest review have received less attention in recent years than they have previously.

In the past several years, a multi-stakeholder code compliance roundtable has been formed with representatives from many local, state and federal agencies. This roundtable attempts to identify enforcement priorities, synergies between agencies and otherwise make enforcement more effective. Additionally, the Cannabis Licensing unit of the Planning Department has brought on additional staff to help enforce effective implementation of the new commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing ordinances. In time, it is likely that these staff will be absorbed by the Code Compliance unit, providing additional environmental planning and code compliance bandwidth.

County, City of Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Coastal Watershed Council, Resource Conservation District and other partners have also developed a multifaceted approach to facilitating riparian conservation in the past year. The Riparian Conservation Program (RCP) includes non-regulatory and regulatory means to achieve greater conservation success in the San Lorenzo River watershed, and may provide a model for expanded work of this kind in other County watersheds.

For more information please go [here](#).

WAC Role:

The WAC should continue to support these efforts. Specifically, the WAC may ask Planning to provide an annual update on code compliance program functions, advocate to the District Attorney’s office their support for pursuit of prosecution of egregious violations, evaluate the future role of the County in timber harvest review, and consider how they can support implementation of the RCP in the San Lorenzo River watershed as well as other watersheds throughout the County.

5) Karst Protection Zone Program Development

Issue Brief:

County codes have not historically provided protection for karst-derived water resources. These resources are disproportionately important for support of both municipal water supply and cold water fisheries (including coho and steelhead) and, due to their unique geology, are both limited in geographic scope and highly subject to degradation by anthropogenic disturbance.

Current Status:

In 2016, the BOS directed County departments to incorporate karst-protective language into future updates of their respective ordinances and policies. Environmental Health Services initiated updates of their onsite wastewater disposal ordinance, with such language in 2018, and Planning incorporated karst-protective standards in the commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing policies, also in 2018.

WAC Role:

Review of geologic mapping to determine priority focus areas, periodic review of the status of policy and ordinance updates by County departments, review of the specific details of these changes and subsequent follow up with the BOS as appropriate, should be an ongoing focus for the WAC on this issue. Specifically, the WAC may advocate for protection of key karst zones in future General Plan updates.

6) Pajaro River Flood Control

Issue Brief:

The Pajaro Flood Risk Reduction Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966 following overtopping and failure in 1955 of the original Army Corps levees built in 1949. The two local sponsors, the Zone 7 Flood Control District of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, have been working with the Corps since 1966 to develop a preferred alternative and to finalize environmental review on an improved levee system that will

more adequately address flooding in the lower Pajaro River system (including Salsipuedes Creek).

Current Status:

Completion of this planning phase is expected to occur in March 2019 with the release of a coupled Director's Report and Environmental Assessment-Finding of No Significant Impact. The local sponsors are simultaneously pursuing environmental review under CEQA. The local sponsors are also currently working with federal counterparts to secure investment, while also leveraging State support through the Project's Flood Subventions authorization. The expectation is that these funding sources, along with local match support, will allow the project to move into the design and construction phases, culminating in a rebuilt and enhanced flood risk reduction project that also improves habitat and stream function along the lower Pajaro River system.

WAC Role:

Particularly with regard to future climate change-related hydrologic and sea level changes, this work will continue to be very challenging. Groundwater overdraft and special-status anadromous fisheries conservation are of paramount importance in the lower Pajaro system and the overlap of flood control planning with these issues is significant. The WAC should support the ongoing work of the Zone 7 Flood Control District of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and advocate to the BOS adoption of a final plan/project alternative that supports improved watershed functions as well as provision of adequate flood protection.

7) Others as needed (TBD)

Issue Brief:

The WAC occasionally becomes aware of issues that warrant investigation and interaction with the BOS regarding County policy. While many of these issues fall within broader subject areas already on the WAC agenda, other issues may arise that are outside of the WAC's current scope.

Current Status:

While lack of prioritization of focus threatens the efficacy of the WAC, maintaining some ability to respond to new issues is an important role for the WAC. For example, the current fuel management strategies being pursued County-wide by PG&E threaten (whether they be implemented or not) to affect water quality and water supply for many of the County's residents. Issues of this nature warrant the BOS involvement and therefore WAC support.

WAC Role:

While the County is well supported by knowledgeable policy-makers and other water stakeholder groups that can inform the BOS, the WAC is the only advisory body specifically focused on water resource management enabled by County code and should maintain and

strengthen that role with the BOS as much as possible. These kind of urgent, new issues are not unusual, and maintaining the ability to respond to them in a timely manner is of great importance to the WAC. Admittedly, the meeting frequency of the BOS and WAC often limits the opportunity for timely engagement on new issues, but the WAC should endeavor to maintain involvement in them, nonetheless. Specifically, the WAC should preserve the option to hold emergency meetings to address issues like this as they arise. Similarly, the BOS should not hesitate to call upon the WAC, should issues arise that warrant technical and public input in order to advance County policy-making.

8) Coordination with other County commissions

- A. Code Compliance
- B. Extreme Weather and Climate Change Response¹
- C. Coho recovery
- D. Cannabis cultivation
- E. Coordinated San Lorenzo River Restoration²
- F. Others as needed

Commented [2]: Needs renewed discussion with FWAC and COE

Issue Brief:

The issues above have from time to time been high priority focus areas for the WAC as well as other commissions. However, a unified strategy for focus on each of these issues has yet to be coordinated with these commissions. As described previously, in 2014 commissioners of the Commission on the Environment (COE), Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) and Water Advisory Commission (WAC) determined to better coordinate their support of the BOS with regard to policy matters primarily involving water resources and related concerns. The ICCWG was formed at that time and has served as an informal vehicle for role identification, collaboration and coordination with regard to a variety of issues that challenge the County. Furthermore, this group has served to provide a context for the biennial joint meeting of these commissions and—with staff support—to facilitate the productivity of those meetings. A representative of each commission is assigned to the ICCWG.

Current Status:

Chris Berry, Linda Wilson and Carol Hamilton-Monkerud are the WAC representatives on the ICCWG currently. The ICCWG has not met in recent months but did coordinate closely on policy recommendations with regard to the County's new commercial cannabis manufacturing and cultivation policies. The ICCWG also coordinated with staff to hold a joint public meeting in May 2017 that specifically addressed climate change effects on local weather, sea level change, hydrology and related matters. The ICCWG will soon begin coordinating the 2019 joint meeting with staff.

WAC Role:

¹ Formerly "Drought Response"

² Formerly "San Lorenzo River Alliance"

Developing the three commissions’ alignment around positions on water resource management issues and identifying and maintaining discrete roles of the commissions respective to their particular subject matter expertise and bylaws should continue to be the focus of this work. The WAC should continue to participate in the ICCWG and joint commission meetings, focus on resolving joint strategies on issues that require coordination with other commissions, reduce redundancy in effort and find synergies with these other commissions’ work where possible. This will ensure that the BOS is kept apprised of significant water resource management issues in a meaningful manner that is inclusive of other related significant issues the County currently faces (fisheries conservation and recovery, climate change adaptation, etc.).

Commissioner Roles and Assignments (TBD)

Commented [3]: Commissioner assignments needs confirmation with WAC

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Commissioner(s)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1) Soquel/Santa Cruz Supply Development - Mid-County Groundwater Management	<u>CHM, CB</u>	Can confer with several Soquel Creek Board members and Central Water District manager.
2) Pajaro Groundwater Management	<u>TG, OS</u>	TBD
3) Santa Margarita Groundwater Management	<u>ME, CB</u>	TBD
4) County Environmental Planning and Code Compliance Performance	<u>CB, LW</u>	Presentation on cannabis program at 10/4 FWAC meeting
5) Karst Protection Zone Program Development	<u>CB, LW</u>	SLR 2025 process supporting program guidance document development
6) Pajaro River Flood Control	<u>TG, CHM</u>	WAC involvement may be limited on this issue
7) Other	<u>TBD</u>	As needed
8) Coordination with other County commissions	<u>CB/LW/CHM</u>	Ongoing


From: [Emma Olin](#)
To: [Sierra Ryan](#)
Subject: Pure Water Soquel - Project Update
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 4:58:35 PM
Attachments: [PWSProjectUpdate2021-FINAL05-6-21.pdf](#)

*****CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ***

Hi Sierra,

Soquel Creek Water District would like to share the attached project update on Pure Water Soquel with the County Water Advisory Commission. I believe Ron or Melanie shared this update with you already. Do you mind sending me Frank Cheap and Linda Wilson's email addresses so I can share this with them? Or would you prefer to share this update with the Commission on our behalf?

Thank you, and I hope you are having a great week!

Emma Olin | Executive Assistant/Board Clerk
Soquel Creek Water District | 5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel CA 95073 | www.soquelcreekwater.org
direct 831-475-8501 x126 | main 831-475-8500
 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



SUSTAINABILITY

Pure Water Soquel will help ensure the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is a sustainable, reliable source of drinking water for our region for generations to come.



PUREWater Soquel PROJECT UPDATE

Message from the General Manager

In 2014, when the State declared our groundwater basin as critically overdrafted, Soquel Creek Water District had just completed an open and public process of selecting purified recycled water as a new water supply. I'm extremely proud of the milestones we've achieved over the last seven years.

The District has advanced the project to final design, and construction is underway.

The milestones are not just about construction. We are excited about ultimately achieving our long-term goals of environmental stewardship and bringing our groundwater supply into sustainability.

It's an honor for District staff to be working on such an important project with the support of our community and our local, state, and federal agencies. We are pleased to share this Project Update and, as always, welcome any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ron Duncan
General Manager



PROGRESS

After years of diligent planning and environmental analysis, final design and construction are now underway.



#INTHISTOGETHER

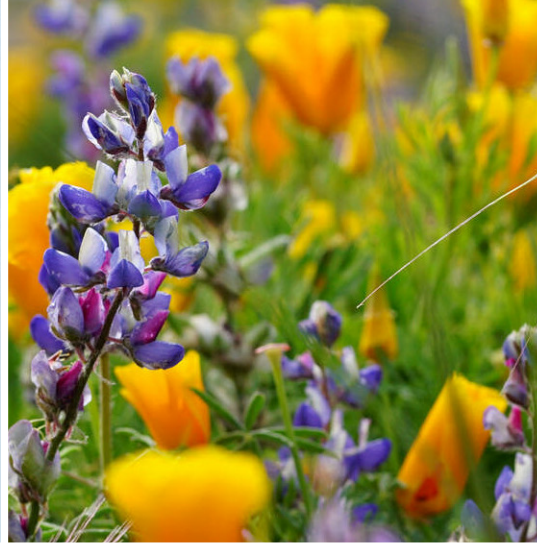
Over 90% of customers say investment is needed now to ensure reliable, safe water supplies and prevent seawater contamination.



5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel, CA 95073

"Water is a shared and finite resource, and we all need to work together to ensure we have a reliable source of water."

Mark Spurlock, Executive Pastor of Twin Lakes Church



"We are so fortunate here to benefit from the extraordinary level of support and funding from the U.S. EPA, as well as from our own State Water Board, which is making the difference in assuring long-term sustainability of the community's drinking water supply."

Mark Stone, CA State Assemblymember



PURE WATER SOQUEL OVERVIEW

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is the District's sole source of drinking water and is also used by the City of Santa Cruz, Central Water, other small mutual agencies, and over a thousand private well owners. The basin is designated as critically overdrafted by the State, resulting in a diminished, uncertain water supply and seawater contamination. The State requires the basin to be brought back into sustainability by 2040.

Every day, approximately eight million gallons of wastewater is treated at the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility and discharged into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. With the Pure Water Soquel Project, this treated water will be recycled and put through an advanced water purification process. The purified water will recharge the

aquifers to create a freshwater barrier against seawater contamination and supplement our water supply.

Pure Water Soquel is comprised of:

- eight miles of pipelines
- a new Recycled Water Facility and pump station at the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility
- a Water Purification Center on Chanticleer Avenue
- three seawater intrusion prevention (SWIP) wells and associated monitoring wells

Funding assistance and investments for Pure Water Soquel include grants and low-interest loans from state and federal agencies. The District is grateful to these funding agencies and all of our community supporters who are helping to move this project forward.

Funding assistance provided by:



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



STATUS OF PURE WATER SOQUEL CONSTRUCTION

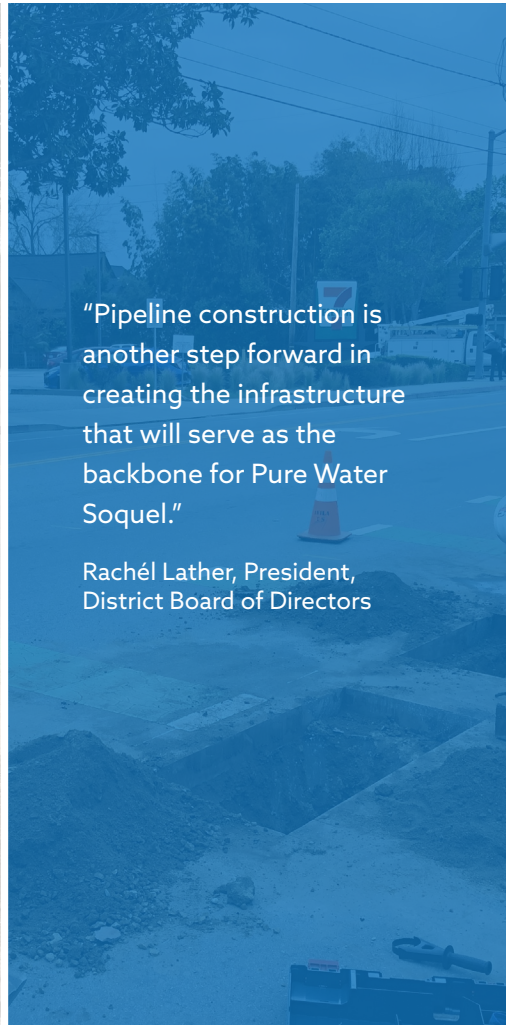
- CONVEYANCE PIPELINE

Construction is beginning this spring on eight miles of pipeline that will be installed under numerous streets from the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility in Santa Cruz to the Advanced Water Purification Center on Chanticleer Avenue, and then to the Seawater Intrusion Prevention Wells in Capitola and Aptos. The construction, which will move from area to area along the pipeline route, is expected to continue through 2022.



● RECYCLED WATER FACILITY AND PUMP STATION

At the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility (SCWWTF), the District will be adding a new pump station and recycled water system. The recycled water will be used at the SCWWTF and for irrigation water at the nearby La Barranca Park and a future recycled water fill station. Construction at this facility is anticipated to start in fall 2021 and continue through 2022.



"Pipeline construction is another step forward in creating the infrastructure that will serve as the backbone for Pure Water Soquel."

Rachél Lather, President,
District Board of Directors

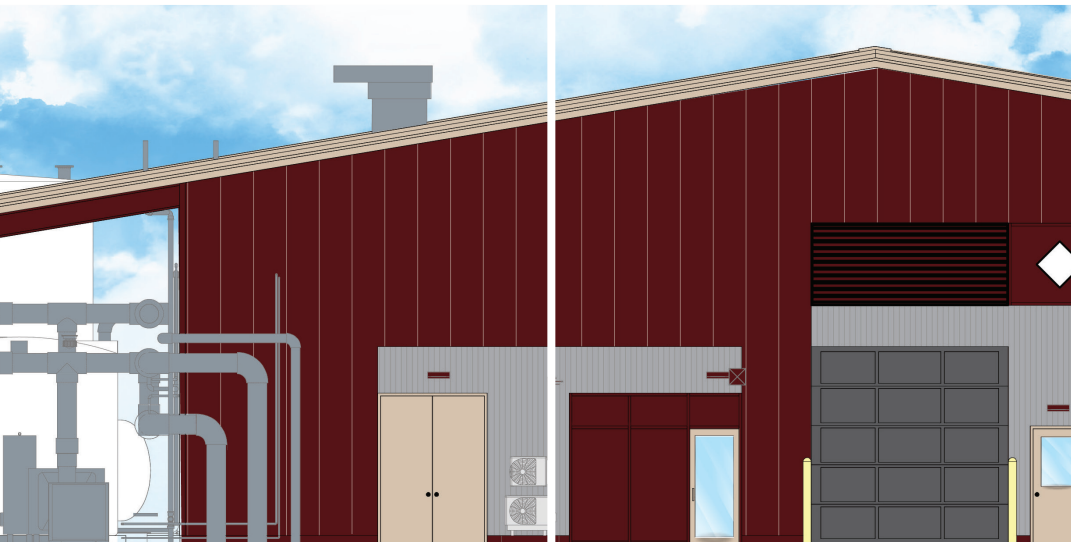
COLLABORATION

Soquel Creek Water District is proud to collaborate with the following local agencies:



"This is an innovative and sustainable solution toward creating a new, reliable water supply that will replenish the over-drafted groundwater basin."

Zach Friend,
Santa Cruz County Supervisor



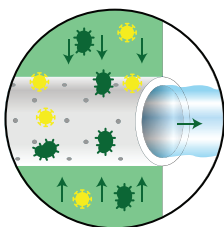
Artist's rendering of the purification building.



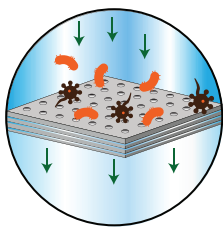
★ WATER PURIFICATION CENTER

The very heart of the Pure Water Soquel project is a new Water Purification Center, currently in its final design phase, to be located at the corner of Chanticleer and Soquel Avenues. Construction of this facility is anticipated to start this fall and be completed at the end of 2022/early 2023.

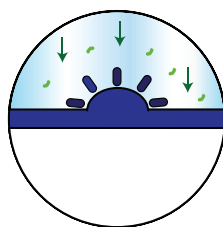
Here, a state-of-the-art, multi-step advanced water purification process including pre-treatment, microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation will produce ultra-clean, purified water. That water will then be sent to the seawater intrusion prevention wells to replenish the groundwater basin. This science-based technology, which meets all state and federal water quality standards, is currently being used or is in construction in other communities such as Monterey, Morro Bay, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Groundwater Replenishment Project in Orange County has produced over 300 billion gallons of purified water!



Microfiltration



Reverse Osmosis



Ultraviolet/Oxidation

◆ SEAWATER INTRUSION PREVENTION WELLS

As part of the Project, three Seawater Intrusion Prevention (SWIP) wells have recently been built to aid in replenishing the groundwater basin with the purified water produced from the Water Purification Center. In late 2021 and throughout 2022, the District will be constructing the site improvements at these new SWIP well locations and also constructing several monitoring wells.



Melanie Mow Schumacher
Pure Water Soquel Program Director
melanies@soquelcreekwater.org
831-475-8500 x153

**STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE PURE WATER SOQUEL PROJECT!
GET MORE INFORMATION AT SOQUELCREEKWATER.ORG/PWS**