

# APTOS VILLAGE Q/A:

## Topic: Water

### SCWD New Well:

1) Is there potential for groundwater contamination from the Darcy Columns?

Answer per SCWD: The Darcy columns will not bring contaminated water to the District well. The closest Darcy columns to the well are outside the required 50 feet perimeter and are only 4 feet deep. The well will have a cement seal to a depth of 420 feet below ground surface.

2) How will drilling a new well, (during the drought), affect those of us who already live with wells, some of which are drying up?

Answer per SCWD: Even with this new well, the District does not plan to pump more overall from the groundwater basin. In 2013 the District reduced pumping over 15% since 2005. As stated in the approved EIR for the well, the District offers to monitor wells within 1,000 meters of the new well to see if there is any impact and take appropriate mitigation actions if other wells are impacted and restrictive effects are detected. The future demand from the Aptos Village Plan has been offset for many years, and will only represent approximately 0.6% of the Districts total pumping.

3) How deep is the well on Aptos Creek Road? Is there a problem with two deep wells so close together?

Answer per SCWD: District's T-Hopkins well on Aptos Creek Road is approximately 600 feet deep. The new well site is desirable because it is located far enough away to avoid pumping interference with the existing T-Hopkins well, yet close enough to allow treatment of the raw groundwater for iron & manganese at the existing filtration plant.

4) Will the new well belong to the Soquel Creek Water District? Yes

5) Describe the depth and extent of the aquifer below Aptos. How close to the surface is the water? How will the new well impact the water level?

Answer per SCWD: The aquifer in the vicinity of Aptos Village is known as the Purisima Formation. It is composed of several alternating layers of high and low permeability geologic materials. The higher permeable layers produce water and the low permeable layers act as barriers. The layered formation extends 1,000+ feet below ground surface. The proposed Granite Way Well will likely be screened between 450-700 ft below ground surface. The depth of water in the well will not be known until it is drilled. However, in 2014, pumping water levels at the existing nearby T-Hopkins well were 300+ ft below ground surface. The environmental impacts were analyzed in the District's environmental impact report, certified in February of 2011. The EIR can be reviewed at: <http://www.soquelcreekwater.org/planning-our-water-future/well-master-plan>.

6) What is the height of the well site?

Answer per SCWD: The well site will have a perimeter fence 6-ft in height. A small control building will house electrical equipment. The well will be outside the building. The well will have the pump down near the bottom of the well and thus at the top will be only the well pedestal and discharge pipe, which will be no taller than 5 ft.

7) Is the well going to have a water storage tank at the corner of Cathedral and Trout Gulch road?

Answer per SCWD: No. Raw groundwater will be conveyed in underground pipes to the existing T-Hopkins Iron and Manganese treatment facility on Aptos Creek Road.

#### Water Supply:

1) There is concern that water approval was given in 2004 and now our basin / aquifer is worse off. Is that true or false?

Answer per SCWD: We understand the concern. The aquifers appear to be slightly better off than in 2004 and overall pumping has significantly reduced since 2004.

2) Why not cut back the project by 25% if we have a 25% water curtailment?

Answer per SCWD: They will be held to the same standards as everyone else. The project has committed to one of District's highest levels of water conservation in the "Go Green" program.

3) How do I justify adding more homes, even with low water use fixtures, when CA is facing such a severe drought that we have no idea how long it will last? Even if the water offset credits have been met, we still face a severe drought and more water use will be detrimental.

Answer per SCWD: The justification is based on the project saving more water in the community from fixture replacements than it is projected to use. Also, since they performed and purchased offsets several years ago and the project has not been built those offsets have benefitted the basin since that time.

4) How can we all justify this project when we have a distressed, major water shortage? What happens 2 years in, when the water shortage has now become a serious situation? I truly don't believe anyone is taking the water shortage seriously. We should be on a serious water rationing program now.

Answer per SCWD: Barry Swenson Builders completed the necessary District requirements several years ago. The Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors has declared a Water Shortage Emergency and Stage 3 rates and curtailment actions. Also, as stated above overall pumping has significantly reduced since 2004.

5) Should there be such a large project built during this drought?

Answer per SCWD: Please see responses to questions 2 and 3 above.

6) The process to conserve the water offsets is actually costing the school district significant amounts of money. Money that is precious and is taking away from other important initiatives and projects.

Answer per SCWD: District staff thinks this may be a misunderstanding and that may have been thinking of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were proposed under the Conservation Plus Program in 2014. At this time, the District had yet to offer funding from the Water Demand Offset Program to help the schools meet the proposed fixture retrofit requirements/BMPs. Subsequently, this element of the Conservation Plus Program has been put on hold, yet the District has moved ahead with funding to cover essential fixture retrofits in full (i.e., at no cost to the schools within the District). This will help the schools save water and meet any future BMPs.

7) Will grey water from housing be recirculated to landscape areas?

Answer per SCWD: The use of grey water for landscape is up to the owners of the homes.

8) The water offsets were approved before Governor Brown's requirements for water conservation this year. Shouldn't the water use for this project be reassessed in light of Gov. Brown's requirements? And would these not include the "offsets" for water conservation in the present design?

Answer per SCWD: Governor Brown has called for a statewide 25% reduction over 2013 water production levels and has established a 9-tiered system that assigns each urban water provider with a specific reduction target to meet the statewide goal. The agency-specific targets take past water conservation efforts and savings into consideration. As District customers have done an exceptional job saving water in 2014 and 2015, and our production on average is down about 20% over 2013 levels, our agency-specific target is an 8% reduction. Thus, we are already meeting this target and just need for our customers to keep doing what they're doing. We have a long term water shortage issue that would need to see long-term reductions of about 35% for 20 years to heal the basin. Thus our internal reduction target (based on a Stage 3 level curtailment), calls for a 25% reduction over 2013 levels. The District will be working hard to gain at least another 5% reduction in production levels.

9) Shouldn't the builder utilize grey water for the project? Water credits are great, but we are in a drought – please explain how 60+ new homes will not use more water.

Answer per SCWD: Graywater is an option for builders but it is not a building code or District requirement for new development. The District offers a credit for installation in new development and a rebate to existing customers. Also please see response to question 3 above.

10) What happens if you start building and the water goes dry?

Answer per SCWD: The community water situation is not necessarily an issue of wells going dry. As water levels in the aquifers drop it increases the rate of seawater intrusion. The District's full focus is on preventing seawater intrusion and preserving the aquifers for current and future generations.

11) How much of the water offset credits were directly related to saving water in Aptos Village's water table?

Answer per SCWD: The District manages the groundwater basin as a whole entity and has not done an evaluation to determine where each offset was performed. However, the majority of the offsets took place at Cabrillo College which receives water from the same aquifer that Aptos Village will overlie.

12) The 25 acre-feet, is that the 200% offset? Artificial turf has been found to be too hot to sit on and the petroleum based material outgases very unpleasant fumes. Can the Village Green have natural grass?

Answer per SCWD: The District did not restrict the Village Green from being turf, but we recognize the water savings from the synthetic turf.

13) How has Barry Swenson Builders saved water? Where is it stored?

Answer per SCWD: Barry Swenson Builders has saved water by replacing hundreds of existing toilets within the District with high-efficiency toilets, thus reducing the amount of water that would otherwise have been extracted from the basin. The water is stored in the aquifers that provide water to the community.