

# SCMU Review

(schmoo ri-vyoo) n. items of interest and information from your Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities

NO. 53 APRIL 2012 SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL UTILITIES 212 LOCUST ST., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 (831) 420-5220 scmu@cityofsantacruz.com

## Habitat Conservation Plan Update

**T**HE CITY HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SEVERAL YEARS to obtain permits to operate our water supply system on the San Lorenzo River and North Coast streams. The permitting requires the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will protect threatened and endangered fish in the streams that may be negatively affected by water withdrawal. The HCP must describe how the negative effects will be minimized and, ultimately, how conditions will be improved for the fish and other endangered species if activities such as water diversion and flood control maintenance take place.

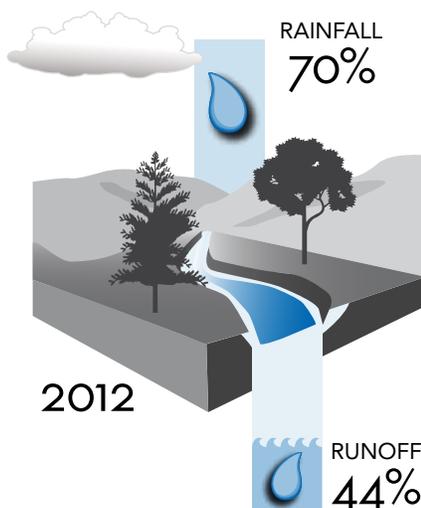
Providing adequate water to meet the needs of our community and the environment will be a delicate balancing act that requires changes to our historic operations, and a commitment to ongoing water supply development. New habitat will have to be provided through the creation of pools, supplementation of large woody material in riparian areas, and acquisition of riparian easements. On a trial basis, the City has released additional water for fish and habitat on the San Lorenzo River and on Laguna Creek.

The City continues to negotiate with both State and Federal agencies for permitting. For more information, contact the Water Resources Manager at [WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com).

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## STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS TAKE EFFECT MAY 1



### March Rains Help – But Not Quite Enough

**W**HAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES! Last year, it seemed like winter would never end. This year, it seemed like winter would never begin. Fortunately, a wet weather pattern finally set in around the middle of March. When it was all over a few weeks later, rainfall totals were better, but still below average for the year.

Annual rainfall is one indicator of our community's water supply condition. But more important by far than the inches of rain received is the amount of runoff generated

>CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

### 2012 Water Restrictions in Effect May 1–October 31

- 1 NO LANDSCAPE WATERING** between 10 am and 5 pm.
- 2 HOSE NOZZLES REQUIRED** All hoses must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- 3 NO WASHING DOWN HARD OR PAVED SURFACES** Customers may not wash down sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, patios or other paved surfaces, except to alleviate immediate safety or sanitation hazards.
- 4 RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS** may not be initially filled, or drained and refilled.
- 5 RESTAURANTS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS** Drinking water served only upon request.
- 6 COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS** Hotels and motels must offer patrons the option to forego daily laundering of towels, sheets, and linen.

### Water Waste Prohibitions In Effect at All Times

- 1 NO EXCESSIVE IRRIGATION** Irrigating in a manner that causes or allows potable water to run off property onto sidewalks, gutters, streets, ditches, or storm drains is prohibited.
- 2 UNCORRECTED PLUMBING LEAKS** By law, a reasonable effort must be made to repair, or make arrangements for fixing, a plumbing leak within 24 hours of finding it.
- 3 HOSE NOZZLE REQUIRED FOR VEHICLE WASHING** Vehicles may be washed at a commercial car wash or by using a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.

## STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS FROM PAGE 1

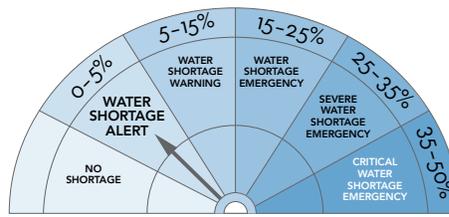
in the San Lorenzo River and the north coast streams, which together provide the majority of water used by Santa Cruz area residents on a daily basis. This year, with long, dry stretches in the months of December and February, the San Lorenzo River system has only produced about 44 percent of average runoff to date. It is projected that flows in the river and north coast streams will drop off quickly this spring and then run about half of average monthly levels, or less, throughout summer and fall.

The one bright spot is reservoir storage, which is at full capacity this year largely because of all the winter storm activity last year. Good reservoir storage lessens the impacts of these low rainfall years, but no one can predict what next year will bring, and we need to stand prepared for a potentially dry 2013.

Another factor looming large is the growing recognition that the City water system must be managed in a manner that better accounts for the habitat needs of threatened steelhead and endangered salmon species during their various life stages in fresh water. We're making a good faith effort this year to do just that. Despite the limited water availability in the river and north coast streams anticipated this summer, we know that preserving and sustaining our local environmental resources is a value and priority that this community strongly supports.

For these reasons, the Water Department is calling for a Stage 1 Water Shortage Alert effective May 1

## Water Shortage Status Stage 1



This is a low rainfall year — please use water wisely.

We're asking all customers to please cut back their water use by five percent by simply abiding by specified water restrictions. Our overall goal is to maintain adequate reservoir storage — about 80 percent — by the end of October in the event dry conditions persist next year. A five percent cutback will preserve roughly 100 million gallons more water in storage and help us balance the various needs for water, both human and environmental, throughout the year.

## YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED

Our community has demonstrated it understands how important water is to our economy and to our quality of life. We ask once again that you always be mindful that every drop counts.

If you have any questions about regulations in effect, please call the Water Conservation Office at 420-5230, or go online at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/surfcitysave](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/surfcitysave). The Water Department offers many free devices, water-wise gardening guides, rebate programs, and technical assistance such as home water surveys to help you use water responsibly and efficiently.

We thank you for your efforts.

## 2012 WATER RESTRICTIONS FROM PAGE 1

**4 OTHER** The indiscriminant running of water which is wasteful and without reasonable purpose is prohibited.

If you do see water waste, please call the Water Conservation hotline at (831) 420-LEAK (420-5325). We will contact the property owner and work to resolve the situation. It helps to provide specifics such as the exact location, the nature of the problem, time and date you noticed the water waste, and how long the situation has been observed.

## Exceptions

- 1 DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, SOAKER HOSES, AND WATERING CANS** may be used any time of day.
- 2 LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS** may make irrigation system repairs or adjustments any time of day.
- 3 WATER LEVEL** in residential swimming pools may be maintained to ensure continued operation of recirculation equipment.

## Enforcement and Penalties

Enforcement always begins with education regarding the restrictions and an opportunity to correct the situation. Repeat violators are subject to a penalty that will be applied to the customer's next utility bill, as outlined below:

First offense	Written notice
Second offense	\$100 penalty
Third offense	\$250 penalty
Fourth offense	\$500 penalty

Penalties for large customers (over one million gallons annually) are triple the amounts listed above. In addition to any penalties and installation of a flow restrictor, water service may be terminated for willful violations of water use restrictions.

## THINKING ABOUT A WATER-SMART GARDEN?

## It's Time to Take Out the Turf – Lawn Removal Rebates Available

Take out your water-thirsty lawn and enjoy

- Less maintenance
- An updated, attractive landscape
- Savings on your utility bill

**REBATE AMOUNT** \$0.50 per square foot of lawn removed —up to \$250 for single family residential customers and up to \$1,000 for multi-family and commercial customers.

Visit [www.cityofsantacruz.com/rebates](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/rebates) or call the Water Conservation Office at (831) 420-5230 for more information. Restrictions apply.



此份有关你的食水报告,内有重要资料和讯息,请找他人为你翻译及解释清楚。

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

# WATER QUALITY 2011

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**T**HIS ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF LAST YEAR'S WATER QUALITY and has been prepared to inform the City of Santa Cruz water customers about their drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State and Federal drinking water standards. The City of Santa Cruz Water Department vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and provides thorough treatment to ensure that our customers receive high quality drinking water. We are committed to providing our customers with accurate information about their water. Once again we are proud to assure our customers they can have confidence that their drinking water is of the highest possible quality.

In 2011, your tap water met all United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California drinking water health standards.

### WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

To provide water for our service area, the City of Santa Cruz depends on supplies from four locales: the North Coast sources, the San Lorenzo River, Loch Lomond Reservoir and the Live Oak Wells. Except for groundwater from the Live Oak Wells, these are all surface water sources dependent on rainfall and runoff. No water is purchased from State or Federal sources or imported to the region from outside the Santa Cruz area.

The North Coast sources consist of surface diversions from two coastal streams and one natural spring. Due to the excellent water quality and the lowest production cost, the North Coast sources are used to the greatest extent possible. These source waters are conveyed to the City's Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant for purification. The use of these sources by the City dates back to 1890.

San Lorenzo River flows are diverted to the City's Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant for treatment. Two wells located beside the San Lorenzo River and hydraulically connected to the river, are included in this City water right. Additionally, the City diverts water from higher in the San Lorenzo River to Loch Lomond Reservoir. This water is used

to supplement storage in the reservoir during dry years when natural inflow from Newell Creek is low.

Loch Lomond Reservoir, constructed in 1960, provides surface water storage on Newell Creek. Water from the reservoir is treated at the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant. Additionally, the reservoir and surrounding watershed are used for public recreation purposes, including fishing, boating, hiking, and picnicking.

The Live Oak well system consists of three groundwater wells and a small treatment plant located in the southeast portion of the City's service area. These wells draw from the Purisima Aquifer. During the spring and summer seasons, when surface flows are inadequate to meet the daily demand, supplemental water is brought in from the Live Oak Wells, treated at the Live Oak Treatment Plant and distributed to customers in the southeast service area.

### IS OUR WATER VULNERABLE TO CONTAMINATION?

In 2002, water suppliers were required to conduct assessments of their water sources. These assessments included delineations of areas around sources from which contamination might reach the source. Further, the assessments included an inventory of activities with the potential to release contaminants within the delineated areas. There are potentially contaminating activities in the areas of the Santa Cruz sources, such as automobile service facilities,

septic systems, confined animal facilities, construction, timber harvest, road maintenance, "legacy" land disturbance including historic logging roads, and isolated industrial operations resulting in contaminant plumes, as well as other activities. However, the City currently manages its water sources by prioritizing use of the purest source water during times when the drinking water system is most vulnerable (i.e. during storm runoff periods) so that we can produce the highest quality drinking water possible. In March 2007, the Water Resources Section completed an update of the 2001 Drinking Water Sanitary Survey of the San Lorenzo and North Coast Watersheds. Water source assessments and sanitary surveys can be viewed at <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=1288> or by contacting the City's Water Resources Manager at (831)420-5483 or by email at [WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com). In July 2010, a Watershed Sanitary Survey for a proposed Desalination Project between the City of Santa Cruz and the Soquel Creek Water District was completed. The executive summary can be viewed at <http://scwd2desal.org>.

### WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

## Water Quality Table of Detected Contaminants

### Contaminants Regulated by Primary Drinking Water Standards

CONTAMINANTS (units)	PHG MCLG	PDWS MCL	TREATED WATER <sup>2</sup>	SOURCE WATER RANGE <sup>1</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
				LOW	HIGH			
Aluminum (ppm)	0.6	1	0.040	<0.020	0.055	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	<1.0	<1.0	3.2	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	1	2.0	0.1	<0.1	0.3	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/L)	0	15	<3.00	<3.00	4.00	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	45	45	1.3	<0.1	5.4	2011	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Additional Contaminants Regulated by Primary Drinking Water Standards

CONTAMINANTS (units)	PHG MCLG	PDWS MCL	TREATED WATER <sup>2</sup>	TREATED WATER RANGE <sup>2</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
				LOW	HIGH			
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	Maximum 1 and 95% <0.3	0.07	0.03	0.70	2011	No	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

### Microbiological Contaminants

CONTAMINANTS	PHG MCLG	PDWS MCL	TREATED WATER <sup>2</sup>	SOURCE WATER <sup>1</sup>	SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	less than 5% positive	0 positive		2011	No	Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.
<i>E. Coli</i>	0	0	0 positive		2011	No	<i>E. coli</i> are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes

### Contaminants Regulated by MRDL

CONTAMINANTS (units)	PHG	PDWS MRDL	TREATED WATER <sup>2</sup>	TREATED WATER RANGE <sup>2</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
				LOW	HIGH			
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.92	0.07	1.46	2011	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

### Disinfection Byproduct Contaminants

CONTAMINANTS (units)	PHG MCLG	MCL	TREATED WATER <sup>2</sup>	TREATED WATER RANGE <sup>2</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
				LOW	HIGH			
TTHMs (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	N/A	80 (RAA)	48 (RAA)	3.4	68	2011	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]	N/A	60 (RAA)	38 (RAA)	ND	71	2011	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Inorganic Contaminants with Action Levels

CONTAMINANTS (units)	PHG	RAL	TAP WATER 90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE <sup>3</sup>	# OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING RAL <sup>3</sup>	SAMPLE DATE	EXCEEDS RAL	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper (ppm)	0.3	1.3	0.33	0	2009	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2	15	<2	0	2009	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharge from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> Untreated water from the source(s)    <sup>2</sup> Treated water from the treatment plant or water mains    <sup>3</sup> Water from 30 customers' household taps

### Contaminants With Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)

CONTAMINANTS (units)	SDWS MCL	TREATED WATER AVERAGE <sup>2</sup>	TREATED WATER RANGE <sup>2</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
			LOW	HIGH		
Color (CU)	15	1	1	6	2011	Naturally-occurring organic minerals
Iron (ppb)	300	<20	<20	54	2011	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Chloride (ppm)	500	24	18	64	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Manganese (ppb)	50	<2	<2	9	2011	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	3	1	1	2	2011	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	1600	390	280	760	2011	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	60	45	135	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	270	250	510	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

### Other Monitoring Results

Other monitoring results are provided for consumer information.

CONSTITUENTS (units)	TREATED WATER AVERAGE <sup>2</sup>	TREATED WATER RANGE <sup>2</sup>		SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
		LOW	HIGH		
Hardness (ppm)	164	128	280	2011	A measure of the major cations, primarily calcium and magnesium
Sodium (ppm)	20	10	34	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, saltwater influence

To interpret the tables, you will need the following definitions:

#### **MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level:

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

#### **MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

#### **MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

#### **N/A** Not Applicable

#### **ND** Non-Detected

**PDWS** Primary Drinking Water Standard: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

#### **PHG** Public Health Goal:

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **RAA** Running Annual Average:

The average of the most recent 12 months of data.

#### **RAL** Regulatory Action Level:

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

#### **SDWS** Secondary Drinking Water Standard:

MCLs for contaminants that may adversely affect the taste, odor or appearance of drinking water. These are aesthetic considerations that are not considered as health concerns.

#### **TT** Treatment Technique:

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

#### **DATA TABLE UNITS**

**CU** Color Units

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**pCi/L** picocuries per liter (a measurement of radioactivity)

**ppm** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

**TON** Threshold Odor Number

**µmhos/cm** A measure of electrical conductivity

**WATER QUALITY REPORT FROM PAGE 3**

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791.

**INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS WITH ACTION LEVELS**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from

materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Santa Cruz Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (above) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. In 2009, tap water samples were collected from 30 Santa Cruz homes after their water sat unused overnight for 6 hours or more, and then analyzed for lead and copper. These specific homes were selected because they were all built and/or their plumbing was constructed between January 1983 and December 1987 with lead solder and copper pipe as required by the Lead and Copper Rule <http://www.epa.gov/leadcopperrule>. The City of Santa Cruz Water Department currently has a three year waiver for our required Lead and Copper monitoring frequency. The next Lead and Copper study will be conducted during the summer of 2012.

**WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE**

The Table of Detected Contaminants (pages 4-5) lists drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

**We hope this report is valuable to you. If you have questions or comments on your water, please contact one of the City of Santa Cruz staff listed below.**

**WATER ADMINISTRATION**

Bill Kocher, Water Director  
212 Locust Street, Suite A  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*phone:* (831)420-5200  
*fax:* (831)420-5201

**WATER QUALITY LABORATORY**

Hugh Dalton, Water Quality Manager  
715 Graham Hill Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*phone:* (831)420-5484  
*fax:* (831)420-5481  
[WaterQuality@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:WaterQuality@cityofsantacruz.com)

**WATER RESOURCES**

Chris Berry, Water Resources Manager  
715 Graham Hill Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*phone:* (831)420-5483  
*fax:* (831)420-6220  
[WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:WaterResources@cityofsantacruz.com)

You can also find other information on the Water Department and its activities at the City's website, [www.cityofsantacruz.com](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com). There you can find information on water conservation, the Loch Lomond Recreation Area, activities and projects of our Engineering Section, the Water Commission and more.

Meetings of the City Council and Water Commission provide excellent opportunities for you to get involved in issues related to drinking water. Their agendas are posted on the website listed above, at City Hall, or you can call the Water Department at (831)420-5200 to find out more. We welcome your attendance and input.

**SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL**

809 Center Street, Room 10  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*phone:* (831) 420-5020  
[CityCouncil@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsantacruz.com)

**WATER COMMISSION**

Contact the Water Commission through the Water Department (831)420-5200. Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

**Other sources of information**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**  
Monterey District Office  
(831)655-6939  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx)

**ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES**

910 K Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916)441-4545  
[www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)

**AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

6666 West Quincy Avenue  
Denver, CO 80235  
(800)926-7337  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), OFFICE OF WATER (4100T)**

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202)566-1729  
<http://water.epa.gov/drink/index/cfm>

# Medications & Needles: Some Sharp Ideas



**W**ONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OLD OR OUTDATED MEDICATIONS? Are you diabetic and want to responsibly dispose of used needles or sharps? The days of flushing these items down the drain are over. The City of Santa Cruz and local pharmacies are working together to offer you a medications and needle take-back program. Keeping these products out of the environment makes good sense.

Medications should never be flushed down the drain or toilet. Place medications in a bag and physically hand the bag to your participating pharmacist.

Needles should never be placed in a refuse or recycling cart, down the toilet or discarded loosely. Place needles in a dedicated, approved, red sharps container and physically hand the container to a participating pharmacist. Needles taped up in plastic bottles are appearing in our recycling material — they are not recyclable. *Please don't do it.* Needles are hazardous to our workers. Be responsible, and use a dedicated, red, sharps container and take it to a pharmacist.

**It is illegal to dispose of needles or sharps in the refuse or any recycling cart.**

FOR CUSTOMERS WHO RECEIVE REFUSE SERVICE FROM  
THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

## Bulky Item Pickup Event Set for May 19

**L**IFE JUST GOT EASIER. OUR VERY POPULAR CITY OF SANTA CRUZ APPLIANCE PICKUP PROGRAM NOW INCLUDES BULKY ITEMS! The Bulky Item Pickup Program comes in handy when you want clean out your garage or get rid of large, unwanted items.

The City will pick up items right from your curb, so add Saturday, May 19, to your calendar. We will pick up large household items such as washers, dryers, stoves, water heaters, microwaves, and refrigerators as well as mattresses, box springs, couches, recliners, chairs, hide-a-beds, dressers and tables.

Residents must pay a fee for removal and safe disposal of hazardous materials from some appliances, and for special processing of some bulky items. You may use your Free Service Tags to cover these charges. Check with our service representative to determine how many tags you need for your item. Televisions and computers are picked up for no charge. If you don't use Free Service Tags, you must authorize adding the fee to your utility bill when you call for your pickup appointment.

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT** for the May 19 Bulky Item Pickup by calling (831) 420-5220 before 5 pm, Wednesday, May 16. Only scheduled pickups are collected.

**REMINDER:** Your Free Service Tags are good only for the May/November curbside pickup. Tags are not accepted as payment at the Resource Recovery Facility.



You can drop off your old, or used, or unwanted needles or medications at any of the following locations:

**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY**

605 Dimeo Lane  
3 miles north of Santa Cruz  
Saturday only, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

**BRUCE'S MEDICAL PLAZA**  
550 Water Street

**CVS PHARMACY**

600 Front Street (*sharps only*)  
1700 Mission Street (*sharps only*)

**HORSNYDER'S PHARMACY**  
1226A Soquel Avenue

**SAFeway PHARMACY**

1117 Morrissey Boulevard (*sharps only*)  
2203 Mission Street (*sharps only*)

**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
155 Center Street (*drugs only*)

**UCSC COWELL HEALTH CENTER**  
1156 High Street

**WALGREENS**

1718 Soquel Avenue

**WESTSIDE PHARMACY**

2330 Mission Street  
*Drop-off is during store hours only*



SCMU Review No. 53, April 2012  
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### CLEAR THE METER BOXES

Our water meters have been read electronically for years so the meter readers no longer locate the meter boxes and lift the lids. As a result, many lids have been gradually covered with dirt and plants. Customers forget and build a deck over the box or cover it with gardening material. Please be sure to keep the meter box lid clear and visible!

Access to your meter is required in order to upgrade it, change it if it malfunctions or, most importantly, be able to shut it off if you have an emergency. Your water emergency will take longer to shut down if the meter box can't be readily seen. If you need help in locating your meter box, please call the Customer Service Office at (831) 420-5220 and a technician will be dispatched to assist you.

Access to the meter is important, and so is a customer-side shutoff valve. If your meter is not so equipped, one should be installed. This will allow you to control the flow of water to the piping on your premises, i.e., to turn your meter off for repairs or in the event of an emergency. The shutoff valve on the street-side of the meter belongs to the city and is to be operated only by Water Department staff. Should the property owner or customer damage this

shutoff valve, he or she will be responsible for payment of damages charged by the Water Department in accordance with the service fee structure.

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### FISHING AT LOCH LOMOND RESERVOIR

Fishing for black bass has been very good and two trout plants of approximately one thousand pounds of fish from the Department of Fish and Game are anticipated after the end of the seasonal rains. Check their website at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) for the most current DFG fish planting schedule.

Largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish also maintain populations in the reservoir. Fishing is permitted only when the Recreation Area is open, daily March 1 through Labor Day, then Saturdays and Sundays through October 9.

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### SEWER LOW WATER USE BILLING

Low water use versus regular water use will be calculated for all customers on May 1, based on the average of the lowest four out of five months of your winter water use from December–April. This is the

time when outdoor water use is normally at its lowest, and approximates how much water from each home flows to the sewer system. If the total water use for the four months is 9 ccf or less, which is equal to an average monthly use of 2.25 ccf or less, you will qualify for the lower sewer rate for the upcoming year.

New customers will be considered for low water use after they have been in the system for billings from December through April.

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### BAY STREET RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

As part of the Water Department's Capital Improvement Program and in an effort to modernize and improve the public water system, the City has contracted with Gateway Pacific Contractors, Inc. for the construction of the next phase of the Bay Street Reservoir Replacement Project.

In this phase of the project, the first of two 6-million gallon pre-stressed concrete tanks

will be constructed, including transmission mains to the nearby pump station site, on the corner of Bay and Iowa Streets. As weather permits, work could start at the reservoir site as early as mid-April along with staging of construction equipment and installation of temporary fencing to secure materials and equipment at the nearby pump station site.

The contractor's preliminary schedule shows initial activities related to:

- mobilizing equipment
- installing the construction office job trailers
- improving the access roads
- hauling in structural fill for the foundation

Project background information, the overall project timeline, and updates to the construction schedule will continue to be posted on the City's website under the Water Department's engineering section "Current and Recent Projects" page.

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