

# Remarkable Regional Water Supply Solution

- Santa Cruz Gets Huge New 2.1 Billion Gallon Water Supply for Free
- Soquel Creek Water District Families and Businesses Save \$100M (\$12,000 per family) From Being Added to Their Water Bills
- Scotts Valley, San Lorenzo Valley, Mt. Hermon and Others Get a Very Low-cost Aquifer Refill and Save \$ on Pumping
- The Entire Region Becomes Drought-Proof Within 3 Years
- Fish Habitats Get Big, Highly Flexible Supply of Cool, Clean, Deep Water When and Where They Need It
- No Finance Charges Necessary; Huge Economic Benefits to the Region

## The Lochquifer Alternative

How can these remarkable claims be made? Mostly by using existing facilities intelligently.

1. Santa Cruz's Loch Lomond Reservoir isn't being used much now, because it is being kept very full, as insurance against future drought. The Lochquifer Alternative frees up the Loch by shifting the drought insurance storage job to the local aquifers, which have many times more storage space than the Loch does, because they have been overdrawn by wells for decades.
2. The freed-up Loch would be used to hold massive amounts of new water harvested from the San Lorenzo River in the rainy season, when the flow is often so high that fish tend to avoid it.
3. Water from the Loch would be treated to a high potable standard as it is presently (at the existing Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant), and distributed, not just to the City but also to the Soquel Creek Water District and other places--and not just in the winter, but throughout the entire year.
4. Recipients of this potable water would shut down their wells, so when Mother Nature puts water into the aquifers every year, her water stays there and the aquifers recharge.
5. Water from Loch Lomond would also be piped mostly downhill by gravity to do "dry times surface spreading" of water into the aquifers under the Scotts Valley-Felton-Lompico area. Major new water treatment facilities probably will not be required.
6. In critically dry years very little water would be taken from the river; instead the aforementioned wells would be robustly re-activated to provide potable water to the entire region.
7. Implementation mainly involves 4 projects: widen two existing pipelines, install a fish-friendly filtering well ("Raney collector"), and coordinate a joint application for extended water rights for all in the region (rather than letting so much water just flow out to sea). Small additional pipelines would implement the dry-times surface spreading.
8. The \$100 Million Dollar Letter: Soquel Creek Water District can save about \$100M by abandoning their small but expensive, energy-squandering sewage-recycling scheme, and instead, offering to pay Santa Cruz to build Lochquifer, which would supply about 2.4 times more water at about 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost. Santa Cruz will get a huge new water source at absolutely no cost.

For details and how to support the Lochquifer effort, visit Water For Santa Cruz County:

**[waterforsantacruz.com/Lochquifer](http://waterforsantacruz.com/Lochquifer)**