



# WATER FOR SANTA CRUZ

**Randa Solick and Scott McGilvray have met several times with Soquel Creek general manager Ron Duncan since July, 2016. These notes taken by Randa, are an accurate reflection of the status of Soquel Creek's interest in water transfers from Santa Cruz.**

**Re: Report on meeting with Ron Duncan, March 15, at district hq.**

**3/17/17**

I have a few more notes to add to Scott's account. First, let me say that as always Ron was calm and not defensive, just asserted his viewpoint – and it was very, very clear that we've made absolutely no headway on changing any of their assumptions or views about transfers! Arrgghh!!

Ron said Robert Marks, from Pueblo Engineer, said that SC City might not be able to get water back from anything they put into our aquifer – perhaps just too porous. Good for keeping salt water intrusion at bay, and means probably the City will try to fill the Santa Margarita first, which make sense.

He told us about all the obstacles to speeding up the water transfer schedule. For one, the company that they've hired to get rid of the Chromium 6 has a new cheaper alternative method to do so, but it uses the no-des machine that SqC district has been using to flush their pipes – uses the filtering capabilities of that machine – so the flushing has only been done to at best half of the District's pipe.

Ron said he truly doesn't know if they're able to take water from SCC through the pipes that have already been flushed.

He said that testing for the mixing of the ground and surface waters needs to be done with winter water, so that will all be at least another year out. First, flushing; Second, waiting for the third proposal (required to get three responses to RFPs) to get back from the loop testing – that so that probably won't happen until December; Third, orthophosphate will need to be introduced at each well-head, along with pH testing – as compared to the City which can treat all their pipes with orthophosphate centrally; Fourth, they need a permit for lead testing – and originally the district thought they could sample test only 15 homes, now they'll be required to test 30 – 60 homes every six months; Fifth;

fish and game isn't completed.

So MAYBE water can start flowing 2018-19. He said probably no EIR will be required, just a negative CEQA declaration, but Scott might have heard that differently, I wasn't sure.

He also told us all the other issues going on in the District – ex., broken pipes up Clubhouse in Rio Del Mar – so they've diverted resources to those.

I told Ron politically it would be good to get transfers going — he has the NIMBY problem with the Soquel neighbors, the fact that they've convinced the district's customers that salt water intrusion is an immediate threat so that people are miffed that the water from this wet winter has been missed. Ron said that a new Danish and Stanford partnership has found a method to monitor seawater intrusion fronts, and they're looking to those results.

Ron said that when Rosemary publishes cost estimates, Melanie says they'll use them – that they don't have good water transfer estimates now. And as Scott reported, they reiterated that the City told them they can only have 300 acre-feet of water. Ron also mentioned that the groundwater model is running into trouble, too complex to be useful yet.

I don't think it will be useful for us to meet with them any more, nor I'm sure do they want us to. They're just intent on going ahead with getting the EIR done for the wastewater project, they have Deepwater Desal on hand if needed, and if the transfers ever get started, they will begin on a very small level, so they're seriously not counting on that – although continuing to say it's in their mix.

Notes by Randa Solick. 3/17/17

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**Note added on 3/24/17:**

**Melanie objects to the phrase "they do not have good water transfer (costs) estimates now." Melanie says there are estimates in WSAC report, Appendix 8 that have been recently confirmed by Santa Cruz water department staff. Those estimates list \$131 million as the estimate for in-lieu implementation.**

**When Melanie is asked about water transfer through existing infrastructure at 1,000 gallons per minute, Melanie does not respond.**