Ocean Desalination

The Municipal Water District of Orange County and its five Project Partners – Laguna Beach County Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of San Clemente, City of San Juan Capistrano, and South Coast Water District – are working diligently to improve local water reliability in south Orange County through the development of the ***South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project*** (SOCOD). This project would decrease the area's dependence upon imported drinking water supplies, as south Orange County depends on water imported from northern California and the Colorado River to meet approximately 95 percent of its local demand.

The proposed ocean desalination facility would be located north of Doheny State Beach in Dana Point, adjacent to San Juan Creek on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway. It would produce approximately 15 million gallons of drought-proof water per day, which is approximately 25% of the area's potable water demand. This new, local water supply would also benefit the area during emergencies and outages of the regional imported water delivery system. The projected SOCOD project construction cost is $175 million, and the cost of water would be $1,300/acre-foot – with the cost being reduced to $1,050/acre-foot with incentives from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Two phases of project feasibility testing have been conducted successfully at Doheny Beach since 2005. The project entered Phase 3: Extended Pumping & Pilot Plant Testing in early 2010 and was completed in May 2012. If pumping results are favorable, efforts would be initiated to move forward with development of a full-scale project description and environmental impact report (EIR). Successful adoption of the EIR and the receipt of all necessary permits from all appropriate regulatory agencies would be the next steps prior to project implementation and the initiation of construction. As planned, the project would be constructed and operational within two years, and water deliveries could begin as early as fall 2016.

MWDOC and the Project Partners are working collaboratively with the following environmental organizations to ensure that our project is eco-sensitive:

Project Save Our Surf

Orange County Coastkeeper

Surfrider Foundation

Trout Unlimited

Submit your letter of support to: P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728

South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project Meetings:

MWDOC and its Project Partners meet monthly to discuss project events and activities. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the Dana Hills Tennis Center at 24911 Calle de Tenis in Dana Point, CA 92629.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 16th at 2:00 p.m.

May 16, 2013 Agenda and Handouts

Please click on the links below to view the agendas and handouts from the most recent project meetings.

October 24, 2012

September 26, 2012

May 30, 2012

March 28, 2012

Supplemental Agenda Item: Step Drawdown Test

February 22, 2012

January 25, 2012

November 16, 2011

Presentation- SOCOD Project, Ocean Desalination Costs, and Recent Public Opinions

October 26, 2011

September 21, 2011

Supplemental Packet Item on Construction Award

May 16, 2011

April 25, 2011 (Workshop)

April 20, 2011

March 29, 2011 (Workshop)

March 23, 2011

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November 15, 2010

September 29, 2010

August 23, 2010

July 14, 2010

May 12, 2010

South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project Newsletter:

SOCOD Project Newsletter - 2010

SOCOD Project Newsletter - 2008

For more information about the South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project, please email MWDOC Assistant General Manager/District Engineer Karl Seckel or call (714) 593-5024.