

RESOLUTION NO. 14-22

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT
DECLARING A GROUNDWATER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, groundwater located in the Soquel-Aptos area is currently the only source of water supply for the customers of Soquel Creek Water District; and

WHEREAS, other public and private water suppliers and many private wells also depend on local groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, a peer review panel of qualified groundwater hydrologists have concurred with the District's groundwater hydrologist that the cumulative effects of pumping more groundwater than is annually replenished through rainfall has resulted in a serious state of overdraft of our local aquifers; and

WHEREAS, these overdrafted coastal aquifers are imminently threatened by contamination from seawater intrusion; and

WHEREAS, seawater intrusion has been detected in Pleasure Point, Aptos, and La Selva Beach by the coastal monitoring well network maintained within the Soquel-Aptos groundwater management area; and

WHEREAS, groundwater overdraft is a long-term shortage issue, dissimilar to drought conditions that are seasonal and typically short-term; and

WHEREAS, Soquel Creek Water District is committed to ensuring that our local groundwater resources are sustained and protected for current and future water supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education about groundwater is critical to succeeding in protecting this invaluable resource; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Soquel Creek Water District that the District hereby declares a groundwater emergency and directs the General Manager or her designee to address the emergency with the following actions and measures, some of which are recommended in the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan for a Groundwater Emergency (Section 5 of the District's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan):

1. Declare a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency
2. Request actions and measures the County of Santa Cruz and other neighboring water agencies can undertake to address the overdrafted groundwater basin conditions within their respective jurisdictions
3. Continue to collaborate with all basin pumpers as part of the Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Committee efforts that are underway

4. Continue to implement the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Plan in collaboration with partner agencies under the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement
5. Continue to pursue development of a Groundwater Model for the Soquel-Aptos area
6. Continue to pursue a better understanding of the freshwater-seawater interface
7. Continue to pursue alternative water sources to aid in restoring the groundwater basin with either direct or in-lieu recharge benefits

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT this 17th day of June 2014, by the following vote:

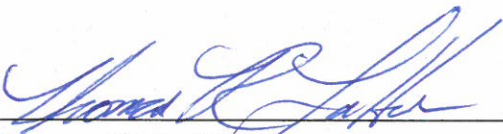
AYES: Directors LaHue, Daniels, Jaffe, Hoernschemeyer, Meyer

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

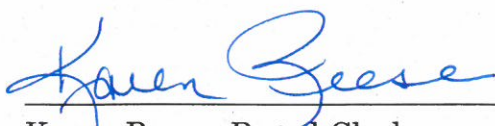
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVE:



Thomas R. LaHue, President

ATTEST:



Karen Reese, Board Clerk