

## 14a Community Correspondence

September 18, 2014

TO: WSAC members and staff  
FROM: Sue Holt, interim corresponding secretary  
SUBJECT: Public Correspondence Report

During the time that Mike Rotkin, corresponding secretary, has been away, only one comment was received. It and my response are below.

From: "Sue Holt" <suholt@cabrillo.edu>  
Subject: Re: Water Management  
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 2014 11:37:54 -0700  
To: "Erik Eriksen" <e.f.eriksen@gmail.com>  
"Nicholas Dewar" <ndewar@ppcollab.com>, "Carie Fox"  
Cc: <Carie.Fox@daylightdecisions.com>, "Clark McIsaac" <CMcIsaac@cityofsantacruz.com>, "Rosemary Menard" <RMenard@cityofsantacruz.com>, "Mike Rotkin" <openup@ucsc.edu>

Dear Mr. Eriksen,

Thank you for the comments you submitted at the Water Supply Advisory Committee website. Rainwater catchment, pervious surfaces, and grey water systems and incentives are among the proposals the Committee is considering to increase the reliability of our water supplies. During the current period the Committee is conducting a reconnaissance of water supply difficulties the City might face in the next few decades and their potential solutions. Your comments support the breadth of our considerations.

You may be particularly interested in our upcoming event at the Civic Auditorium. On October 16 the Committee and the City will host "Our Water, Our Future! The Santa Cruz Water Supply Convention." You can expect to see several dozen potential solutions profiled there (including the ones you've identified), with proponents providing information and answering questions. We encourage you to attend, discuss options at poster sessions, and give us your appraisals.

Yours,  
Sue Holt  
Interim Corresponding Secretary  
Water Supply Advisory Committee

From: Erik Eriksen <e.f.eriksen@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Sep 15, 2014 at 1:27 PM  
Subject: Water Management  
To: santacruzwatersupply@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in full support of desalination! It's this amazing process known as the hydrologic cycle and it occurs naturally! We are provided with fresh water every year, and somehow we haven't realized how to properly manage that gift.

Impervious surfaces combined with gutters that flow straight to the bay mean that we waste an incredible amount of fresh water every time it is given to us. Our natural aquifers are not given the opportunity to recharge because of poor planning and management. It is very possible to utilize rainwater in a much more efficient manner. "Slow it, Spread it, Sink it" as my man Brock Dollman likes to say. If we spent half as much money on properly and efficiently managing our rainwater supply as we would on a desal plant our long-term water security problems would all but be eliminated. It is possible and it has been proven to work.

<http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/stormwater>

<http://sonomarcd.org/programs-services-water-resource-management.php>

<http://bairwmp.org/projects/s3-implementation-program-of-southern-sonoma-and-napa-counties>

[http://www.okwaterwise.ca/pdf/HomeDrainageGuide\\_Okanagan.pdf](http://www.okwaterwise.ca/pdf/HomeDrainageGuide_Okanagan.pdf)

[http://www.igrowsonoma.org/sites/default/files/u70/Rainwater\\_Management.pdf](http://www.igrowsonoma.org/sites/default/files/u70/Rainwater_Management.pdf)

Beyond simple management of rain water in order to recharge our aquifers, we should most definitely be investing in grey water infrastructure.

Provide incentives to homeowners and businesses that wish to implement grey water systems. There are many water using systems that do not require potable water. Every time we flush a toilet with potable water, or irrigate landscape with potable water we are being extremely wasteful. Grey water is an amazingly simple way to reduce fresh/ potable water use. Invest in grey water pipes and incentivize its construction/ use.

A desal plant demonstrates a supreme lack of understanding of the world we live in and our impacts upon it. There are so many things wrong with even considering an idea like that before we pursue every other option available to us. The wastefulness of such a precious resource as water is staggering and there is so much we can do to reverse that, it's mind blowing. Please consider managing our rainwater in a more efficient manner, and investing in grey water infrastructure. Not only are they incredibly simple, relatively low cost, and long-term solutions, the fix the core problem rather than putting a band-aid on it.

I am banking on people smarter than I to suggest similar measures, with more detailed proposals. For the love of the Universe, please do not spend another dime on fucking desal. It's so ass backwards it makes me depressed that there are so many misguided and uninformed people out there.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Eriksen

-Erik Eriksen

<<http://www.linkedin.com/in/eferiksen/>>

## 14a Community Correspondence