



# Independent Advisory Panel

## Soquel Creek Water District's PUREWater Soquel Groundwater Replenishment Project

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### **About the NWRI Independent Advisory Panel**

In 2016, NWRI formed an Independent Advisory Panel to provide expert peer review of the technical, scientific, and regulatory aspects of the proposed PUREWater Soquel Groundwater Replenishment Project. The purpose of this Panel is to provide objective, third-party review of data and reports related to the project (including the feasibility study, geochemical analysis, water quality monitoring, and other technical documents) and to solicit and respond to public questions on PUREWater Soquel.

The Panel met via conference call in February 2017 to review background information on the project and discuss the feasibility study and geochemical analysis. The Panel will meet in person on September 20, 2017 in Capitola for a full day, and several hours of the meeting will be open to the public. During the open session, the Panel will listen to presentations from the District and its consultants and respond to questions from the community. The Panel will then meet alone in a closed session to discuss the water quality monitoring report and create recommendations for the District.

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### **NWRI Independent Advisory Panel Charge**

As part of the review, the Panel is expected to provide the following:

- **Objective Review:** The Panel will provide independent, third-party review and evaluation of the data and analysis developed with the Soquel Creek Water District's project team and its consultants.
- **Expert Advice:** The Panel is composed of individuals who are internationally recognized in their field of expertise and experienced with the practical aspects of the project.
- **Community Engagement:** The Panel will respond to questions and comments from community members who are interested in learning more about the project.

## Panel Members

Panel members are experts in drinking water management, environmental engineering, microbiology, toxicology, hydrogeology, treatment technology, risk assessment, and drinking water policy. They are:

- **Chair:** Channah Rock, PhD, University of Arizona (Maricopa, CA)
  - Joseph Cotruvo, PhD, Joseph Cotruvo & Associates (Washington, D.C.)
  - Jason Dadakis, PG, CHG, Orange County Water District (Fountain Valley, CA)
  - Lynne Haber, PhD, DABT, University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)
  - Kara Nelson, PhD, University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
  - Gordon Thrupp, PhD, CHG, Geosyntec (San Francisco, CA)
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## About the Project

The Soquel Creek Water District (District) proposes the PUREWater Soquel Project, which is an advanced purified groundwater replenishment project, to supplement natural recharge of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin with purified water. The Project would help increase the sustainability of the District's groundwater supply—upon which it currently relies for 100 percent of its water supply—reduce the degree of overdraft conditions in the District's groundwater basin, protect against and aid in preventing further seawater intrusion of the groundwater basin, and promote beneficial reuse by reducing discharge of treated wastewater to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The District evaluated the merits of a water recycling project in the past, and as new California regulations related to groundwater management have been adopted, the recycled water option is now feasible for the Soquel Creek community. In 2014, the Board of Directors selected PUREWater Soquel as the preferred supplemental water supply to further evaluate since it met the values identified by community members for new water: timeliness to build, high water quality, and long-term reliability.

In response to the Board's request for further evaluation, the District contracted with NWRI to form an Independent Advisory Panel to provide objective, third-party review of the proposed PUREWater Project. The Panel communicated via conference call in February 2017 to review background information on the project, and will meet in person on September 20, 2017, in Capitola to receive more information from the District and its consultants and to respond to questions from the community.

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## Web Sites for More Information

NWRI Independent Advisory Panel for Soquel Creek: [http://www.nwri-usa.org/soquel\\_creek\\_panel.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/soquel_creek_panel.htm)

Soquel Creek Water District's PUREWater Soquel Groundwater Replenishment Project:

<http://www.soquelcreekwater.org/planning-our-water-future/purewatersoquel>

## CONTACT

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