



JON WEIAND/SENTINEL

Volunteers lower their Secchi disks to measure the clarity of the water at Loch Lomond Reservoir at the Secchi Dip-In on Saturday.

DIP

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Santa Cruz Mayor Hilary Bryant was among the volunteers to measure the water clarity.

The reservoir has been a discussion topic at City Council meetings recently, she said. Speaking with experts is helpful in those discussions, Bryant said.

More murkiness in the water means more algae is present. If more algae is present, there are more efforts to process and clean the water. Put simply: The more clear the water is, the better the water in Santa Cruz will taste, Berry said.

This year's clarity depth averaged 13 feet, 6 inches, which is good, Berry said. "For whatever reason the lake is cleaner this summer than in past summers," he said.

Though not the best. There have been years when the clarity was measured at 20 feet.

"I've been interested in water quality in Santa Cruz for years," said Rene Bloch, 62, of Santa Cruz. "This is really the source of all the water and it's important to understand how to keep it clean."

That insight is exactly what officials were hoping people would take away from the project.

"People need to know that if we have clean water and enough water, it's because of everybody's involvement," said Greg Pepping, executive director for the Coastal Watershed Council.

Everyone has a role in keeping the water clean, he said.

"It's not just the city's job or some nonprofit's job. It's not just a few big projects that are going to solve the water quality problem."