It's all about 'our' water, right?

"Free water must, by definition, cost nothing. However, there are enormous costs. We just haven’t started paying them yet.”

Doug Deitch
Guest columnist

When I considered moving to my present home in Aptos five years later, the first thing I did was walk into the kitchen, open the faucet, and draw water to drink. I never left.

My family and I have been fortunate to have access to a place to live, a place where we can be connected to the natural world. We have been blessed by the water that flows from the mountain springs and by the water that flows from the ocean. We have been blessed by the water that flows from the rivers and by the water that flows from the wells.

However, we are also blessed by the water that flows from the underground aquifers. We are blessed by the water that flows from the meandering creeks and by the water that flows from the springs.

SCWD customers pay for the district’s services and overhead in their bills. Whether we receive service or not, none of us pay for anything currently for “our” water. We have no idea who we are and how the water gets to our homes.

All my neighbors (including my water district, Soquel Creek Water District) have water stored in underground reservoirs, the Pajaro Valley, and the Arroyo Salinas Rivers. All of these reservoirs are about one-third of SCWD’s water, with Arroyo Salinas Rivers making up the rest.

We just can’t see it.

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU