



CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION

Working Together.
Achieving Results.

www.calwaterassn.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Groundwater Treatment Plant Restores Water Source For Fontana Water Company's Customers 2
- The California Department Of Public Health Issues Draft Chromium 6 Standards 4
- CWA And Metropolitan Water District Host Delta Tour For Low Income Oversight Board Members And California Public Utilities Commission Staff..... 6
- New Occupational Safety And Health Administration Hazard Communication Standard Shifts From "Right To Know" To "Right To Understand" 7
- Trail Named After Cal Water Retiree 9
- Save The Date For CWA's 72nd Annual Conference! 9

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Operational metrics and standards are effective business tools, and California Water Association members also believe they are good business practice. By embracing standards, investor-owned water companies (IOWCs) improve the performance of their water distribution systems as well as safeguard employees and the quality of the water provided to their customers. At times, the standards are initiated by water industry associations, and at other times the standards are an outcome of a regulatory or legislative process. Irrespective of how the standards come about, the ultimate goal is to protect the customers and focus on providing sustainable, high-quality water utility service.

This edition of *On Tap* highlights several standards on which the IOWCs currently focus to protect their customers. The articles in this edition include:

- New Groundwater Treatment Plant Restores Water Source for Fontana Water Company's Customers
- The California Department of Public Health Issues Draft Chromium 6 Standards
- CWA and Metropolitan Water District Host Delta Tour for Low Income Oversight Board Members and California Public Utilities Commission Staff
- New Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standard Shifts from "Right to Know" to "Right to Understand"
- Trail Named After Cal Water Retiree
- Save the Date for CWA's 72nd Annual Conference!

To view *On Tap* in PDF format, click [here](#), or access the online version on CWA's website at www.calwaterassn.com.

Sincerely,

R.W. Nicholson
San Gabriel Valley Water Company
2013-2014 CWA President

QUESTIONS?

Contact the CWA office at:

1215 K Street, Suite 940
Sacramento, CA 9514

Phone: 916.231.2147

E-mail: jhawks@calwaterassn.com
mdixon@calwaterassn.com

For instant California
Water Association news:



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NEW GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT RESTORES WATER SOURCE FOR FONTANA WATER COMPANY'S CUSTOMERS

A dedication ceremony on August 16 for Fontana Water Company's (FWC) new groundwater treatment plant that included enthusiastic support from local, state and federal officials celebrated a years-long effort to restore a water source for Fontana residents and businesses that had been unavailable due to groundwater contamination.

Designed to remove perchlorate from local groundwater, the treatment plant will restore approximately 4 million gallons of drinking water per day that were originally lost when a contaminated well was shut down in 2010. Perchlorate is an ingredient in rocket fuel that has contaminated several water wells in the cities of Fontana, Rialto and Colton during the past several years forcing the closure of 13 of FWC's 34 drinking water wells. Much of the perchlorate in the area originated from military and defense operations during and after World War II.

The treatment plant comprises a well capable of pumping 2,800 gallons per minute, two 500,000-gallon reservoirs, a booster station, chlorination equipment and a well discharge pit. The reservoirs will improve water flow for public firefighting and give FWC the flexibility to produce and store water when electric rates are low, which will reduce costs to consumers.

Funded in large part by the U.S. Department of Defense through the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, the plant is connected to FWC's SCADA computerized operating system, which allows a single operator to monitor and remotely control the entire water system at all times.

FWC championed the treatment plant in conjunction with the city of Fontana and state and federal policymakers. At the dedication ceremony, FWC's General Manager Robert Young noted, "Fontana Water Company has been hard at work for more than a decade in an effort to protect and restore this priceless renewable resource, so it is very gratifying that today we can show some of the tangible results of all that hard work. In particular, I want to thank all of those elected officials who have supported our efforts along the way in Washington D.C., Sacramento and right here in Fontana."

Further acknowledging the collective effort, Fontana's Mayor Acquanetta Warren said, "The importance of water is amply demonstrated by the fact that all levels of government are united behind the goal of restoring our groundwater."

U.S. Representative Gloria Negrete McLeod agreed, "This new perchlorate [removal] treatment facility in Fontana is a great example of how local needs and federal resources can be matched to solve problems."

FWC still has 10 wells out of service, and perchlorate continues to threaten additional wells. According to State Senator Norma Torres, "I am grateful for this new perchlorate [removal] treatment plant, as it will help provide a clean reliable water supply to the residents of Fontana. However, there is still more work that needs to be done to address perchlorate contamination issues. In the months and years ahead I plan on using the full extent of my legislative authority to find solutions to this serious problem."

Assemblymember Cheryl Brown concluded, "The new perchlorate [removal] treatment facility in Fontana is a very important addition to the region's future water security, and it dovetails perfectly with what we're trying to accomplish in Sacramento for statewide water policy."

continued on next page

NEW GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT RESTORES WATER SOURCE FOR FONTANA WATER COMPANY'S CUSTOMERS *continued*



Left: Fontana Water Company General Manager Robert Young receiving Certificates of Recognition from Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren, State Senator Norma Torres and Assemblymember Cheryl Brown



Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for Fontana Water Company's Treatment Plant

Front row, left to right: Fontana Water Company General Manager Robert Young, State Senator Norma Torres, San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, U.S. Representative Gloria Negrete McLeod, Assemblymember Cheryl Brown, Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Michael Camacho and Steve Eli, both of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

Back row, left to right: Fontana City Council Member Michael Tehan, San Gabriel Valley Water Company President Robert W. Nicholson, John Roberts and Jesse Sandoval, both members of the Fontana City Council, Fontana Unified School District (FUSD) Vice President Barbara Chavez and FUSD Board Member Lorena Corona.

THE QUALITY & SERVICE FOCUS

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES DRAFT CHROMIUM 6 STANDARDS



Given their commitment to provide safe and reliable water service to California residents and businesses at reasonable costs and rates, California Water Association (CWA) members appreciate the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) approach to balancing the public health and financial consequences of the new proposed drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium or Chromium 6 (Cr-6). The CDPH's recently announced draft maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Cr-6 at 10 parts per billion (ppb; one ppb is equivalent to one drop of water diluted within 13,750 gallons of water) made California the first state to propose a standard for Cr-6. Currently, the only MCL related to chromium is the federal limit of 100 ppb for total chromium (which encompasses both Cr-6

and benign Cr-3), which was originally established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1991. Subsequently, California became the only state to set a total chromium MCL, which is currently at 50 ppb.

Cr-6 occurs naturally in the environment from the erosion of chromium deposits. Cr-6 also can be produced through various industrial uses. Cr-6 is used as an anti-corrosive, for tanning leather and in the manufacture of stainless steel, textile dyes and wood preservatives. Data collected by water utilities throughout California indicates Cr-6 has been detected in drinking water sources in 52 of the state's 58 counties. The CDPH estimates the new standard would affect more than 100 water districts in California at an annual combined cost of about \$156 million.

CWA members are dedicated to providing a safe, reliable water supply. Like all water purveyors, CWA members will comply with the MCLs and other water quality requirements set by the CDPH. Water utilities rely on the independence and expertise of public health scientists and officials to ensure that drinking water standards are promulgated in an open and objective manner. Such entities are not in a position to make value judgments on proposed MCLs, either from a technical standpoint or a health standpoint. Indeed, the integrity of the MCL development process is paramount, and it can only remain so when the complying entities are independent from the decision-making process. CDPH has set a 45-day comment period on the proposed standard.

"CWA is pleased to have the opportunity to assist CDPH on these matters through its comments," said Dawn White, Chair of CWA's Water Quality Committee and Water Quality Manager for Golden State Water Company. "CWA looks forward to contributing, so CDPH has all the data to reasonably balance between costs to customers and the obvious need to ensure the safest possible drinking water supply," White said.

The CDPH will conduct public hearings on the proposed rulemaking on October 11 in Sacramento and Los Angeles. The preliminary schedule for final adoption of the Cr-6 standard is expected in less than 12 months.

For more information on Cr-6, visit

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Chromium6.aspx>.



LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

CWA AND METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT HOST DELTA TOUR FOR LOW INCOME OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBERS AND CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STAFF



The triple threats of sea-level rise, seismic risk and subsidence, as they affect water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration, were vividly conveyed to a group of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) advisors and staff during a tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) on August 22, 2013. The Delta, formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, consists of 57 reclaimed islands and tracts and approximately 1,100 miles of protective levees. Approximately 28 million acre-feet of water flows through the Delta annually forming the hub of California's water supply system.

The California Water Association (CWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) joined together to host the tour for the CPUC's Low Income Oversight Board (LIOB) and CPUC staff, including Commissioners Carla Peterman and Catherine Sandoval. The LIOB, chaired by Jose Hernandez of IDEATE California in Burbank and co-chaired by Jason Wimbley of the California Department of Community Services and Development, advises the CPUC on low-income electric, gas and water corporation customer issues.

Curt Schmutte, a water resources and environmental planning consultant for Metropolitan, conducted the Delta tour, which originated in Sacramento with a video presentation. The tour included stops along Highway 160 at the Delta Cross Channel; two Delta islands – Twitchell and Sherman – where the subsidence is most pronounced; the Clifton Court Forebay; the Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility; and the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant, where 11 pumps lift the water 244 feet up into the California Aqueduct.



The tour participants learned that all aspects of the Delta are deteriorating, including

supply reliability, ecosystem viability, loss of native fish due to invasive species, recreational opportunities and agricultural/economic prosperity. In short, the Delta's status quo is unsustainable without significant investments to slow the effects of subsidence, saltwater intrusion, loss of wetlands, levee failures and sea-level rise resulting from climate

continued on next page

CWA AND METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT HOST DELTA TOUR FOR LOW INCOME OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBERS AND CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STAFF *continued*

change impacts. Schmutte explained that seismic vulnerability underpins all these problems, with a 62 percent probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake on one of the 11 Bay Area earthquake faults.

Schmutte's work with Metropolitan has encompassed analyzing and implementing seismic flood risk mitigation strategies, planning emergency actions to protect Delta smelt and advancing new conceptual water conveyance alternatives to achieve a sustainable Delta for both water supplies and the ecosystem. He also has worked for the California Department of Water Resources for 21 years where he managed the California Department of Water Resources' (CDWR) levee improvement program.

CDWR operates the State Water Project, which is the largest state-built water and power project in the United States. Beginning at Lake Davis in Northern California and spanning 600 miles south to Southern California, the State Water Project includes 34 storage facilities, 20 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants and about 700 miles of canals, tunnels and pipelines. The State Water Project provides drinking water for 23 million people and irrigation water for 750,000 acres of farmland.

Since the mid-19th century, the levee system has caused nearly 500,000 acres of Delta land to be drained and reclaimed. During that time, the oxygen-rich soils used for farming were exposed to oxygen, causing microbial decomposition of the soils, which has released enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and has resulted in profound land subsidence. Currently, most of the Delta is below sea level, with much of the western and central Delta 20 to 30 feet below sea level. This land



subsidence, which is occurring at a rate of 1.5 feet per decade, has weakened the protective levees and increased the threat of floods and loss of freshwater supplies from saltwater intrusion.

Given that 30-35 percent of the water for the Bay Area and Southern California comes from the Delta, and with the Central Valley also heavily dependent on that water, these interrelated problems and solutions must be a top priority for all Californians. The tour participants gained a first-hand understanding of the decisions the state must make in the near future to sustain the water supply, local environment and the state's economy, all of which depend on a healthy Delta ecosystem.

For more details, visit http://www.water.ca.gov/state_water_project_home.cfm, <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>/or <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>. 


NEW OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD SHIFTS FROM “RIGHT TO KNOW” TO “RIGHT TO UNDERSTAND”



In an effort to improve safety and health, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently aligned its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). In 1983, the HCS gave workers the “right to know” the hazardous chemicals they use. The updated HCS raises the bar to ensure workers also have the “right to understand” those chemicals and how to work with them safely.

The modified standard is expected to prevent more than 500 workplace injuries and illnesses and close to 50 fatalities annually. Additionally, the standard will result in a reduction to the number of safety data sheet and label updates and simplifies new hazard communication training.

Major changes to the HCS include mandated hazard classifications criteria for chemical manufacturers and importers, new labeling requirements and changes to safety data sheets. Employers subject to the HCS must train workers on the new standard by December 1, 2013.

For more information, including what employers, chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors need to do to comply with the updated standard, visit www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html. 


POINTS OF INTEREST

TRAIL NAMED AFTER CAL WATER RETIREE

Paul Molder, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) retiree, recently was honored for his 42-year commitment to Cal Water and his dedication to providing reliable water service to Cal Water's Bear Gulch District customers, as well as his stewardship of the land. On July 23, 2013, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) opened a new trail segment, named Molder Trail, at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve.

Molder was responsible for 1,200 acres of Cal Water's watershed property, where his stewardship of the environment and wildlife led to many hours of hiking to repair fences and trails and locate lost hikers.

"Paul is such a deserving person of this honor," said Cal Water's Bear Gulch Local Manager Dawn Smithson. "He was the heart and soul of Cal Water's operations at our Bear Gulch Reservoir and watershed, and his passion for nature and helping others always showed.

The half-mile-long trail connects the Skyline Trail/Bay Area Ridge Trail on Cal Water land to the Preserve and provides a crossing over Highway 35 for hikers and equestrians. Molder Trail begins by the south end of the Sierra Morena Trail in the Preserve and connects to Skyline Trail between Skeggs Point and Wunderlich Park on Highway 35. 



SAVE THE DATE FOR CWA'S 72ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

California Water Association's 72nd Annual Conference will be held at the scenic Monterey Plaza Hotel on November 4-6. This year's theme is "Rising to the Challenges of Tomorrow's Water World." Don't miss the opportunity to find out what's happening in the industry, participate in engaging panel discussions and network with the experts. The panels will address challenges associated with the new hexavalent chromium standard, California regulations, operational safety best practices, implementing the Delta Plan and more.

Look for the complete program in next month's issue of On Tap! In the meantime, go to www.calwaterassn.com to register for the conference. 