

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **Some Wells Located in the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 Water System Have Levels of Hexavalent Chromium Above the Drinking Water Standard**

Pursuant to a California regulation adopted July 1, 2014, the level of a substance called hexavalent chromium should not exceed 0.010 mg/l in drinking water provided by a public water system. This number is known as the maximum contaminant level or MCL. Senate Bill 385, which became law effective September 4, 2015, allows public water systems, with sources that produce water with a hexavalent chromium concentration above the MCL, time to come into compliance. As long as a public water system complies with the new law (Health & Safety Code, section 116431), it will not be deemed in violation of the MCL. In addition to other requirements, the new law requires the water system to provide semi-annual updates on its progress in addressing Cr6 until compliance with the regulation is achieved, which is at the earliest feasible date prior to January 1, 2020. This notice is the second update to our customers.

As noted previously, wells within the District that exceed the Cr6 MCL were turned off prior to the adoption of the regulation that took effect in July 2014. These wells were maintained and kept available for use, in the event they would be needed to meet peak and emergency fire flow demand. Additionally, one of these wells has been used for short periods to accommodate testing of well modification and pump alteration techniques. The District developed a compliance plan, allowing for the use of these wells for these purposes, as needed.

After 32 months of monitoring for hexavalent chromium, and as of the date of this notice, the level of hexavalent chromium in the water provided by our water system is between non-detect and 0.016 mg/l. Only once, during a pump and well modification test, has water exceeding the regulatory limit been utilized as a water source. Specifically, a study was conducted to determine if modifying the well pumping depth or isolating portions of the aquifer within the well, would reduce the Cr6 concentration to a level below the MCL. Over an approximate 2 month test period, water samples were taken periodically to test the effect on Cr6 concentrations of long term pumping at various flow rates (600 to 900 gallons per minute [gpm]) and pump intake depth (>1000 feet). Analytical results for Cr6 during the test period ranged from 0.0083 mg/l to 0.016 mg/l. This test was performed during a high agricultural and irrigation demand period (i.e., August to October 2016), where numerous sources were in use and comingled within the distribution system prior to delivery to customers. The total volume of water produced during the test represents less than 6% of the District's total annual production in 2016. The final phase of the test was concluded in January 2017 with the inflation of a "packer" at depth in the well, to isolate the pumping zone to the deeper

portion of the well. The well was pumped with the packer in place for two weeks at a flow rate of slightly more than 500 gpm. Analytical results for Cr6 from periodic samples taken during the pumping ranged from 0.0046 to 0.005 mg/l. This final test demonstrates that the packer installation effectively reduces the Cr6 concentrations to levels below the 10 ppb limit.

While the presence of Cr6 in District well water is not considered an emergency, as our customer you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to assure continued compliance with this and all MCLs. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants and we will continue to monitor for Cr6 and provide you with these updates on a semi-annual basis..

### **What should I do?**

- This is not an emergency, and currently the District is not out of compliance with the hexavalent chromium drinking water standard. This would only occur if water served from an individual source (i.e., well) has a running annual average concentration greater than 0.010 mg/l which has not occurred. If MCLs are exceeded, you will be notified immediately. *Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over a 70 year lifetime may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*
- If you have other health issues or concerns regarding your consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

SB385 requires that we inform customers who do not wish to drink water provided by our system that alternative water sources for drinking and cooking are available. If the District exceeds the MCL, you will be notified and a list of alternative water sources, including supermarkets and other retail outlets will be provided.


### **What happened? What is being done?**

The District has already taken steps to provide water with hexavalent chromium below the MCL including the submittal of a Compliance Plan, approved by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on April 4, 2016. The approved plan contains a milestone schedule and a number of actions that the District will be taking to achieve compliance by the target date. The compliance plan will continue to be updated as necessary and reported to you with this semi-annual notice. Some of the ongoing activities and progress since the prior update include:

1. Funding - Over the past year, the District has pursued a number of funding sources including grants, loans, and bonds, with the obvious objective of getting the most favorable rate and terms available, minimizing the overall cost of Cr6 mitigation to our customers. Board action at the March 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees has redirected District staff to pursue State Revolving Fund Program planning and construction loans, recently evaluated and determined to be the most favorable funding source.

2. Rate Study – New rates went into effect as of February 1, 2017, following the presentation on December 13, 2016, of the final rate analysis, conducted by Bartle Wells Associates,. The study provides the financial details and a pathway for funding the hexavalent chromium compliance program.
3. Design – Project designs are in various stages of completion with the goal of completing 60% design plans by the end of the fiscal year (June 30). It is anticipated that bid specifications and project drawings will be available before the end of the year, as shown in the Compliance Plan schedule.
4. Environmental Review – The environmental analysis addressing potential impacts of the various project components, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is on-going and should be completed in time to apply for project construction financing and to begin construction.
5. In the meantime, the District is taking measures to ensure hexavalent chromium levels remain below the MCL. This includes keeping wells above the MCL out of service and using water from Cachuma Lake and the State Water Project as they again become available.

	Completion Date (End of Month)	2015		2016				2017				2018				2019			
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Public Notice	Twice Annually					◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Phase 1 – Study																			
Complete Cr6 Options	October 2015	■																	
Pilot Testing of BAT	October 2015	■																	
Treatment Process Selection	April 2016		■	■	■														
Implementation Approach	July 2016			■	■	■													
Phase 2 – Funding																			
Rate Study	December 2016			■	■	■	■												
Grant/Loan Application Submittal	December 2017			■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Phase 3 –Design																			
Preliminary Design	October 2016		■	■	■	■													
Detailed Design	December 2017		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Phase 4- Environmental Review																			
Permitting and CEQA	December 2017					■	■	■	■	■									
Phase 5- Land Acquisition																			
Contractor Selection	February 2018										■								
Phase 7 - Construction																			
Construction	October 2019													■	■	■	■	■	■
Phase 8 - Testing																			
Testing	December 2019																		■
Begin Operating Facilities in Compliance with Cr6 Standard	December 2019																		◆

Note:  hashed bar indicates change to Compliance Plan Schedule

For more information, please contact Chris Dahlstrom at (805) 688-6015 or  
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This notice is being sent to you by Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,  
Improvement District No. 1.

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