

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 come into compliance at the earliest feasible date prior to January 1, 2020.

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. As the drought continues with no signs of relief in the near future, the District is concerned with meeting peak and emergency fire flow demands and anticipates the need for utilizing one or more of the affected wells for short periods during those high demand situations. Minimal use of these wells is also anticipated for the testing of treatment and well modification techniques. The District has established a compliance plan which was approved by the State, allowing for the use of these wells should the need arise.

After 26 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 determined to be between non-detect and 0.0095 mg/l which is below the MCL. Although this is not 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. We will continue to monitor for the level of hexavalent chromium and provide you with regular notices, at least twice a year.

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. If MCLs are exceeded, you will be notified immediately. *Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over many years 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 at or below the MCL. However, to fully achieve this goal will take time and money. We have a plan for assuring continued compliance with the MCL; and in March 2016, we submitted our proposed Compliance Plan to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water for its review. The plan was approved on April 4, 2016, and requires us to achieve compliance no later than January 1, 2020, which we believe is the earliest feasible date considering the complexity of the plan and the amount of funding required.

The approved compliance plan contains the following actions that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 will be taking, including a milestone schedule. This notice will be updated twice each year.

1. Decisions regarding funding for the approved compliance plan will come before the Board of Trustees in October 2016.
2. Timeline and milestones for this program are outlined in the table below. Currently, all tasks and subtasks in the Table are on schedule.
3. 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 exploring wellhead treatment or well modification, where applicable.

	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	March 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																			
Permitting and CEQA	December 2017							■	■	■	■								
Phase 6 – Contractor Selection	February 2018										■								
Phase 7 - Construction	October 2019											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Phase 8 - Testing	December 2019																		■
Begin Operating Facilities in Compliance with Cr6 Standard	December 2019																		◆

For more information, please contact Chris Dahlstrom at (805) 688-6015 or P.O. Box 157, Santa Ynez, CA 93460.

This notice is being sent to you by Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1.

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