

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**MARCH 3, 2004 - Water Resources**
Morse, Cole**MARCH 22, 2004 - Board Meeting**

Prepared by: Jennifer Bender

Submitted by: Richard Nagel

Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

INFORMATION CALENDAR

PERCHLORATE UPDATESUMMARY:

As the water industry is well aware, the chemical perchlorate lacks a maximum contaminant level (MCL) in California, and until a couple of weeks ago, lacked a public health goal (PHG) as well. The Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) was required to establish a final PHG by January 1, 2003, but did not do so until March of 2004. Although the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) was required to adopt an MCL by January 1, 2004, they are just beginning the process.

Public Health Goal

OEHHA produced a draft PHG of 2-6 parts per billion (ppb) in December of 2002 that endured months of scrutiny, and legal intervention. A special panel of University of California peers recently completed a review of the draft PHG; each reviewer had opposing conclusions. Following this peer review, OEHHA announced in mid-March 2004 that the final PHG has been set at 6 ppb. OEHHA has agreed to revisit the PHG again this Fall if results from an independent National Academy of Science study on perchlorate health effects reveals contradictory information.

Maximum Contaminant Level

Now that the PHG has been finalized, the CDHS is beginning its process of developing an MCL as close as technically and economically feasible to the PHG. In the interim, the CDHS continues to use the perchlorate "Action Level" (AL). With OEHHA's announcement of the final PHG, the CDHS immediately raised the perchlorate AL from 4 ppb to 6 ppb. An AL is a non-enforceable limit used by the CDHS to provide guidance to water utilities in dealing with emerging contaminants.

Industry Response to PHG

In response to the finalized PHG, both the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) produced perchlorate talking point papers. The MWD talking point paper was immediately issued to their 26 member agencies for wide dissemination to Southern California retail agencies, and is included as Exhibit A. In anticipation of widespread media interest, ACWA produced a regulatory outreach advisory as well as a talking points paper. The ACWA papers are included as Exhibits B and C, respectively.

Central Basin Groundwater Wells

Historically, perchlorate has been detected above 6 ppb in four Central Basin groundwater Wells, and below 6 ppb in an additional 5 Wells.

MWD Perchlorate Task Force

Locally, the MWD has formed a perchlorate task force. One of the goals is to identify the number of wells that have been shut down, the resultant increase, if any, in MWD purchases, and possibly seek state and federal funding to assist local agencies in procuring perchlorate treatment systems. To that end, MWD has prepared and distributed a Perchlorate Survey for each of its member agencies. A copy of the survey is attached as Exhibit D for reference. In addition, Central Basin will serve on the task force.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on March 3, 2004 and agendaized to the March 22, 2004 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - MWD Perchlorate Talking Points Paper
Exhibit "B" - ACWA Regulatory Outreach Advisory
Exhibit "C" - ACWA Perchlorate Talking Points Paper
Exhibit "D" - MWD Perchlorate Survey