



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Minutes

Small Water Systems Forum Meeting- Second Quarter 2016

June 30th, 2016

Scotts Valley Water District- Santa Margarita Community Room
2 Civic Center Dr, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Announcements and General Updates, Troy Boone and Nathan Salazar

- 2015 Consumer Confidence Reports Due July 1st, 2016
 - o Required for Community and Nontransient Noncommunity (NTNC) Systems
 - o Distribute/post and provide copy to Environmental Health
 - o Complete and send Certification form to Environmental Health
- Metering Deadlines:
 - o *October 1st, 2015: Meters due to have been installed on all water sources or total production measurable*
 - o *January 15th, 2016: 2013-2015 (if available) Monthly Production Data due to have been reported*
 - o *January 15th, 2016: Connection Metering Plans due to have been provided (Community Water Systems only)*
 - o *January 15th, 2017: 2016 Monthly Production Data due to be reported*
 - o *October 1st, 2017: Connection Metering due to be completed (Community Water Systems only)*
- 2015 Electronic Annual Reports (EARs) due now for all Public Water Water Systems (Community, NTNC, TNC)
 - o Not required for State Small Water Systems

2016 Local Primacy Agency (LPA) Conference Updates- Review of Presentations Given

Annual LPA Conference- gathering of California counties which directly regulate small water systems, in addition to State Division of Drinking Water staff. Current issues, upcoming requirements, and cooperation among agencies are among the topics discussed.

- Drought Funding Case Updates and Case Studies
 - o Success stories and challenging scenarios
 - o Yosemite snowpack comparisons- 2012 to 2016

- Division of Financial Assistance and Technical Assistance Program
 - Q: What kind of technical assistance is available- what does that look like?
 - A: Wide range of options, including assistance identifying necessary system improvements and submitting applications for project funding.
 - Additionally, there are groups such as a retired coalition of engineers looking to assist small water systems with compliance and effective operation of their system
 - Contact: John Gaston
 - Jmgaston1142@gmail.com
- Drought/Climate Change
 - California Water Supply Systems (pie chart)
 - “Local projects” vs. “Groundwater” distinction
 - “Groundwater” use defined in this context as mostly agricultural vs. domestic use labeled as “Local Projects”
 - Projections of sea level rise
 - Q: Information source?
 - A: Quoted source is providing these projections. As they are extended over time, uncertainty increases but the projections for the near future are much more reliable
 - Historic Sea Level Measurements- Golden Gate/Presidio Area
 - Q: What might be the impacts of sea level rise on local areas such as the slough in Moss Landing?
 - A: Not directly used as a water supply, but as sea level rises more pressure is placed upon groundwater, leading to a higher risk of saltwater intrusion
- Emergency Preparedness
 - Fire: Defensible distance between structures and fuel such as vegetation and trees should be at least one and a half times the height of the fuel
 - Local fire departments can provide assistance and more information about strategies to mitigate fire risk
 - Plastic storage tanks can be significantly affected by fire, especially if the area around the tanks has not been cleared and they are emptied for fire fighting (more prone to heat damage when empty)
 - Wellhead areas can also be significantly damaged by fire- one of the reasons to keep these areas clear of vegetation as much as possible
 - Keeps supplies handy for use during emergencies, when many others will need these same supplies
 - Chlorination
 - Amount to use to disinfect storage tanks- seek guidance on this
 - APPI Pool and Spa, Mid Valley Supply, and Coast Paper & Supply are good sources of NSF 60 certified chlorine in Santa Cruz County
 - Liquid bleach is relatively unstable and the chlorine will cook off within approximately a year or so
 - Tablet chlorine is much more stable and more effectively stored

- “Thiotrene” tablets contain sodium thiosulfate for dechlorinating if the need arises such as system shocking and subsequent flushing of chlorine for proper disinfection
 - Develop an emergency disinfection plan
 - Keep references handy for chlorination, such as the formula needed to calculate the amount of bleach to use for your storage tank- one water system keeps this information handy for mobile phone use while out and away from a computer
- Human Right to Water
 - New “core value” for State, provides context for State water policy
 - Essentially, all Californians should have access to water that is safe, clean, wholesome, etc.
 - Evaluation of water systems including multiple aspects of operation and management
 - “Stop the bleeding”- limit the creation of new water systems which may not be able to sustain themselves and adapt to ever-increasing regulatory requirements
 - No new specific requirements or laws
 - State website in development- increase public access to information and statistics for water systems operating in California
- Pending Legislation
 - SB 1263, 552
 - Address concerns surrounding new development in drought conditions, provide more assistance to disadvantaged communities
 - Q: Are SB 1263 restrictions on water use allocation potentially an issue for systems that are not legally incorporated?
 - No, this would apply to new systems being created, the intent is to address the areas with development increasing beyond what may be considered reasonable given the available resources
 - Percentage of systems within one mile or less of larger/more compliant systems- this and other statistics are being analyzed
 - Legal issues with forcing consolidation of two separate entities
- Revised Total Coliform Rule (Applies to Public Water Systems only, not State Small systems)
 - Federal rule adopted, California rule under review and scheduled for adoption in 2017
 - Changes, adjustment in focus and intent of regulations
 - “Find-and-fix”
 - Level 1 and 2 Assessments
 - Comprehensive evaluation of your water system, including wellheads and/or surface water intakes, springs, treatment plants, sampling locations and taps, storage tanks, and distribution system condition, among others
 - Removal of Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) to occur once California rule adopted in 2017
 - Indicator organism, not a cause of illness in and of itself, but a sign that contamination may be occurring that is exposing the system’s users to more dangerous disease-causing organisms

- Lead and Copper Sampling (currently only required for Community and NTNC Water Systems)
 - o Increased scrutiny in the wake of the Flint disaster
 - o The EPA and state environmental agencies have been the subject of criticism due to perceived failures in oversight
 - o Federal and state agencies are working closer than ever to improve consistency of regulation and enforcement
 - o Expect changes to Lead and Copper sampling requirements in 2017

- State Water Resource Control Board Office of Enforcement
 - o The Division of Drinking Water is currently pushing to keep enforcement for water systems rather than turning issues over to the Office of Enforcement (OE)
 - o Possibility of OE pursuing high priority water systems that repeatedly violate drinking water standards

Discussion/Open Forum

PureSource Water (Aptos/Trout Gulch area)- Recent experiences with well disinfection

- o Total Coliform bacteria detected in samples taken from one of the system's wells
- o Persistent detection of about 1 MPN (Most Probable Number- method of calculating the relative scale of bacteriological contamination)
- o Advised to ramp up chlorination significantly
- o Dramatically increased the amount of chlorine used, improved sealing at wellhead, yet coliforms still persisted in subsequent sampling
- o Spoke with Soquel Creek Water District, advised lowering pH, identified some products to assist in this process rather than simply dumping chlorine into wells and tanks, recommended book on proper well disinfection: Chemical Cleaning, Disinfection & Decontamination of Water Wells (Schnieders)
 - With coupon, cost is about \$40
 - Includes information about a survey of over 500 well drillers, operators, etc. and their well disinfection methods
 - Simple chlorine shocking on its own is not sufficient, most of the time the repeat samples still come back present for bacteriological contamination

- Ideas for future meetings
 - o Some interest in organizing tours put on by individual water systems in the county
 - o Additionally, there is interest for water systems to host future forum meetings