

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GROUNDWATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CA., 90712
9:30 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019**

AGENDA

Each item on the agenda, no matter how described, shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, whether to adopt a minute motion, resolution, payment of any bill, approval of any matter or action, or any other action. Items listed as "For information" or "For discussion" may also be the subject of an "action" taken by the Board or a Committee at the same meeting.

- 1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL SITES REVIEW**
Staff Recommendation: The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.
- 4. PER- AND POLY- FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)**
Staff Recommendation: The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.
- 5. SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM - DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE**
Staff Recommendation: The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.
- SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM OUTREACH REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file report.
- 7. DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INQUIRIES AND FOLLOW UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**
The Committee will adjourn to the next currently scheduled meeting on September 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if special assistance is needed to participate in the meeting, please contact Brandon Mims, Deputy Secretary at (562) 921-5521 for assistance to enable the District to make reasonable accommodations.

All public records relating to an agenda item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the time the record is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the Board. Such records shall be available at the District office located at 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712.

Agendas are available at the District's website, www.wrd.org.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES – If you challenge a District action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Deputy Secretary at, or prior to, the public hearing. Any written correspondence delivered to the District office before the District's final action on a matter will become a part of the administrative record.

**MEMORANDUM****ITEM NO. 3**

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019

TO: GROUNDWATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL SITES REVIEW

SUMMARY

WRD continues to take an active role in groundwater quality protection, cleanup, and investigation. As part of its Groundwater Contamination Prevention Program, WRD established the Central and West Coast Basin Groundwater Contamination Forum, a data-sharing and discussion forum with key stakeholders that include various cities, water purveyors, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

In 2005, the stakeholders drafted and signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") agreeing to meet regularly and share data on major groundwater contaminated sites within the Central Basin and West Coast Basin. WRD acts as the meeting coordinator and data repository/distributor, helping stakeholders to characterize the extent of contamination to identify pathways for contaminants in shallow aquifers to reach deeper drinking water aquifers and develop optimal methods for remediating contaminated groundwater. The overall purpose of the Forum is to expedite the cleanup of these major contaminated sites in the basins.

With the cooperation and support of all stakeholders in the Groundwater Contamination Forum, WRD developed a list of high-priority groundwater contaminated sites ("environmental sites") located within the District. This list is a living document, subject to cleanup and "closure" of sites, as well as discovery of new sites warranting further attention. Currently, the list includes 46 sites located throughout the Central Basin and West Coast Basin. The list was developed based on the following criteria:

- Site location and hydrogeology
- Distance to nearest drinking water well
- Depth to shallowest water-supply aquifer beneath site
- Concentration of detected contaminants

- Fate and transport of detected contaminants
- Presence of contamination in nearby drinking water wells
- Status of site characterization with respect to groundwater contamination
- Status of site remediation with respect to groundwater contamination
- Stage of regulatory agency involvement

WRD works in close consultation with the lead regulatory agencies for each of these sites to provide data and technical support to facilitate site characterization and expedite cleanup. Below is an update on a perchlorate remediation project in the City of Vernon. WRD is implemented the project with grant funds obtained through Proposition 1.

PERCHLORATE REMEDIATION PROJECT – PROP 1 (CITY OF VERNON)

WRD has been investigating a perchlorate groundwater “hot spot” plume with the assistance of various regulatory agencies in association with our Los Angeles Forebay Groundwater Task Force (the Project). The perchlorate detections are among the highest in the state and the groundwater plume is currently located in a deep aquifer system within the Los Angeles Forebay. WRD successfully applied for and will soon receive a grant for over \$7 million from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program (Proposition 1). The State grant funds will help pay for approximately 80% of the remediation construction costs to treat the perchlorate impacts along with other comingled volatile organic contaminants (VOCs).

WRD staff completed several significant milestones in the second quarter of 2019. A summary is provided as follows:

1. Submitted grant reimbursement for \$57,754.38.
2. Finalized Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP).
3. Finalized Remedial investigation Work Plan (RI WP).
4. Released drilling request for bids (RFB).
5. Board approve consulting contracts with Advisian and AECOM.
6. Public comment period was completed (no comments) and we submitted final Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA).
7. Negotiating access agreements for nine parcels (started March 2019).

A summary of other key action items is provided in the attached table as staff continue to identify opportunities to expedite the Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.

Perchlorate Remediation Project – Prop 1 (City of Vernon, Central Basin)

Key Indicator Compounds in Groundwater (Results shown for Fourth Quarter 2015)			
Chemical	MCL	Wells Screened at 220-Foot	Wells Screened at 310-Foot
Perchlorate	6	64 in MW-4	4,500 in MW-3
PCE	5	8.5 in MW-4	51 in MW-3
TCE	5	670 in MW-6	310 in MW-3

Results in micrograms per liter (µg/L) / PCE = Tetrachloroethene / TCE = Trichloroethene / MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
Source: Groundwater Monitoring - November 2015 (URS, 2016).

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS

Completed through June 30, 2019	
Action Items	Completed
WRD staff held a status update meeting with several key staff at City of Vernon	10/25/18
WRD staff held status update and project planning call with DTSC	11/06/18
WRD returned legal opinion and signed grant agreement to the SWRCB	11/06/18
WRD staff received reimbursement agreement from the DTSC	11/14/18
WRD board approved reimbursement agreement with DTSC	11/21/18
WRD board approved memorandum of understanding with SWRCB & LARWQCB	11/21/18
WRD board signed reimbursement agreement with DTSC	11/26/18
Receive final signed grant agreement from SWRCB	11/28/18
Kickoff meeting with project team (including Technical Advisory Committee)	01/09/19
Received final signed reimbursement agreement from DTSC	01/11/19
Received final signed memorandum of understanding from SWRCB	01/17/19
Subsurface utility plans from City of Vernon / Utility conflict evaluation with Worley Parsons	03/08/19
First status update to Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)	03/20/19
Finalized Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP)	05/13/19
Finalized Remedial investigation Work Plan (RI WP)	05/15/19
Released drilling request for bids (RFB)	06/20/19
Board approve consulting contracts with Advisian and AECOM	06/20/19
Public comment completed and submitted final Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA)	06/30/19
Planned for next quarter ending September 30, 2019	
Action Items	Due Date
Agency approval letter for Remedial investigation Work Plan (RI WP)	Jul. 2019
Receive and evaluate lowest responsive bidder for drilling RFB	Aug. 2019
Treatability testing work plan submitted to DFA, TAC, and DTSC	Aug. 2019
Finalize drilling California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	Sept. 2019
Continue access agreement negotiations commenced in March 2019	Sept. 2019
Planned for remainder of 2019	
Action Items	Due Date

Release drilling contractor request for bid (RFB)	Jun. 2019
Access agreements in place for Monitoring Wells	Oct. 2019

Other key action items through 2022

- Well Installs / Aquifer Testing (2019 to 2020).
- Remedial Investigation Report (2020).
- Remedial Design including CEQA (2020 to 2021).
- Treatment System Construction (2021 to 2022).
- Groundwater Modeling / Search for Responsible Parties (2020 to 2022).
- Commence System Operations (February 2022).



MEMORANDUM
ITEM NO. 4

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019
TO: GROUNDWATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: PER- AND POLY- FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

SUMMARY

Per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that are being discussed more frequently on a national level and throughout California. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s and can be found in food packaging, household products, chrome plating facilities, landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and in firefighting foam used at airports, military facilities, refineries, etc.

In May 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory level of 70 nanograms per Liter (ng/L) for two of the most common PFAS: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). A number of states also began establishing their own action levels with the most stringent values being proposed by New Jersey. Congress also recently directed EPA staff to prioritize their PFAS Action Plan dated February 2019. EPA is "moving forward with several important actions, including the maximum contaminant level process, that will help affected communities better monitor, detect, and address PFAS" as recently noted by the acting EPA Administrator, Andrew Wheeler.

In June 2018, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) also recommended interim notification levels (NLs) for PFOA (based on liver toxicity, as well as cancer risks) at 14 ng/L and for PFOS (based on immunotoxicity) at 13 ng/L. These levels were subsequently adopted by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). DDW also adopted a response level (RL) of 70 ng/L (consistent with EPA). The DDW recently considered lowering these levels in July 2019. This may have resulted in pumpers having to take some wells "off line" due to low level detections of PFOA and PFOS. WRD prepared the attached letter in response to the potential lowering of these levels on July 3, 2019. The decision to implement lower levels, originally set for July 8, 2019, has been delayed by DDW until further notice.

In March 2019, DDW issued orders to 17 pumpers in the Central Basin to conduct quarterly sampling for various PFAS (including PFOA and PFOS). WRD staff also began collecting groundwater samples from monitoring wells for analysis of PFAS. The results are currently being compiled by Staff and once reviewed will be reported to the Groundwater Quality Committee.

WRD staff will continue to follow this topic and report back to the Groundwater Quality Committee. Links are provided below for additional information on PFAS.

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/>

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.



DIRECTORS
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 WILLARD H. MURRAY, JR., SECRETARY
 ROB KATHERMAN, TREASURER
 SERGIO CALDERON, DIRECTOR

ROBB WHITAKER, P.E., GENERAL MANAGER

July 3, 2019

Mr. Darrin Polhemus
 Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water
 State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street, 24th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via email at darrin.polhemus@waterboards.ca.gov and Federal Express

REVISED NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE LEVELS BEING CONSIDERED FOR PFOA / PFOS

Dear Mr. Polhemus:

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) prepared this correspondence to express our concerns regarding a proposed lowering of the Notification Level and Response Level for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). WRD is the groundwater basin manager, replenishment agency, and Administrative Body of Watermaster for the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins in southern Los Angeles County, two of the most utilized urban groundwater basins in the state. And although we fully support the protection of public health through the Division of Drinking Water's (DDW) establishment of drinking water standards, we also support the setting of such levels be done in a thoroughly vetted process which this new proposal appears to be bypassing. It is our understanding that your agency is considering lowering the current interim levels to new proposed levels as follows:

Constituent	Notification Level		Response Level	
	Interim Level	Proposed Level	Interim Level	Proposed Level
PFOA	14	5.1	Combined value of 70	10
PFOS	13	6.5		40

Note: Concentrations are shown in nanograms per liter (ng/L).

WRD is concerned the agency is moving ahead too quickly with this dramatic and impactful change without allowing sufficient time for thorough data evaluation, scientific scrutiny, economic impact, and public input. Considerable dialogue is occurring nationally and while many agencies continue to evaluate the best approach for regulating the various perfluorinated compounds it would be prudent to consider any relevant findings from these discussions prior to revising the Notification and Response levels for California. WRD is not aware of any new toxicological studies that would support new levels lower than those interim levels recommended by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHHA) in June 2018, and is not aware of any new OEHHHA updates to their earlier recommendation.

In addition, water purveyors in the state only recently began collecting quarterly samples as required by the DDW. This is the first phase of a three phase sampling program being implemented across the state in 2019. Per the order, the first round of water supply well sampling was due on or before June 30, 2019. Sufficient time should be given to thoroughly review and evaluate the data over several quarters to validate results and determine potential impacts on the drinking water community before such dramatic changes are made to the current interim levels for PFOA and PFOS, especially in light of the preliminary findings. For example, WRD has reviewed results from groundwater producers in our service area, and should the new levels be adopted, many water supply wells may have to be taken offline permanently or wait until expensive treatment systems



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are installed. Many of these water systems are small, are 100% groundwater sourced and do not have alternative water supplies, and may not have the financial resources for well head treatment. Some may be forced with the decision whether or not to serve the water anyway absent any alternative water supply. Although exceedances of Notification Levels and Response Levels are not as legally enforceable by the state as Maximum Contaminant Levels are, the strong recommendations by DDW for water systems to take certain actions for exceedances of these levels may be enough for them to do so anyway.

In summary, WRD sincerely appreciates the hard work that the DDW does to evaluate threats to public health in drinking water supplies. In this current case, we respectfully request that your agency consider holding off on any decisions regarding the adoption of new and lower Notification Levels and Response Levels for PFOA and PFOS, while additional data is being collected throughout the state and also to allow for further scientific dialogue, economic analysis, and public input in establishing appropriate levels.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me at rwhitaker@wrd.org or (562) 921-5521 or Ted Johnson at tjohnson@wrd.org or (562) 275-4240.

Regards,

Robb Whitaker, P.E.
General Manager

CC:

Kurt Souza (via email at kurt.souza@waterboards.ca.gov)
Jeff O'Keefe (via email at jeff.okeefe@waterboards.ca.gov)
Ted Johnson (WRD)
Brian Partington (WRD)
Central Basin Water Association
West Basin Water Association

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MEMORANDUM
ITEM NO. 5

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019

TO: GROUNDWATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMARY

The District administers the Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) which provides grant or loan assistance to basin pumpers for wellhead treatment to remove contaminants and improve water quality. The Grant Program provides treatment for removing groundwater contaminants from man-made sources (e.g. Volatile Organic Compounds); whereas the Loan Program provides 10-year, zero-interest loans for providing water treatment to remove unacceptable levels of contaminants from natural sources (e.g. iron, manganese, and arsenic).

The District approved three wellhead treatment projects as part of the Safe Drinking Water Program: California American Water Arlington Well, Huntington Park Well 15, and Lynwood Well 11. The wellhead treatment system at all three wells will consist of a complete granular activated filtration system built within the boundaries of the existing well sites owned and operated by the water systems. All three projects are currently under construction.

Safe Drinking Water DAC Program

As an extension of the District's Safe Drinking Water Program, the District approved the creation of the Safe Drinking Water Disadvantage Communities (DAC) Program. The goal of this program is to assist water systems located in disadvantaged communities within the District's service area with state and federal funding to address the issues related to their drinking water wells. The focus of the program is to provide technical assistance and extensive outreach to help the systems secure funding that is set aside specifically for disadvantaged communities. Currently there are ten water systems participating in the program and receiving assistance: City of Bell Gardens, City of Compton, City of Huntington Park and City of Lynwood, Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 1, Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 2, Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 3, Sativa LA County Water District, Tract 180 Mutual Water District, and Walnut Park Mutual Water.

The Maywood Avenue Wellhead Treatment DAC Project is currently in the construction phase. This project will be funded through Prop 84 and Prop 1 funding and the District will be reimbursed.

Safe Drinking Water Program Outreach Efforts

Outreach efforts continue as staff is preparing follow-up outreach to cities, particularly disadvantaged communities, to schedule presentations for upcoming city council meetings to further explain WRD's programs.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 6

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019
TO: GROUNDWATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM OUTREACH REPORT

SUMMARY

The District administers an ongoing Safe Drinking Water Outreach Program aimed at providing cities, pumpers, and local legislators information about WRD's grant and loan assistance programs for wellhead treatment to protect and improve water quality.

District staff participate in outreach activities and education campaigns to inform the public and elected representatives about the efforts WRD takes to ensure safe drinking water and to provide necessary resources to interested parties.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Groundwater Quality Committee receive and file the report.