

TO: Board Planning Committee, October 22, 2014  
Board of Directors, November 5, 2014

FROM: General Manager

SUBJECT: Drinking Water Fluoridation Program

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The District continues to receive inquiries regarding the practice of fluoridation of their drinking water. The attached PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit A) summarizes the background and history of the District's involvement with fluoridation. A review of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) fluoridation program is also included, since the majority of water served to EMWD customers is provided by MWD.

Concur:



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General Manager

Submitted by:



Charles J. Bachmann, P.E.  
Assistant General Manager  
Planning, Engineering, and Construction

Attachment: Exhibit A – Presentation



Exhibit A

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

# Drinking Water Fluoridation Program

Jayne Joy, P.E.

Director, Environmental & Regulatory Compliance

November 5, 2014

# Agenda



- Background of Fluoridation
- Regulatory Drivers
- Metropolitan Water District Activities
- EMWD Activities
- Current Status
- Recommendations

# Background of Fluoridation



- Fluoride is a naturally occurring compound found in surface water and groundwater
- Fluoride's benefit for teeth was discovered in the 1930s, scientists observed low tooth decay in people with natural fluoride in their water
- Fluoride helps teeth resist decay by strengthening the tooth enamel and reversing newly formed cavities
- Fluoride has been added to US drinking water since 1945, and 43 out of the 50 largest cities fluoridate their drinking water

## California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 64433-64434

- Requires fluoridation of drinking water systems with more than 10,000 service connections, if funds are available.
- Sets levels of fluoride in drinking water:
  - Optimal level is 0.7 to 0.8 mg/l
  - Systems operating range is 0.6 mg/l to 1.3 mg/l
  - Upper limit or maximum contaminant level of 2.0 mg/l
- Sets monitoring, reporting, notification, and operating requirements

## Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Activities:

- Seven Public Officials and Six Southern California Counties urged the MWD Board to fluoridate its supplies
- In February 2003, MWD adopted a policy that fluoridation would be added to the treatment processes
- In September 2003, the California Dental Association Foundation and the California Fluoridation 2010 Work Group provided MWD with \$5.5 Million in grant monies for fluoridation systems at its five treatment facilities
- In 2007, fluoridation systems were installed at the Mills and Skinner Water Filtration Plants

# EMWD Activities



- To provide the optimal level of fluoride throughout EMWD's drinking water system, it was decided to build fluoridation facilities and have them on line at the same time as MWD facilities
- In 2007, EMWD provided customer notification of its fluoridation plans along with MWD's plans

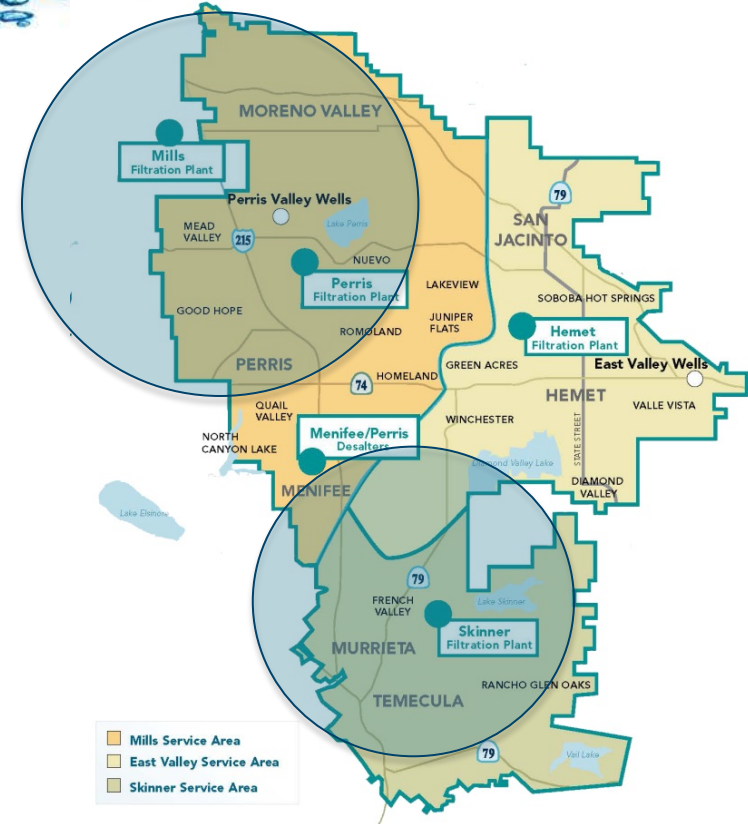


- By the end of 2008 EMWD added fluoridation systems to the Hemet and Perris Water Filtration Plants and eight wells
- Two wells were equipped in 2010 and all new wells will have fluoridation systems
- The State inspected and approved the systems
- The facilities were built at the onset of the economic downturn, EMWD elected to delay startup of the fluoridation systems
- EMWD notified the State in July 2009 that the fluoridation program will be placed on hold



# Current Status

- MWD's fluoridation systems are operational at Mills and Skinner
- EMWD's Facilities and Wells are not fluoridated
- Local wells have some low levels of naturally occurring fluoride
- Fluoride levels are reported in the Consumer Confidence Report



To start fluoridation, EMWD needs to:

- Inspect facilities and make any necessary repairs
- Develop a contract to purchase Hydrofluorosilicic acid (HF)
- Review Process Hazard Assessment and train staff
- Obtain approval from the State to initiate fluoridation
- Develop a monitoring program
- Notify consumers, pharmacists, dentists, and physicians in the service area of intent

# Current Status



Calls about fluoridation are informed:

- That only MWD water is fluoridated
- Of the fluoride level in their water
- Of the Informational websites from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Dental Association, State's Division of Drinking Water, and MWD
- About In-home treatment options to remove fluoride, if asked

Fluoride levels are provided annually in the Consumer Confidence Report

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

## Your 2013 Water Quality

Consumer Confidence Report | ISSUED JULY 2014 | [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) wants you, our valued customer, to be confident the drinking water EMWD serves is safe. This annual water quality report provides important information about the source(s) of your water and the tests used to ensure your tap water is safe and healthy to drink.

**Why You Should Read This Report**

**Our Continuing Commitment to You**

This year's drinking water quality report...

- Examines how EMWD ensures your drinking water is safe, high quality, and reliable
- Provides science-based data and facts about the sources, quality, and safety of your drinking water
- Explains how customers can choose to receive future water quality reports electronically



EMWD and its trained, certified water quality professionals are committed to...

- Providing high quality, safe drinking water at the lowest price possible
- Monitoring and testing the water we serve to optimize quality and ensure it is always safe to drink
- Finding and developing new water supply sources to ensure continued reliability for our customers
- Providing educated staff to answer any questions from our customers

## Maintain current drinking water treatment requirements and do not implement a fluoridation program

- Beyond what is currently being provided by MWD, EMWD has not received any customer requests for fluoridation of its drinking water supply
- A fluoridation system will increase operational costs at a time when the economy is still in recovery
- There is still no clear consensus on the need or acceptance for additional fluoridation of the drinking water system



EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

# Contact Information

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