County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH **www.scceh.com**

Small Water System Forum
Santa Cruz County Drinking Water Program

Large Conference Room, Santa Cruz Community Foundation, 7807 Soquel Dr.

Troy Boone:

Review of Topics to be Covered/Agenda

Introductions

Water System Classifications

Small/Individual (IWS, 1-4 connections: well agreement, permit required for development, no testing requirements)

State Smalls (5-14 connections, minimally regulated: initial development requirements and quarterly bacteriological testing)

Small Public Water Systems (15-199 connections OR 25 or more people for more than 60 days per year)

- -Community Systems
  - -Mutual water companies/neighborhoods
- -Non-Transient Non-Community Systems (NTNCs)
  - -Restaurants, offices, etc.
- -Transient Non-Community (TNCs)
  - -Camps, small restaurants, conference centers, etc.
  - -Quarterly bacteriological testing and initial chemical monitoring required (for select chemical constituents)

Hexavalent Chromium/Chromium-6 (monitoring required for Community systems and NTNC systems only)

- -Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) became effective July 1st, 2014
- -Review of chemical information and health risks (see slides)
  - -Establishment and decrease of MCL from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb
- -Chromium-6 comprises 80-90% of Total Chromium measurements
- -Treatment technology: still developing, no inexpensive options available yet
- -Current primary strategy: resin-based ion exchange
- -If any sample exceeds MCL of 10 parts ppb, quarterly monitoring required
- -California is the only state to establish a Chromium-6 MCL for drinking water (no federal MCL)

-Initial monitoring must be completed within 6 months of the MCL establishment OR by January 1st, 2015
-For groundwater sources, Chromium-6 results may be used if they are not more than 2 years old
-Total chromium results may not be used for initial chromium-6 monitoring
-If initial results are clean, total chromium results may then be used in place of Chromium-6 monitoring as long as the levels remain below the detectable limit reading (DLR) of 10 ppb
-Total chromium monitoring is required with the same frequency as inorganic chemicals (IOCs) (dependent upon source- groundwater, surface water, groundwater under the influence of surface water)
-Public notification is required if Chromium-6 MCL is exceeded
-Chromium-6 primarily occurs in the Aromas formation (South county- approximate boundaries are Freedom Boulevard south through Watsonville)
-Soquel Creek will either treat or abandon their wells in the La Selva Beach area
-No known non-natural sources of Chromium-6 in Santa Cruz County
-Central Water District has sealed part of their well to exclude the layer of concern, which lowered their Chromium-6 levels below the MCL

John Ricker:

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

(see slides)

-Mid-county Groundwater Stakeholder Meetings held by Soquel Creek Water District and closely-related entities
-SGMA provides more authority, responsibility, and tools to sustainably manage groundwater
-Management Plan and Groundwater Sustainability Agency will be products of this legislation for each jurisdictional area
-There is debate over the general approach to sustainability- restoration of groundwater basin to historical benchmarks vs. maintenance of more recent levels
    -Groundwater basin “health” varies widely throughout the state
-Standard for systems to be considered “minimal extractors” is 2 acre/feet per year for each domestic user (most likely only achieved by systems with 4 connections or less)
-Bottom line: the State of California will step in if counties do not step up to the new requirements
    -Currently, Santa Cruz is a leader in this field and has drawn interest from the state as a model for other counties to follow
-Timeline Highlights:
    -2017: Local agency (Groundwater Sustainability Agency/GSA) established
    -2022: Groundwater Sustainability Plan completed
    -2042: Sustainability achieved

-Santa Cruz County Groundwater basin boundaries inconsistent between State and County mapping
-Groundwater models for local basins are still being developed
-Water level measurement in wells: the County is more than willing to take well groundwater measurements as a courtesy service
    -Sounding device used (1/2" port in well head required)
    -Alternate measurement methods available (not provided by county):
        -air tubing combined with a pressure gauge
        -installation of dedicated sounding tube

Continuing Drought

-New regulations put forth by state already implemented by Santa Cruz County
-Status reports continuously requested by State Office of Emergency Services
    -Driving force behind requests to small water systems in the County for data/information on drought impacts
    -No recharge was recorded last year
    -Recharge effects usually observed within the season in which they take place, with some relationship to prior seasons
    -High level of state interest in this issue; requests from the County to systems for information will continue
-Funding has been made available for hauled water from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the state is motivated to disperse these funds
    -Contact Troy (831-454-3069) for more information
-More droughts are likely to occur in the future, even when we eventually emerge from the current situation
-Conservation and Restrictions
    -Excessive runoff- if water is running down the street, this is considered a violation
    -All water systems should implement conservation requirements during a state of drought

Metering
(see slides)

-Beneficial both for individuals and for water systems
-Rough estimate is 1 acre/foot per house in a rural area, but the real figure is most likely closer to 0.2 acre/feet per household (difficult to determine without data)
-Beneficial for alerting operators to the presence of leaks
-Pump outflows, tank inflows are good locations for meters
-Funding: State emergency funding could be used, as metering is an essential conservation measure
-Requirements from SRF: the more detailed and environmentally beneficial your plans are, the more likely approval from SRF will be granted
-County does not require a permit for meter installation

-Required annual self-reporting from small water systems is likely

Troy Boone:

Loans

-Primary Providers: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the State Revolving Fund (SRF)
-Typically only low-income communities can qualify for grants
-Interest funds for loans are currently very low
-There may be some out-of-pocket costs before loan funding is provided
-Proposition 1 (November 2014) funding includes drinking water funds, but the money will become available slowly and only 300 million dollars is available for the next fiscal year
-Troy will pass information along as it becomes available
-Rural Community Assistance (RCAC) Funding Fairs
-California Rural Water Association (CRWA) Water Academy
    -Offers intensive study sessions for water operator exams
    -Focus on drinking water and wastewater

Rate-Setting

-California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC): Generally oversees any change in rates
-Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Assessment (Hosted on SWRCB website: www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/TMF.shtml)

Discussion/Announcements, Troy Boone

-Required Ethics Training for Water Board Members (every 2 years)
    -Succession planning is crucial in anticipation of board and operator turnover
-Alan Brown (Aptos Ridge Mutual Water Company): Will be receiving results from pilot study for chromium-6 treatment within approximately three weeks
-Information on metal tank inspection and repair requested, contact Mike Miller (Villa Del Monte)

Future meetings: Quarterly schedule (tentative)

-Future topics:
    -Revised Total Coliform Rule
    -Discharge permits for raw and treated water