

Small Water Systems Forum Meeting- Second Quarterly

June 9th, 2015

Highlands Park

8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Agenda, Troy Boone

- Drought; Water Conservation Requirements for Small Water Systems
- Proposal for Metering & Reporting
- Annual LPA Meeting Themes – Drought, Water Board, US EPA, Enforcement, & Environmental Justice
- Water Quality – Chromium VI, Revised TCR, NPDES permits, Recycled/Greywater, & WQI website
- Treatment Technologies: Harmsco Filters, Chromium VI, Point of Use Devices, & Aeration for TTHMs
- Assistance and Funding – State TMF, RCAC, CRWA, FFAST, FB Page?, EHS webpage: Fortis & SWS Forum Archives
- **Electronic Annual Reports – 2014 reports are due June 30, 2015**
- Legislation Update: SB 385, Affordable Safe Drinking Water & the CA Human Right To Water
- General discussion

Water Conservation Regulations for Small Water Systems, Sierra Ryan

- 4th year of drought
- Local groundwater levels in decline in certain areas
- Those whose wells run dry and request hauled water are needing to do so earlier in the year
- State Response
 - o Reports 9% reduction of water use so far this year among CA water users (as of April 2015)
 - o Governor's April 1, 2015 Executive Order
 - o Restrictions on individual users, on small water systems, on industrial users, etc. in addition to large water agencies

- Potable water restrictions for all users
 - Specific restrictions on water use
 - e.g. wasteful water use, runoff when irrigating, watering of ornamental turf
- Potable water restrictions for systems w/more than 14 connections
- Either/or option for small water systems (25% water usage reduction or irrigation limited to 2 days per week)
 - June 1, 2015: Restriction went into effect
 - Report required in December (December 15th deadline) from these systems
- Potable water restrictions for Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional
 - Not likely that these systems will need to report to the state *this year*
- What do these restrictions look like?
 - Watering days
 - County encourages users not to water their lawn between 10 AM and 5 PM, limit to 15 minutes
 - Cumulative reduction measured from June 1st, 2015-November 30, 2015
 - State Water Board can issue fines and cease-and-desist orders
- How should we proceed?
 - If there are users consuming much more than they should be, system operators can reach out to us (Santa Cruz County Environmental Health, Sierra Ryan-Resource Planner and water conservation specialist)
- SWRCB Water Conservation Portal
 - Offers an overview of the new laws and restrictions
- www.watersavingtips.org
 - Water Conservation Coalition (City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, major water districts in Santa Cruz, PVWMA, Ecology Action, and others)

Q&A

- Non-potable irrigation well: pumping water from the aquifer falls under the same requirements

Water Metering and Reporting, John Ricker

- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing scheduled June 23rd, 2015
- Why metering and reporting?

- Problem identification is critical
- Meters provide the ability to track and manage water use issues
- Groundwater Management Plans will be developed for most groundwater basins in the county by the Groundwater Management Agency (pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or SGMA)
- "de minimus" users- domestic use less than 2 acre/ft per year, defined as 4 connections or less by the County
- All users with more than 4 connections are governed by the SGMA
 - o Individual metering
 - o Water utility tiered rate structure court decision:
 - Does not prevent the setting of rates based upon usage
 - Agencies must have well-documented justification for their fee structure
- Question: Are individual meter readings reported to state and local governmental agencies?
 - o A: No- this data is for the small water system's use and benefit
- Water usage recorded since 2013 is helpful for the County's assessment of usage reduction
- October 1st, 2017 deadline for individual meter installation
- Ordinance would enter into effect September 2015 (Public Hearing scheduled for June 23rd, adoption proposed for August 4th)
- Question: Redundancy of reporting, DRINC portal
 - o A: The county ordinance does not specify the method of reporting, thus if this data is reported elsewhere that is accessible to the County, that will be sufficient

LPA Meeting Themes, Troy Boone

- Drought
- Water Board
- US EPA
 - o Increased focus on the State Water Board by the EPA
- Enforcement
- Environmental Justice
- SGMA Stakeholder meetings
- Well Sounding offered by the County
- Push for third party agencies to step in and act in the capacity of a system manager for small systems with limited resources to accomplish the goal of providing safe and reliable drinking water
 - o Water Quality
 - Chromium 6- SB 385

- Treatment facility in place for Soquel Creek Water District
 - Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)
 - Becomes effective on April 1, 2016
 - Use of Self-Assessments, County Assessments
- NPDES Permits
 - Most small water systems will be exempt from this, depending upon status of water treatment
 - SDWA (Safe Drinking Water ACT) vs. CWA (Clean Water Act)
 - Recycled water and greywater
 - If your water system is interested in employing greywater or recycled water, talk to Troy and/or Sierra (Sierra is the contact for individual greywater uses)
- WQI Website
 - Accessible through the DRINC portal
 - Data available through zip file
- Treatment Technologies
 - Harmsco Filters
 - Viable, approved alternative to low-cost filters
 - Primarily for surface water treatment
 - Low flow design, ideal for small water systems
- Chrom 6
 - Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) applies to Community and Non-Transient Non-Community systems
 - Blending alternative to treatment (MCL: 10 ppb)
 - Ionex
 - Alan Brown, Aptos Ridge:
 - Small pilot system in place designed by Ionex
 - Co-contaminants affect available treatment options
 - Water runs through system, readings are taken every day for three weeks, saturation of the exchange media is assessed by rising contaminant levels
 - Will have to re-install the system for another three weeks, will provide more insight
 - Nitrate levels affect chromium-6 treatment and removal (Nitrate levels rest at about 50% of the MCL for Aptos Ridge)
 - Once the results are received, they will move forward with any viable treatment options
 - Aptos Ridge is within the Aromas aquifer
 - The State is revisiting Point of Use (POU) treatment as an alternative for smaller systems
 - Operations plan needed, each unit must be accessible by the operator: the system needs to maintain ownership of the unit

- 3 year time limit for use of POU treatment, but approval can be renewed after 3 years
 - Regulations are expired but the statues still apply
- Biological treatment
 - Aeration for TTHM
- Assistance and Funding
 - Technical Assistance and Capacity Development on the State's website
 - Metering is a fundable category, the type of funding available depends upon the system type and population
 - State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Proposition 1 funds are largely loan-based with some possibilities for principal forgiveness
 - FAAST application- consolidated application for multiple state sources of funding
 - RCAC
 - Offers free trainings, numerous other services
 - CRWA
 - Also offers training resources, insurance programs for small utilities
 - EHS Webpage
 - Fortis: database used by the County to retain records, reports, etc. for each small water system
 - Limited Pace of SRF Funding Process
 - One of the most significant reasons for the transition from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Board for jurisdiction of the Drinking Water program
 - Strong push to process funding applications faster, reflected in reduced categories for application review and ranking
- Potential topics for next meeting, **Troy Boone**
 - Further results from Chromium-6 pilot study at Aptos Ridge
 - Metering: further updates, delve into reading methods, types of meters, and other details
 - Water rights, both surface water and ground water
 - Total Coliform Rule primer
 - Current requirements, especially procedural issues when a coliform positive result is recorded
 - Changes in recycled water usage, information
 - Rate setting
 - Send suggestions to us for further topics!!