

## HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2017.08.21

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

Historic Low: 172.20 ft. (As of 2016.10.07)

Historic High: 295.30 ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

Current: 177.20 ft. (As of 2017.08.11; 2.2 ft lower than last month of July, 60.01% vs High (295.30 ft.).

Despite replenished rain during last winter, our water level is still near historic low.

### Related link:

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

## WATER CONSERVATION NEEDED TO PRESERVE LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES

### Water Agencies Seek Citizen Participation in Rebate and Grant Programs

Contact: Florence Lin (626-309-0622); Evelyn Reyes (626-969-7911)

July 24, 2017 – Monterey Park, California: The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District hosted a meeting about local water supplies for Asian media representatives. The timing for the meeting coincides with the onset of typical hot, dry summer weather and increased water usage. Joining the District were the Valley's key water management agency, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, and water utility representatives from the cities of Alhambra and Monterey Park. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the status of water supply conditions in the aftermath of the recent, severe drought, and to emphasize the importance of water conservation by residents and businesses.

About 80% of the water used in the San Gabriel Valley is local groundwater; the remaining 20% is imported from northern California and the Colorado River. While the most recent drought has been declared "over" at the State level due to above average rain and snow this past winter and spring, resulting in improved snowpack and most reservoir levels, local, San Gabriel Valley groundwater supplies have not recovered as well and remain near historic low levels.

Thomas Wong, President, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors, stated, "We need to embrace the value of our water resource and make water conservation a way of life. The next drought may occur at any time and may have already begun. Conservation is extremely important – every gallon we save is a gallon we don't need to import, recycle, desalinate or treat."

Tony Zampello, Executive Officer, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, indicated, "Rainfall and subsequent run-off are critical to Basin replenishment. This, coupled with widespread conservation, make San Gabriel Valley's water supply more resilient."

Richard Gonzales, Utility Maintenance Supervisor, City of Alhambra, stated, "Water conservation is the community's way of taking care of future residents. If we conserve today, there will be a better tomorrow."

To assist in motivating and rewarding water conservation efforts by stakeholders, Director Wong emphasized two District programs that are detailed on the website [www.sgvwd.org](http://www.sgvwd.org). First, the Water District offers stakeholders in Alhambra, Monterey Park and Azusa, financial rebates ranging from

\$100-150 per unit for the purchase of water-saving equipment such as efficient washing machines, “smart” irrigation controllers, high-efficiency toilets, waterless urinals and rain barrels.

Second, on July 1, 2017, the District introduced a new community grant program entitled “Opportunities for Water Leadership” whereby community organizations in Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre, may apply for grants ranging from \$200-2,000 to perform water conservation projects. The “O.W.L.” Grant Program, named after the District’s water conservation mascot, H2Owl, is open to schools, teachers, students, clubs, athletic teams, scouting organizations and other non-profit organizations interested in performing conservation-related service projects. In addition to the District’s website, interested groups may call 626-969-7911 for additional information.

**Related link:**

<http://sgvmwd.org/NewsPage/userid/4/press-release-water-conservation-needed-to-preserve-local-water-supplies>

**Rowland Water District**

2017 Customer Service Week October 2-6, 2017

Rowland Water District will be celebrating Customer Service Week the week of **October 2-6, 2017**. Visit the District office during that week to receive a **FREE** giveaway!

**Related link:**

<https://www.rowlandwater.com/district-newsletter/>

**The Metropolitan Water District of S. Cal**

Contacts: Armando Acuna, (213) 217-6853; (530) 574-3111, mobile

**July 21, 2017**

**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER STATEMENT ON CALIFORNIA WATERFIX NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

“Today, California WaterFix moves yet another step forward. With the recent issuance of two federal biological opinions, California WaterFix is demonstrating its ability to fully comply with environmental laws while striving to provide reliable water supplies for two-thirds of the state. Today’s Notice of Determination reflects full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, one of the state’s premiere laws to protect the environment. Metropolitan appreciates the ongoing efforts and leadership of the Brown administration to advance California WaterFix toward investment decisions by our board and the other participating public water agencies.”

**Related link:**

<http://www.mwdh2o.com/newsroom/Media-Releases/Pages/default.aspx>

**State Water Board Settles More Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Claims Related to Alleged Contractor Negligence**  
**August 2, 2017**

**SACRAMENTO** – The State Water Resources Control Board has settled with three more Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund) claimants about costs billed to the Cleanup Fund for work conducted by their contractor.

These latest agreements stem from a January settlement between the State Water Board and environmental contractor Ami Adini & Associates over allegations of negligence and the submission of false information related to cleaning up petroleum contamination at the claimants' sites. The Cleanup Fund has settled six similar cases with claimants since 2016.

“It is unfortunate when site owners do not receive reimbursements due to their consultants' behavior,” said Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement. “Site owners need to manage their consultants and press them to clean up their contaminated property in the quickest and most cost effective manner. Site owners should be particularly alert when a cleanup seems to be dragging on without achieving site closure.”

The three settlement agreements resolve all pending requests for reimbursement from the Cleanup Fund for the three Los Angeles County sites. In addition, all three claimants agree to waive appeals for any work performed by their contractor – Ami Adini & Associates. The settlements result in a savings of more than \$19,000 to the Cleanup Fund. These agreements do not relieve the claimants' responsibility to clean up their sites.

As part of the January 2017 settlement between Ami Adini & Associates and the State Water Board, Ami Adini & Associates agreed to surrender more than \$1 million in reimbursements it was seeking from the State Water Board's Cleanup Fund and, along with company principals Ami Adini and Elie Balas, agreed to never again perform work for any State Water Board program.

The settlement agreement with Ami Adini & Associates can be viewed on the [Office of Enforcement website](#).

For more information on the State Water Board's efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of fraud against the Cleanup Fund, see the fact sheet.

Suspected fraud against the Cleanup Fund can be reported by email at [reportfraud@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:reportfraud@waterboards.ca.gov), by toll-free message line (1-855-263-0863), or by mailing or faxing a Fraud Reporting Complaint Form to the State Water Board at:  
State Water Board Office of Enforcement P. O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812  
Fax: (916) 341-5896

**State Water Board Approves Removal of Drinking Water Standard for Hexavalent Chromium**  
**Aug. 1, 2017**

**SACRAMENTO** – In accordance with a recent court ruling, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution today to remove the current maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the pollutant hexavalent chromium found in drinking water. The State Water Board will now begin work on establishing a new MCL for the contaminant.

On May 31 the Superior Court of Sacramento County invalidated the MCL for hexavalent chromium, saying the state “failed to properly consider the economic feasibility of complying with the MCL.” The court did “not decide whether the MCL is economically feasible,” nor did it conclude whether the MCL was too high or too low. Rather, the court said the regulation did not adequately document why the MCL was economically feasible.

Hexavalent chromium, also known as chrome 6, is a naturally occurring heavy metal that is also used in a variety of industrial processes. Long-term exposure to the metal may cause cancer.

California became the first state in the nation to issue a drinking water standard for chrome 6 when it set the MCL at 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2014. The regulation was crafted when the Division of Drinking Water was under the authority of the California Department of Public Health. The Division was transferred to the State Water Board in July 2014.

While the Board disagrees with the court's decision, it has decided not to appeal and instead will begin the process for adopting a new MCL as soon as possible. The Board will use the wealth of data collected over the last three years since the standard was adopted to help craft a new MCL. Generally, regulation development takes between 18 and 24 months to complete.

With adoption of the resolution, staff will now begin the process of having the text of the current MCL deleted from the California Code of Regulations. The State Water Board must let the court know this has been done by Aug. 15. After the Office of Administrative Law approves the proposal to remove the text, it will be effective in late September.

Since the current MCL will be removed, the State Water Board will no longer enforce compliance plans that public water systems entered into for hexavalent chromium.

However, the state MCL for total chromium of 50 ppb will remain in place. Total chromium measures both trivalent and hexavalent chromium in water together and does not indicate how much of either type exists. Trivalent chromium is not considered toxic and is an essential nutrient in trace amounts. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MCL for total chromium is 100 ppb.

Chrome 6 remains a threat to public health as it is still present in the water supply of many public water systems. Because of this, the Board will establish a new MCL for Chrome 6 as close as possible to the public health goal set by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The new standard could be at the same level as the now invalid one.

Public water systems that planned and, in some cases, completed projects to install treatment may be able to use that information and experience in any work necessary to comply with the new MCL when it is adopted. Public water systems that have already installed and are operating treatment systems are encouraged to continue to operate these facilities.

## **SoCalGas, L.A. Fire Department Unveil Giant Shovel on National 8-1-1 Day to Raise Public Awareness of the Importance of Having Utilities Marked Before Digging**

Thirty-foot-high shovel, one of the largest in the nation, brings attention to importance of calling 811 to have utility lines marked before any digging project, with aim of increasing public safety

**Aug 11, 2017**

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 11, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- In recognition of National 8-1-1 Day, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and Los Angeles Fire Department officials today unveiled a giant 30-foot tall shovel to remind the public about the dangers of hitting utility lines when digging, and to increase awareness of the need to call 811 to have utility lines marked before any home or commercial digging project. Photos of the event are available here.

"About 60 percent of pipeline damage due to digging is caused by homeowners or contractors who do not call 811 before they dig," said Jimmie Cho, SoCalGas senior vice president of gas operations and system integrity. "They have no idea where buried pipelines may be, and that's not safe. By contrast, when people do call 811, there is a 99.9 percent chance no damage will occur to a buried pipeline or other utility—which means most of these accidental dig-ins are preventable."

"We want to bring attention to this to increase public safety," said Trevor M. Richmond, Deputy Chief, Bureau Commander, LAFD Operations Valley Bureau. "Pipelines can be located anywhere—under streets, sidewalks and private property. And hitting one while digging, planting or doing demolition work can not only cause property damage and loss of utility service, it can cause serious injury."

"Calling 811 is a quick and easy way to ensure that any digging project is safe, protecting home owners, construction workers and property," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. "The recent explosion in Woodland Hills is a prime example of the importance of calling 811 because with gas, you never can be too safe."

811 is the national phone number designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that connects professionals and homeowners who plan to dig with a local call center. The call center collects information about the planned dig site then communicates with the appropriate utility companies, which send professional utility locating technicians to identify and mark the approximate location of lines.

Raising public awareness of the importance of calling 811 before digging is especially timely in the wake of a recent incident involving a Woodland Hills couple who lost their home due to an explosion and fire, after a contractor hired to do plumbing repairs on their property damaged a gas line. By following policy and procedures, two SoCalGas employees helped to ensure no one was injured in the incident.

There were more than 3,000 cases of accidental damage from digging to natural gas lines in SoCalGas' service territory last year.

SoCalGas' giant shovel will continue to be displayed for several months in various locations around the company's service territory to bring ongoing attention to the importance of pipeline safety.

**Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137332>

by *Ted Chang*

HHIA Board Member, Utility