



News from EMWD

Community Involvement Department
951/928-3777, ext. 4226
FAX 951/928-6171

Comminvolve@emwd.org

P.O. Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300

For Immediate Release

Setting the record straight on perchlorate

Perris, CA (November 22, 2004)— With recent concerns about the amount of perchlorate in Southern California drinking water supplies, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) offers the following information:

Perchlorate is an oxygen-rich salt known in high concentrations to affect the thyroid gland. Perchlorate is used in rocket fuel, munitions, fireworks and explosives. It is also a component of air bag inflators, an additive in lubricating oils, tanning and finishing leather, fabrics and dyes, electroplating, aluminum refining, fertilizers and in production of paints and enamels.

Over the past decade, perchlorate has been found in some California water supplies.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has revised a draft action level for perchlorate of 6 parts per billion (ppb), or 6 micrograms per liter. One ppb is roughly equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

EMWD has monitored for perchlorate since 1999. EMWD has three water wells that contain perchlorate. All three of these wells are blended with State Project water from the Metropolitan Water District Mills Filtration Plant until the perchlorate level is below the detection limit of 4 ppb. All blending is done at each of the well sites and

before the first customer service. At no time has EMWD served unblended well water containing perchlorate to customers.

SOURCE	AVERAGE	AFTER BLENDING WITH MILLS WATER
	(parts per billion)	(IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM)
WELL 44	5.2	<4
WELL 49	11.3	<4
WELL 57	5.8	<4

These wells represent approximately 1.7 % of the total water served by EMWD.

For the more information on EMWD water quality, call (951) 928-3777, ext. 6337 or visit www.emwd.org for a copy of EMWD's latest Consumer Confidence Report.

#

EMWD serves a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley to Temecula, and from Hemet and San Jacinto to Good Hope and Mead Valley. Approximately 530,000 people live and work in this area. In addition to its own water customers, EMWD supplements water to eight local water agencies and municipalities that have their own water departments. EMWD operates four water reclamation facilities and treats some 39 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.