



News from EMWD

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For Immediate Release

Eastern Municipal Water District to switch to chloramine treatment in Hemet/San Jacinto area

Perris, CA (June 15, 2006)— Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) Hemet Water Filtration Plant will begin operating this summer. This plant will help accommodate growth in the San Jacinto valley by treating 10 million gallons of drinking water per day to meet the needs of this rapidly developing community.

As a result of the new plant operation, beginning as early as June 24, some customers in the Hemet/San Jacinto area will receive water treated with chloramine (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) rather than free chlorine as in previous years.

The switch from free chlorine to chloramine will occur because groundwater supplies in the area will now be supplemented with surface water from the State Water Project from northern California. The ammonia in chloramine reduces formation of disinfection by-products in treated surface water introduced by organic material (mostly plant decay).

Some customers may notice slight differences in the taste and smell of their water, however, the switch to chloramine will be seamless for most residents. The following customers will be affected by chloramination and are advised to do the following:

- Urologists and individuals who are on dialysis need to check for ammonia in the water as it could have adverse effects on the dialysis procedure.

- Fish owners and pet stores should chemically remove chloramines from water to prevent harming fish.
- Swimming pool maintenance professionals should be aware of changes in water quality such as hardness and alkalinity. Pool owners should check with a pool maintenance professional to adjust chemical treatment procedures accordingly.

Questions about chloramination should be directed to Amy Mora, EMWD

Environmental Compliance Analyst at (951) 928-3777, ext. 6337.

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EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. Approximately 630,000 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 43 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.