

# Drinking Water Fluoridation Begins October 2007

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) purchases about 75 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD will soon begin to adjust the natural fluoride level in the water by adding fluoride to a level considered “optimal” by health experts to reduce and control tooth decay.

## BACKGROUND

MWD’s board first took a serious look at fluoridation in 1995 when Governor Pete Wilson signed a new state law conditionally requiring fluoridation of any public water supply with at least 10,000 customers. Because the law did not provide funding for utilities, many water agencies found the cost of fluoridating prohibitive.

Although MWD was exempt from conditions of the law, local public health officials pressed hard for large-scale fluoridation at MWD’s treatment plants, and in February 2003, MWD’s board adopted a policy to add fluoride. In September 2003, the California Dental Association Foundation, in conjunction with the California Fluoridation 2010 Work Group,

provided MWD with \$5.5 million in grant monies to design and construct fluoridation facilities. MWD will begin fluoridating in October 2007.

## FLUORIDATION OF EMWD’S WATER

For water quality consistency, EMWD will ensure that drinking water from all sources contains this level of fluoride, following recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Dental Association. Natural fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum level of 2.0 parts per million (ppm). We will remain below the regulation limit and add only enough fluoride to the water to reach the optimal range of 0.7 to 0.8 ppm.

## FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTS

Health care providers have been advised to suspend administration of fluoride supplements to their patients for one year. For additional information about fluoride supplements, contact your dentist or doctor.

## FLUORIDE CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

### Amy Mora

Senior Environmental  
Compliance Analyst, EMWD  
moraa@emwd.org  
(951) 928-3777, ext. 6355

### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1 (800) 311-3435  
[www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/  
index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.htm)

### American Dental Association

[www.ada.org/public/topics/  
fluoride/index.asp](http://www.ada.org/public/topics/<br/>fluoride/index.asp)

### American Water Works Association

[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

### California Department of Public Health

[www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

### Eastern Municipal Water District

[www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)

### The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

