

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

JULY 5, 2001 – Water Resources Committee

JULY 16, 2001 – Board Meeting

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Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

## INFORMATION ITEM

WATER QUALITY UPDATE  
ARSENIC RULESUMMARY:

Arsenic is a naturally-occurring element found in soil, rocks, and water resulting from natural activities such as volcanic action, erosion, and forest fires. It is also associated with human activities such as mining. In general, arsenic is found in higher levels in groundwater than in other sources. Concentrations at or above levels of concern are more commonly found in the Western United States. The current arsenic Drinking Water Standard or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 50 parts per billion (ppb) was enacted in 1975, and was based on a federal Public Health Service standard set in 1942. The 1996 federal Safe Drinking Water Act reauthorization mandated revision of the arsenic MCL by January 2001. The EPA proposed a new MCL of 5 ppb in June 2000, and also accepted comments on MCLs of 3 ppb, 10 ppb, and 20 ppb. The final rule, mandating a 10 ppb MCL, was signed into law in January 2001, with full compliance by drinking water systems set for 2006.

Congress subsequently approved a six-month extension to June 2001 for rule finalization. The new rule was withdrawn in March and is undergoing independent review and additional public comment requested by the EPA for possible modification of the 10 ppb standard. In addition, the EPA has engaged the National Academy of Sciences to review existing and new epidemiological studies and new genotoxicity information in arsenic. A report is expected to be published in August. EPA has also assembled a 17 member panel to review the arsenic treatment cost data. Their work will be completed by this fall. Promulgation of the final rule will occur by February 22, 2002, with a compliance date of 2006.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Public water systems must deliver water that complies with the new MCL. Cost of compliance will be variable based on a system's need to install treatment facilities, the treatment technology selected, potential land acquisition for treatment facilities, and costs of processing treatment by-products.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Compliance with the adopted federal MCL will be mandated for all public water systems. It is currently unknown if California will adopt the federal MCL, or designate a lower MCL based on issuance of a Public Health Goal (PHG) level in the future. There is currently no PHG for arsenic, nor is there a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), the federal equivalent of a PHG. Both PHGs and MCLGs are levels of a contaminant based only on public health; and excludes treatment and analytical feasibility, or cost of compliance considerations.

No impact is anticipated for either West Basin agencies or for imported surface water supplies as these sources are historically below any arsenic MCL that was under consideration in the proposed Rule. Exhibit "A" lists West Basin agencies historic arsenic levels.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on July 5, 2001 and agendized to the July 16, 2001 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Well Sampling Arsenic Data

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I:\direct\wbmwd\WB Arsenic

## EXHIBIT "A"

### WEST BASIN ARSENIC DATA 1997-2000

WEST BASIN PURVEYOR	STATE WELL #	SAMPLE DATE	ARSENIC (µg/l)
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY	03S/14W-29H01	10/27/98	ND
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY	03S/14W-29J01	03/26/97	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	03S/13W-35F01	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	03S/13W-35P01	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	03S/13W-35Q05	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	03S/13W-35Q06	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-11P02	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-15A11	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-15B05	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-15F01	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-17D02	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-20C01	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/13W-29E06	04/03/98	ND
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/14W-10D03	04/28/97	6.1
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	04S/14W-10D04	04/28/97	7
DOMINGUEZ WATER CORP.	1910033-021	04/03/98	ND
INGLEWOOD, CITY OF	03S/14W-10G03	06/21/99	ND
INGLEWOOD, CITY OF	03S/14W-10G04	08/04/00	ND
INGLEWOOD, CITY OF	03S/14W-10S02	08/05/98	ND
MANHATTAN BEACH, CITY OF	03S/14W-29C03	09/20/00	ND
MANHATTAN BEACH, CITY OF		02/29/00	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	02S/14W-05D08	01/08/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	02S/15W-11C09	01/08/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-03K01	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-03K02	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-13B02	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-13J03	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-13J04	04/10/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-14D01	06/05/97	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-15B03	10/28/97	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-15P01	01/14/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-15P02	04/28/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-21M01	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-22K01	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-22L01	06/05/97	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14-W22Q01	04/10/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	03S/14W-25P04	02/13/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	1910155-039	09/23/98	ND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY	1910155-040	10/28/98	ND
TORRANCE, CITY OF	03S/14W-34C02	06/03/99	ND
TORRANCE, CITY OF	04S/14W-10K02	07/14/97	ND
TORRANCE, CITY OF	04S/14W-10K03	07/14/97	ND
TORRANCE, CITY OF	04S/14W-11K02	06/02/00	ND

ND - Arsenic not detected at the reporting limit of 2 ppb