

To: Board of Directors  
From: Norma J. Camacho, Interim CEO

## Chief Executive Officer Bulletin

Week of March 3 – March 9, 2017

*The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.*

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### **Youth Career Engagement Tour - Association of Black Employees Black History Month Commemoration**

On Thursday, February 23, 2017, the water district hosted a tour for students from the Greene Scholars Program and the water district's Youth Stewardship Commission.

The Greene Scholars Program promotes Science Technology Engineering Math careers among African American youth and assists youth with successfully completing higher education in Science Technology Engineering Math. The Youth Stewardship Commission provides high school students from our county with a unique opportunity to explore water industry careers and learn about current water issues from an inside perspective.

Several water district employee workgroups collaborated to help make the day a great success for these students. Students visited the Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant, Water Quality Lab, Alamitos outdoor classroom, and ended their day with the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center.

The students were engaged and are now knowledgeable about where their water comes from, water quality, groundwater, water treatment, purified water, and careers in the water industry.

Photos from the tour are located at the following link: <https://fta.valleywater.org/fl/9JDFbW006A>

For further information, please contact Chris Elias at (408) 630-2379.

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### **Director Keegan**

**After storm season is over, staff to review our rule curve in terms of discharge to see if they still serve us well.**

**R-17-0003**

A review of the rule curves will begin when the storm season is over and a response will be provided by May 31, 2017.

For further information, please contact Garth Hall at (408) 630-2750.

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### **Director Hsueh**

**Look at how our Flood Protection projects performed during recent storms to protect properties. If a project hasn't been completed, investigate what impact the storms had on the community.**

**R-17-0004**

Additional time is required to complete a thorough review of projects and properties. It is expected that this will be completed and a response provided no later than March 30, 2017.

For further information, please contact Ngoc Nguyen at (408) 630-2632.

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**Director Estremera**

**Staff to prepare a response to Ms. Goetze's handout and questions on Fluoride presented during public comments at the February 14, Board meeting ([See X:\Conformed Board Agenda Items\2017 Board Meetings\021417 Mtg\ Handout 2.6-A](#))**

**R-17-0005**

Ms. Goetze's handout at the February 14, 2017, Board meeting consists mostly of statements about "Why are Chinese products born to be bad?". It was determined that there were two questions embedded among the statements.

*Question 1: Is it true your fluoride now is from China?*

Answer: In April 2016, Ms. Goetze inquired about whether the fluoride additive would be a product manufactured in China. At the time, the water district had not selected a supplier through its competitive process and responded that although the country of origin could not be confirmed, the water district's quality assurance includes ensuring that the chemicals used in the water district's treatment processes, also referred to as treatment additives, are safe. All chemicals used in the water treatment process, including the fluoride additive, fluorosilicic acid, must meet standards established by the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF). NSF is a non-profit non-governmental organization that develops product standards and tests and certifies products and individual manufacturing facilities globally to ensure compliance with their standards.

For drinking water treatment additives, the standard requirements are established using health-effects criteria. For this reason, the state of California requires that all water treatment chemicals be certified for compliance with NSF/ANSI Standard 60 (NSF 60). More information about the certification process can be found at <http://www.nsf.org/services/by-industry/water-wastewater/water-treatment-chemicals/nsf-ansi-standard-60>.

It was also determined that "What chemical will SCVWD be using to fluoridate its supplies?" to be a question that could be of interest to members of the public. This question and the answer to the question have been posted on the water district's Fluoridation webpage since 2013 (Question #9). The answer states in part that fluorosilicic acid is the most commonly used fluoride additive by large water systems and is approved for use by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking water, and that the selected fluorosilicic acid will be a NSF 60 certified product.

The water district now has a fluorosilicic acid supplier, Brenntag Pacific, who responded to water district staff that the fluorosilicic acid they supply is manufactured in the United States.

*Question 2: "Which of these 4 steps tests the fluoride before you put it in water? Do you only test afterwards.? All drugs tell consumers its risks. Why won't you?"*

Answer: The handout did not have any specifics about what Ms. Goetze meant by 4 steps of testing. However, because water district staff had received numerous questions and statements from Ms. Goetze over the years, staff believes these questions were about the safety of fluorosilicic acid and the testing that the water district would undertake to ensure the quality of the fluorosilicic acid and our drinking water with the addition of fluorosilicic acid.

Testing to ensure the quality of fluorosilicic acid used by the water district in the water treatment

process has been addressed above. As for the quality of drinking water with the addition of fluorosilicic acid, the water district ensures the safety of drinking water through rigorous testing. Monthly and annual water quality reports that the water district submits to the drinking water regulator, the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water, are available on the water district's website at:

<http://www.valleywater.org/services/WaterQualityReports.aspx>.

Drinking water test results, since implementation of fluoridation for eastern Santa Clara County in December 2016, indicate that arsenic and lead levels remain analytically non-detectable.

The water district's corrosion control program continues to be effective with the addition of a corrosion inhibitor and pH adjustment to prevent pipes and plumbing systems from corroding and leaching lead (or copper) into the drinking water.

The water district has created and maintained a fluoridation webpage since 2009: <http://www.valleywater.org/EkContent.aspx?id=1868&terms=fluoridation>

The fluoridation webpage was last updated in September 2016 and includes:

- Responses to 19 frequently asked questions about community water fluoridation.
- A fact sheet on fluoridation in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.
- Links to the American Dental Association and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two national health service organizations with information on fluoride and fluoridation.
- Santa Clara County specific fluoridation information from the Santa Clara County Health Officer and retailers.
- Additional helpful sources of information about community water fluoridation.

For further information, please contact Angela Cheung at (408) 630-2735.

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