

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 5521

**DATE:** October 5, 2004

**TO:** Project Agreement 10 Committee

**SUBJECT:** Perchlorate Impacts Investigation

**PREPARED BY:** Mark Norton, Water Resources and Planning Manager

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Project Agreement 10 Committee recommends that the Commission receive and file this status report regarding the ongoing SAWPA Perchlorate Impacts Investigation.

### DISCUSSION

On September 7, 2004, SAWPA staff presented preliminary results of the perchlorate investigation to the SAWPA Project Agreement 10 Committee. At the meeting, staff was tasked to gather additional data in regard to the anticipated costs to agencies including those with identified responsible parties, (see Attachment No. 1). Staff contacted agencies with identified PRP's; however, staff was not able to obtain this information due to issues of confidentiality.

SAWPA staff has completed their effort to gather information from watershed agencies impacted by perchlorate. Results of the completed perchlorate investigation (based upon data received from approximately three-fourths of the agencies contacted, see Attachment No. 2) show the following:

- One-hundred and seventy-one impacted wells;
- Typical contamination ranged from ND to 20 ppb, with a maximum of 800 ppb;
- Over 378,000 AFY of production impacted by perchlorate;
- Twenty-seven wells taken out of service; and
- Approximately 69,000 AFY of lost well production.

Existing treatment includes:

- Eight agencies blending contaminated water;
- Three agencies requiring additional purchases of imported water;
- Twenty-nine existing wellhead treatment facilities; and
- Capital costs estimated at \$26 million and annual O&M of nearly \$10 million (including an estimate of responsible party funding).

Treatment needs includes:

- Limited opportunities for blending contaminated water;
- Limited additional purchases of imported water;
- Twenty-eight additional wellhead treatment facilities; and
- Additional capital costs are estimated at \$55 million and annual O&M of \$10 million.

In addition, SAWPA staff is continuing efforts to seek State funding options for perchlorate related issues in the watershed.

### **Background**

Previous efforts and meetings are detailed below:

- On February 3, 2004, the Technical Committee of General Managers directed SAWPA staff to contact the SAWPA member agencies and other concerned parties to evaluate the perchlorate contamination problem impacting water resources in the Santa Ana Watershed. Based on information collected from the SAWPA member agencies and other impacted agencies, SAWPA staff prepared the Perchlorate Summary Report and presented the report to the Technical Committee of General Managers.
- On April 13, 2004, SAWPA Commission directed staff to contact member agencies and member sub-agencies to determine if there was sufficient interest for SAWPA to hold a regional meeting to discuss issues relating to perchlorate in the watershed.
- On May 25, 2004, SAWPA held its first “SAWPA Perchlorate Impacts Meeting”. Issues discussed at the meeting included:
  - A regional approach to addressing the perchlorate problem including the formation of a SAWPA Task Force;
  - Funding opportunities;
  - Perchlorate impacts to individual agencies;
  - Support of research efforts for a scientifically defensible MCL for perchlorate; and
  - Perchlorate source tracking and plume modeling projections.
- On June 22, 2004, SAWPA held its second Perchlorate Impacts meeting. The meeting participants recommended that SAWPA staff delay the formation of a Perchlorate Task Force and meet with the agencies affected by perchlorate to better define the overall impacts of perchlorate and determine the funding needs of agencies to address the perchlorate problem. If SAWPA is successful in obtaining outside funding, then forming a Perchlorate Task Force can be reconsidered at that time.
- On July 6, 2004, SAWPA Commission directed staff to contact member agencies and member sub-agencies to gather additional data to develop a regional picture of the overall impact to watershed resources, as well as, assess the economic impacts and needs for perchlorate cleanup in the watershed. Staff followed up by preparing an e-mail survey and scheduling meetings or teleconferences with agencies to discuss their individual issues, problems, needs and plans for perchlorate remediation and funding. The agency interview process is nearly complete; however the collection of survey data is ongoing.

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**RESOURCE IMPACTS**

None.

MN:pb

Attachments:

1. Perchlorate Remediation Costs
2. Perchlorate Investigation Data

CM#5521 Perchlorate Survey Update 10-05-04