

Coachella Valley Water District Chromium-6 Update



Volume 2

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM CVWD ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Compliance Update

The Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors has determined that groundwater treatment is the best solution to meet California's new chromium-6 drinking water standard. Groundwater treatment was selected over treating Colorado River water after thorough research, cost analysis and consultation with experts.

Within the next few years, 30 of the district's 96 wells will be equipped with ion-exchange treatment technology to remove chromium-6, a naturally occurring mineral. A centralized facility will also be built to help reduce the ongoing cost of the treatment process, and may be used by other Coachella Valley water agencies as a regional resource.

Even though the Board of Directors selected the lowest cost compliance option, district staff estimates that average customer bills will increase by about \$30-\$50 per month, just to comply with this new standard.

New Compliance Period, Pending Legislation

Earlier this year, Senator Ben Hueso introduced SB 385 – a bill that would allow for a five-year compliance period as agencies work towards building the facilities needed to treat chromium-6. CVWD supports this legislation, as it will help keep compliance costs as low as possible without delaying compliance, or changing the standard in any way. If you're interested in showing your support – our template letter is available online.

CVWD is committed to meeting all state and federal drinking water regulations, and to communicating openly and transparently with our customers and community partners. Please feel free to share your input and learn more by visiting www.cvwd.org/cr6.

Chromium-6 is being regulated for potential health impacts resulting from many years of consumption at high levels. There is no immediate health risk. Tap water can still be used for drinking, cooking, and all other needs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why was wellhead ion-exchange chosen for treatment?

Wellhead ion-exchange treatment, a state-approved technology, was selected as the best option for compliance because it is the lowest in cost and has the least operational complexity.

How will complying with this regulation impact my bill?

Compliance with the new chromium-6 standard could increase CVWD's domestic water bills by about \$30-\$50 per month. Rate increases will be phased in incrementally and will be available for public input before the board makes a decision.

What is CVWD doing to keep costs down?

The district is implementing creative compliance solutions and is seeking grant and low-interest loan funding to help keep costs as low as possible.



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