

1,4-Dioxane Update

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At the August 8, 2016 Board meeting, General Manager Joseph Olsen presented information about the chemical 1,4-dioxane to the Board of Directors. We wanted to provide the same information to customers and let you know the proactive steps the District is taking to keep your water safe.

What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-dioxane is a solvent stabilizer used in dyes, paint strippers, detergents, and many other consumer products. It has been found in 20% of public drinking water utilities, degrades little in the environment, and moves rapidly in groundwater.

How is 1,4-dioxane regulated?

No federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water has been established for 1,4-dioxane and it is presently not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). USEPA does presently list a risk assessment of 0.35 parts per billion (ppb). To put things into perspective, 1.0ppb is equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool. USEPA risk assessments are not enforceable standards but may influence future drinking water quality regulations. States have widely varying standards with regards to 1,4-dioxane. California has a drinking water standard of 1ppb (3 times the USEPA risk assessment) and Arizona has a groundwater cleanup standard of 6.1ppb for 1,4-dioxane. As such, present State standards throughout the country are not uniform and vary widely depending on where you live.

Can 1,4-dioxane be treated?

The simplest and most cost effective way to treat water for 1,4-dioxane is blending with other sources of water to reduce the concentration of 1,4-dioxane below a given standard. Other treatment options are available to remove 1,4-dioxane, such as the advanced oxidation process using ozone and ultraviolet light, but require the construction of extensive infrastructure that is expensive to both construct and operate.

Is 1,4-dioxane present in the District's drinking water?

Yes, 1,4-dioxane is present at the South Shannon Groundwater Treatment Facility. The South Shannon Groundwater Treatment Facility is at the northern portion of a State managed groundwater cleanup site. The site is called the Shannon Road/El Camino Del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site, and is funded and managed by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The District operates the South Shannon Groundwater Treatment Facility, which was funded and constructed by ADEQ to remove various industrial solvents from the groundwater. As 1,4-dioxane is a stabilizer used with such solvents, the presence of 1,4-dioxane at this site makes sense. Higher concentrations of

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(continued from page 1) 1,4-Dioxane Update

1,4-dioxane have been found by ADEQ south of Rillito Creek in the WQARF site. The treatment process at South Shannon does not remove 1,4-dioxane but treated water is blended with other nearby sources to below any standard or risk assessment level for 1,4-dioxane.

Recently 1,4-dioxane has been found at the Horizon Hills wellsite, which is 1.75 miles northwest of the South Shannon Groundwater Treatment Facility, at a concentration of less than 1ppb. The source of the Horizon Hills 1,4-dioxane is presently unknown but District staff are working with ADEQ to determine the source.

What has the District done to keep the water safe?

- Although not required by State or Federal drinking water regulatory agencies, the Horizon Hills well was shut down on May 17, 2016 out of the abundance of caution.
- Sampling for 1,4-dioxane has been increased in nearby wells and water quality data from other nearby water providers is being compiled to ensure visibility of any changing concentration levels.
- The District is supporting ADEQ to conduct a source study to determine where the 1,4-dioxane at the Horizon Hills well site originated.
- Infrastructure modifications are being made at Horizon Hills to allow blending with water from a nearby well to bring levels below the USEPA Risk Assessment of 0.35ppb.
- The District will continue monitoring developments on State and Federal regulations on 1,4-dioxane and other emerging contaminants of concern.

Even though 1,4-dioxane is not regulated, we are taking all of these proactive measures to ensure there can be no question that the District delivers safe and reliable drinking water to our customers. Should you have any questions regarding 1,4-dioxane or other water quality inquiries, please feel free to contact us at 520-575-8100. ♠



After the Hub 5 well pump failed at the end of June, a pull and replace was completed by Smyth Industries, Inc. to ensure continued service.





Conservation Rebates

up to **\$200**

for rainwater and graywater harvesting systems



Read more about water conservation at www.metrowater.com

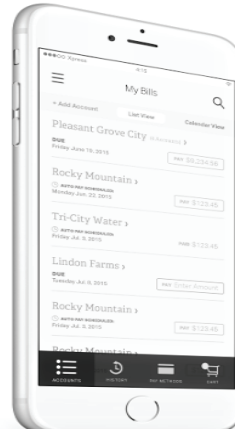


\$50

for replacement of inefficient toilets



Boy Scout Pack 256 attended Metro Water's May Information Meeting to fulfill part of a merit badge requirement to attend a public meeting. They had the opportunity to meet with Joseph Olsen, General Manager, before the meeting.



Xpress Bill Pay app is available to pay your water bills from your iPhone/iPad.

The FREE mobile app is now available for download from the Apple App Store.

For more information:
visit www.xpressbillpay.com
call 1-800-766-2350
e-mail support@xpressbillpay.com



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**Metro Water
 offices will be
 closed on:**

**Monday October 10, 2016
 Columbus Day**

**Friday, November 11, 2016
 Veteran's Day**

**Thursday, November 24, 2016
 Thanksgiving Day**

**Friday, November 25, 2016
 Thanksgiving Friday**



Office Hours:
 Monday - Thursday
 7:30 - 5:30
 Friday 7:30 - Noon



Board of Directors:

Judy Scrivener, Chair
 Bryan Foulk, Vice Chair
 Jim Doyle, Member
 Helen Ireland, Member
 Dan M. Offret, Member

Board Meetings:

Wednesday, October 12
 Monday, November 14
 Monday, December 12

Board meetings
 are held at
 6265 N. La Cañada Drive
 and typically start
 at 6:00 p.m.

*Board meetings are typically held
 the second Monday of each month.
 If it falls on a holiday, the meeting
 is pushed to Wednesday.

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