



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2005

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Taking Care of You & Your Water

To ensure the continued safety of our drinking water supply, the Water Department is temporarily changing the way we disinfect our water system. From December 22, 2005 – January 19, 2006, we will change our disinfectant at the City's treatment plants from chloramines to chlorine. Chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, are generally used to disinfect water. It is a common practice for water systems using chloramines to periodically switch to chlorine, as a way to maintain water quality.

During this change to chlorine, San Diegans may notice a slight difference in the taste or smell of their tap water. While the taste and smell of chlorine may be more noticeable, it remains safe to drink and continues to meet State and Federal standards. To minimize the taste and smell, keep an open pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking. Cold water tastes better and the chlorine taste and odor will naturally dissipate as it sits in the pitcher.

As with all drinking water, people with special medical needs (such as immune deficiencies, organ transplant, chemotherapy patients, and pregnant women) may want to consult their doctors to determine if any precautions need to be taken. Dialysis patients, fish owners (with fish aquariums or ponds), and local pet and aquarium supply stores, may need to make adjustments during this period to remove chlorine. In addition to this public notice, the Water Department has issued notices to local dialysis treatment centers to advise them of this change in disinfection.

For more information, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water. If you have any questions regarding the quality of water we deliver, please contact the Water Quality Lab at (619) 668-3232.

The Water Department maintains the water system that serves San Diego, and provides treated water service to the City of Del Mar, and wholesale water service to the California-American Water Company delivering water to Coronado, Imperial Beach, and portions of southern San Diego. This includes the treatment and delivery of more than 200 million gallons of water per day that is transported through more than 3,000 miles of pipelines. For more information about the Water Department's programs and services, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call (619) 515-3500 for general information.

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