

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

January 2009
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Rufus B. Howell, Deputy Director
Center for Environmental Health
California Department of Public Health



What's New?

- Staffing changes

Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management Chief - Gary H. Yamamoto, P.E.

- Division of Food, Drug and Radiation Safety Chief – Robert Schlag, M.Sc.



DIVISION OF FOOD, DRUG AND RADIATION SAFETY

MAJOR PROGRAMS

- FOOD AND DRUG BRANCH
- FOOD AND DRUG LABORATORY BRANCH
- RADIOLOGIC HEALTH BRANCH



DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Major Programs

- Environmental Management Branch
- Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Branch
- Sanitation and Radiation Laboratory Branch
- Drinking Water Field Operations Branch – North
- Drinking Water Field Operations Branch – South
- Drinking Water Technical Operations Branch



DRINKING WATER

- Focus on ensuring the safety of drinking water through the regulation of public water systems.
- Other activities (just a few are listed here):
 - Permitting of new sources, systems, treatment
 - Inspection of public water systems
 - Compliance determination and enforcement
 - Compilation and review of water quality data
 - Developing and adopting new regulations
 - Operator certification
 - Treatment technology review
 - Review of recycled water projects



Other Activities of the Drinking Water Program

- **Small water system technical assistance**
- **Working with other agencies**
 - Delegation from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Delegation to 35 counties for small system regulation
 - Working with other state agencies on water issues
- **Working with stakeholders**
- **Certify water treatment devices for health claims**
- **Water system security**
- **Emergency response**
- **Fluoridation task force**



Recently Adopted Contaminant Regulations

- **Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**
- **10 parts-per-billion (ppb)**
- **Perchlorate MCL**
- **6 ppb**

CDPH Funding Programs

- We now have funding from several different sources:
 - **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)**
 - **Proposition 50**
 - **Proposition 84**
 - **Proposed Federal Stimulus Funding**



Priorities for the Drinking Water Program

- **Improve access to water systems to CDPH funding programs**
- **Encourage collaboration and communication between water systems and CDPH**
- **Assist public water systems in achieving and maintaining compliance with regulations**
- **Work with the industry, other agencies, and stakeholders to ensure the safety of drinking water**



STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

- **Increase the proportion of persons served by community water systems who receive a supply of drinking water that meets the Safe Drinking Water Act.**
- **Community water system means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 year long residents of the area served by the system.**



IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

- CDPH chose to implement this objective to improve water quality by tracking its success in achieving water system compliance with the chemical contaminant arsenic.
- CDPH assumed enforcement responsibility for the arsenic contaminant on November 28, 2008.
- There are 3,256 community water systems that must comply with the arsenic MCL of 10 ppb.
- CDPH has identified 177 water systems that are currently in violation of the arsenic standard.



IMPLEMENT ARSENIC MCL

- **Goal: 99% of Californians will have drinking water that complies with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic**
- **Objective: Implement arsenic MCL regulations**
- **Data Resource(s) to Track Progress toward Objective: PICME, WQI initially, SWDIS later**
- **Strategy: Identify violators, take enforcement action if necessary, facilitate Public Water Systems' access to State funding**



ARSENIC MCL ACTION PLAN DESCRIPTION

Activity	Staff Required	Start Date	End Date	Staff Time	Funding Support Needed
Letter to PWS summarizing the regulation. Includes summary of requirements & answers to frequently asked questions	Regulation Development Unit	1/2/09	2/1/09	20	Minor
Identify water systems in violation of MCL or monitoring requirements	CDPH Districts & County LPAs	1/2/09	1/16/09	20	None

ARSENIC MCL ACTION PLAN DESCRIPTION

What is Activity	Who is Required	Start Date	End Date	Staff Time	Financial Resources Needed
Issue citations or compliance orders. These enforcement actions require submittal of a plan to achieve compliance, or impose deadlines for compliance	CDPH Districts and County LPAs	2/1/09	4/1/09	100	Minor
Provide interpretations for arsenic regulations	CDPH Regulation Unit	1/2/09	1/2/10	10	None
Work with MCL violators to achieve compliance	CDPH Districts & County LPAs	1/2/09	1/2/14		Minor



Future Challenges

- **Population growth increases demands**
- **Global warming impacts on the water resources available**
- **Restrictions on use of existing infrastructure and conveyance systems**
- **Integrated resource management is needed**