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*A not-for-profit organization*

November 12, 2015



**RE: Santa Clarita Water Softener Restrictions**

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts on Santa Clarita's action to enforce a softener ban as part of the Basin Planning-Region Basin Plan Amendments. The Water Quality Association (WQA) and Pacific Water Quality Association (PWQA) are committed to addressing issues affecting water quality and both Associations pride themselves on supporting solid science. We believe a solution to chloride reductions in waste water can be found in technology, based on industry standards, and research.

Through a review of Santa Clarita's report, there is no option for homeowners to upgrade to more salt efficient and water efficient systems. I advise an adjustment of Santa Clarita's plan to reflect having the chloride reduction from optimization or replacement, based on the findings from the "For the Reduction of Influent Chloride to Wastewater Treatment Plants by the Optimization of Residential Water Softeners" study. This gives an option backed by research.

The Water Quality Research Foundation (WQRF) has partnered with the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) to fund an independent research study on the reduction of chloride in wastewater treatment plants through optimizing existing water softeners and replacing water softeners with 'high efficient water softening systems'. The preliminary results from the "For the Reduction of Influent Chloride to Wastewater Treatment Plants by the Optimization of Residential Water Softeners" study have found optimization achieved a 16 percent reduction in chloride mass and softeners that were replaced with 'high efficient water softening systems' achieved an over 53 percent reduction in chloride mass.

Other WQRF funded research investigated energy savings in the 2009 Energy Savings Study, also called the Battelle Study. It found softeners help preserve the efficiency of water heaters and major appliances and keep showers and faucets unclogged. From the data, Battelle was able to develop a "differential carbon footprint assessment" for residences using unsoftened water versus softened water.

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the "For the Reduction of Influent Chloride to Wastewater Treatment Plants by the Optimization of Residential Water Softeners" study to contact WQA. We would be happy to provide a presentation at a future meeting and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Loveday".

David Loveday  
Director of Government Affairs  
Water Quality Association  
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