



Inland Empire Utilities Agency

A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Self-Regenerating Water Softener Ordinance

Public Hearing

June 15, 2011

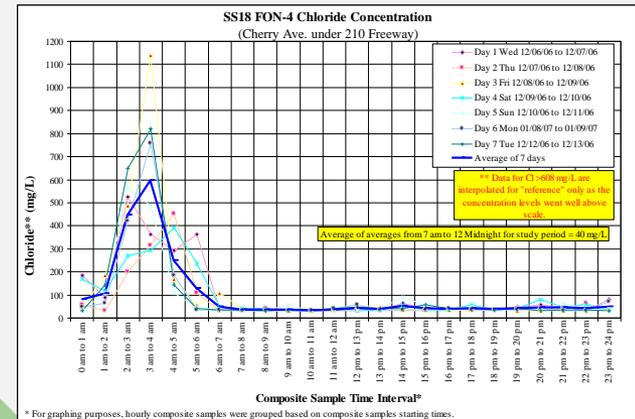
Why are Water Softeners a Problem?

Self regenerating water softeners require **salt**

18,000 IEUA households, maybe more, have them

They discharge over **3,000 tons of salt** each year into the regional water system

Salt is the **single most important constraint** to recycled and groundwater supplies.



Economic Impacts of Salt

Potential Effects

- Loss of reliable recycled water
- Reduce availability of groundwater supplies
- Increase dependence on expensive and unreliable imported water
- Need to construct expensive new treatment systems

Potential Community Costs

- **\$435 million*** to desalt recycled water
- ~OR~
- Up to **\$439 million*** if recycled water must be replaced with imported water

* Estimates are prior to MWD's recent rate increases which have almost doubled the cost of imported water

Keeping salt out is less expensive



17,289

- Tons of salt kept out of the regional sewer system because of brine line use every year

\$290

- \$ Per ton of salt that goes down the brine line (keeping salt out before it reaches the regional sewer system)

\$828

- \$ Per ton of salt removed during sewage treatment process (taking salt out once it is in the water)

\$538

- **NET \$\$\$ SAVINGS** (by keeping salt out of the regional sewer system)

Salinity Management History

1966- Salinity management started with construction of North Non-reclaimable Brine Line



2002- Salinity Management Action Plan adopted



2004 Maximum Benefit Plan set TDS permit limits- **requires management of salinity for all sources of TDS**

Prior to 1999 most contracting agencies had water softener bans in place



1999 lawsuit invalidated all water softener ordinances in California



2009 AB 1366 allows local agencies to adopt new water softener control ordinances

On February 3 the Regional Technical and Policy Committees unanimously voted to recommend IEUA and contracting agencies adopt **ordinances that prohibit future installations of self-regenerating water softeners**

Recommended Draft Amendment to IEUA Ordinance 87:

Future installation prohibited

Local ordinances required

Exchange Tanks OK

Voluntary rebate program will continue

Community Support

Are you going to buy or sell a home? Take advantage of the Automatic Water Softener Removal Rebate now! It's a Win-Win!
It puts more money in your pocket and protects recycled water for our future.



Regulations for softeners needed

A mid all the din about the burgeoning debt and drastic budget cuts whipsawing California, we shouldn't lose sight of the issue that's actually our biggest impending crisis: water.

It has always been so in this state, but seldom more than now, with judicial rulings restricting the flow to the Central Valley and Southern California from the State Water Project; with more of the drought-stricken Colorado River's water being drawn off by other growing Western states, and with the possibility of a true statewide water catastrophe if earth tremors...

Salt is cheap, of course, but removing it from water is not. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Chino Desalting facilities, for example, represent a \$300 million capital investment, plus operating costs. If we were to need another, the cost would be closer to \$420 million, and all local water users would pay the tab.

There are water-softening alternatives that don't dump salt into our water, including systems that

SALT MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET
www.ieua.org/watersoftener.html

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES—groundwater, stormwater and recycled water—is essential to the future economic health of our community as Southern California's water shortages are expected to continue for many years.

RECYCLED WATER IS OUR MOST SUSTAINABLE AND DROUGHT-PROOF SUPPLY and it is rigorously treated so that it meets and exceeds stringent state and federal regulatory standards. More than 500 sites including cities, parks, schools, farms and businesses are using recycled water in our community.

SALT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT TO OUR GROUNDWATER AND RECYCLED WATER SUPPLIES. To protect the quality of our water, regulatory agencies have set strict limits for the amount of salt allowed in recycled water and the water used to replenish groundwater basins.

RESIDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES

YOU CAN STILL HAVE YOUR WATER SOFTENER — JUST WITHOUT THE SALT!

Commonly used water softeners require bags of salt to be added, and discharge about one pound of salt per day into the regional sewer system.

LET DISCHARGES FROM AUTOMATIC WATER SOFTENERS BE CONTROLLED NOW, we will face

IEUA SALT MANAGEMENT MEETING COMMENTS

NAME: JOAN & PAUL TREADWAY

ADDRESS: PO BOX 1516
ONTARIO, CA 91762-0516

Protection of our water supplies is very important to our community and the Inland Empire Agency. I support the Inland Empire Utility Agency's efforts to reduce salinity impacts to our recycled water and groundwater supplies, including the control of automatic water softeners.

Lewis Operating Corp.
12435 Inland Empire Center Dr., Suite B-479, Upland, CA 91786-0170
© (909) 946-7422 (F) (909) 951-0514 (local) lewis@lewpag.com

January 22, 2010

Terry Galin, President
Board of Directors
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
P.O. Box 900
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Dear President Galin:

On behalf of Lewis Group of Companies, I am writing to express our concern about residential self-regenerating water softeners and the costly impact of the salt discharged from these devices on recycled water and groundwater supplies in the Inland Empire.

As a developer, we know how important the protection of our local water supply is to the region's future economic growth. The most drought and cost-effective decisions have made improved water deliveries both costly and unreliable. We are proud to do our part by using recycled water in our projects whenever possible in line of possible savings and by implementing water conservation and other water saving, low-impact development practices. We are also aware that salt is the single most important constraint to the use of groundwater and recycled water supplies on which our future developments rely. The fact that such self-regenerating water softeners can discharge as much as 30 pounds of salt per month into the regional sewer system adds unnecessary salt to local water resources and, if not controlled, will have to be removed later at great expense to us all.

We are interested in the Chino Basin to have access to water-softening alternatives that don't discharge salt into the sewer, including systems called exchange tanks that use salt to regenerate that are collected by a service provider and emptied into the region's brine lines, sending the salt to the ocean. There are also other devices that treat hard water without using any salt.

Given the availability of alternatives to traditional residential self-regenerating water softeners and the long-term economic significance to the region of protecting our local water supplies, we strongly support the adoption of an ordinance by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and by its contracting agencies that would prohibit the future installation of these devices.

Sincerely,
Randall W. Lewis
Randall Lewis
Executive Vice President

Residents Whom Have Taken Action to Protect Our Local Water Supplies

Protection of our water supplies is very important to our community and the Inland Empire Agency. I support the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's efforts to reduce salinity impacts to our recycled water and groundwater supplies, including the control of automatic water softeners.

I am interested in coming to a public meeting to show my support. Please contact me with details. We would love to have you. Because you have removed your softener, your story will resonate in your community.

Name: Ronald E. Magroff

City: Rancho Cucamonga

Signature: Ronald E. Magroff

Phone Number (Optional): 909-902-1466

Informational Workshops for City Councils

- City of Fontana: January
- City of Upland: February
- City of Rancho Cucamonga: June

Community Briefings

- **Business Groups:** Building Industry Association; Water Quality Association; Inland Valleys Association of REALTORS
- **Service Groups:** Rotary and Kiwanis: 12 briefings
- **Chambers of Commerce:** Montclair and Fontana

Voluntary Removal and Rebate

- Over **400** residents have voluntarily removed their self-regenerating water softeners.
- This keeps over 70 tons of salt per year from entering the regional sewer system

Draft Ordinance Support

- **23** statements of support from local businesses, state and regional regulators and environmental organization.
- **111** letters of support from residents in the IEUA service area.

Next Steps

Questions and Comments

IEUA Public Hearing:
June 15, 2011, 6:00 PM

IEUA Ordinance Adoption:
July 2011

Contracting agencies public hearing/ordinance adoption:
August 2011 and ongoing

