

DATE ISSUED: January 8, 2003

REPORT NO. 03-007

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Source Water Protection Guidelines for New Development Projects

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego Water Department has embarked on a project that will help protect the quality of local drinking water supplies. Specifically, the SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GUIDELINES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS will guide the design of new developments so that runoff from these projects will not degrade the water flowing into drinking water supply reservoirs.

On January 10, 2003, Water Department staff will conduct a briefing on this project for legislative aides from the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and other local jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION

The Water Department operates nine local drinking water supply reservoirs. Runoff into these reservoirs provides up to 20% of the City's water supply; the reservoirs also store imported water and provide emergency water storage. The reservoirs are critical components of the regional water supply system; thus, protecting water quality in the reservoirs is a matter of regional importance.

The reservoirs and their tributary watersheds are located almost entirely outside of the City of San Diego (see the attached map). Protecting water quality in the reservoirs requires a high level of cooperation with other local jurisdictions.

In 1996 and 2001 the Water Department prepared Watershed Sanitary Surveys to identify existing and potential sources of contamination in the watersheds upstream of the local reservoirs. Runoff from residential and commercial development was identified as a significant threat to the quality of drinking water supplies. The SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GUIDELINES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS will help to minimize this threat.

The Guidelines will be in the form of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing or eliminating pollutants from residential and commercial developments. The Guidelines will make cross-jurisdictional review of development plans more efficient and provide more insight and predictability for developers seeking approval of new projects. The project fits nicely with recent regional initiatives to manage water quality on a watershed basis, rather than on a strictly jurisdictional basis.

Outreach to the stakeholder communities is an important component of the project. The Water Department will be hosting stakeholder workshops in January and February to discuss the project with developers, planners, environmental advocates, and others involved in the design and review of development projects.

The briefing for legislative aides on the SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GUIDELINES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS will be held from 2:00 pm to 4:00pm January 10, 2003, in the Council Committee Room, 12th Floor City Administration Building.

For additional information please contact Bob Collins, Watershed Manager, Water Department; at (619) 668-2084 or rcollins@sandiego.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments - [Source Water Protection Guidelines for New Development Projects](#)
[Map of Watersheds and Source Water System](#)