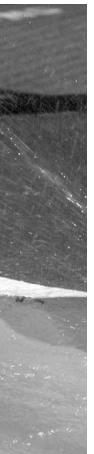




**Physicians  
for Social  
Responsibility**



A letter to Santa Clarita residents:

Founded in 1961, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is a national organization with 24,000 members representing the medical and dental professions and concerned citizens. We have been monitoring the ammonium perchlorate pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley water supply. As early as May 2002 we signed a document requesting polluted water be made as available for planning purposes. The reason for this concern is perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel, may affect the health of unborn babies of pregnant women. Studies show it may affect the thyroid and also cause higher rates of retardation.

**Recent news headlines may have given the public a mistaken impression of this water pollution. Santa Clarita residents should know:**

- **Five water supply wells remain closed in the Santa Clarita Valley due to ammonium perchlorate pollution.** Though some of these wells have been open since 1997, cleanup facilities have yet to be approved and built.
- On September 22, 2004 an appellate court decision set aside the Santa Clarita Urban Water Management Plan because it misrepresented water quality issues. The Court stated:

“Without a reliable analysis of the availability of water, the plan is fatally flawed. The public and the various government agencies that rely on the UWMP may be seriously misled. If the wrong set of circumstances occur, the consequences could be severe.”



is a leading public policy and public health issue. Addressing the issues related to the water supply for some time. Contaminated water not be counted. A concern is that ammonium levels are high of children and the effect on the thyroid gland and

**taken view of the status of water:**

**Maricopa Valley due to** these wells have been closed and new wells built.

Aside from the water agencies' efforts on water pollution cleanup

of water, the UWMP is a governmental entity established by it and, if the consequences to those who

that rely on the UWWMP may be seriously misled. If a wrong set of circumstances occur, the consequences for those who relied on the UWWMP, as well as those who share with them, could be severe.”

- The court described the “wrong set of circumstances” as “a protracted and increased reliance on groundwater from the Saugus Formation, the presence of the perchlorate contamination within the formation, and problems in implementing the ion exchange” cleanup facilities.
- An October 2004 US Army Corps of Engineers report contains information about the groundwater. Groundwater makes up approximately 50% of the city's water supply. Results showed **the pollution plume in the groundwater extends significantly from its origin at the Whitaker/Bermite property to the City of Los Angeles Swap meet. Contamination was found as far away as Cinecena and the Alluvial aquifer and as far as the Pony League fields in the San Gabriel Valley.**
- The report, completed at a cost of some \$9 million dollars, said it was necessary to figure out how far the pollution has gone. It stated **additional data to continue defining the lateral and vertical extent of the groundwater....**” This report is available for public review at the various Canyon Country libraries and we encourage residents to read it.



The public should know that the following members voted in favor of the current Water Management Plan: **Bill Co Gladbach, Bill Peksi, Don Froelich, and Richard Green, and Dean Efstad.**

**Ed Dunn** voted against the plan in court, failed to address “issues re perchlorate contamination.”

This message paid for by  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles Chapter, 617 South Olive  
Los Angeles, California 90014-1629

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