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SSWD to Introduce Fluoridated Surface Water to its South Service Area

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) has taken a proactive approach to ensure an adequate future water supply for its South Service Area customers by purchasing surface water from the City of Sacramento. Beginning in November, the District will acquire up to 20 million gallons of fluoridated surface water per day from the City to help prevent overdrafting of the groundwater aquifer.

“The addition of a surface water source helps us provide our customers with a more reliable supply of water,” says Robert Roscoe, SSWD General Manager. “This allows us to conserve our groundwater during wet years, when surface water is readily available, and use it in dry years when it is needed most.”

Surface water received from the City of Sacramento is fluoridated in accordance with California Department of Health Services Standards. To maintain an optimal fluoride level in its total water supply and meet DHS standards, SSWD will be adding fluoride to its groundwater supply in the South Service Area.

Optimal water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the naturally occurring levels of fluoride in water to maximize its health benefits for the prevention of tooth decay while ensuring that it is safe to drink. Optimal water fluoridation is considered one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century and is strongly supported by an extensive list of leading health organizations,



including the American Dental Association, American Medical Association, World Health Organization and U.S. Public Health Service's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Capital funding to optimally fluoridate SSWD's South Service Area groundwater supply comes mainly from the First 5 Sacramento Commission.

A public meeting to discuss the upcoming changes in SSWD's South Service Area water supply is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, at 6:30 pm at the District's office, located at 3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100. District staff, health and technical professionals will be available to answer questions related to the new water source and the health benefits of optimal water fluoridation.

SSWD's South Service Area covers most of the area between Capital City Freeway and Highway 50 and between Howe Avenue and Garfield Avenue. For more information on water fluoridation and the South Service Area, visit SSWD's web site, www.sswd.org or call 916.972.7171.

Sacramento Suburban Water District delivers water to approximately 43,000 customers with an estimated population of 168,000 to areas in the northeast region of Sacramento County. The District's service area encompasses approximately 36 square miles. In February 2002, SSWD was formed as a result of consolidation between the former Arcade and Northridge Water Districts. The District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors.