

News Release

Mammoth Community Water District
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Increased Chlorine in MCWD Water Supply

Over the next few months, MCWD customers may notice increased chlorine taste and odor in their water.

Mammoth Lakes, California – The District is currently rehabilitating a main water storage tank located near Panorama Dome, in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. In order to complete the work, the tank will be taken offline until early September. Two main components of meeting regulatory compliance for surface water treatment disinfection are chlorine concentration and chlorine contact time. The tank, known as a “Clearwell”, is an integral part of the surface water treatment process providing the time for chlorine to disinfect the treated water. While the Clearwell is offline for rehabilitation, there will be a lack of time for water to be in contact with chlorine, which requires the District to increase the chlorine concentration.

The typical chlorine concentration in water supplied by the District is about 1.0 - 1.2 mg/L, while the tank is offline, it will be increased to 1.6 mg/L. For reference, the maximum chlorine concentration allowed in the State of California is 4.0 mg/L. The chlorine level will remain at this higher concentration through the duration of the rehabilitation project and will return to lower levels in September when the tank is returned to service.

We realize that the increased chlorine may have noticeable odor and taste. However, the District must ensure that the water meets the standards of the Surface Water Treatment Rule established by the State Water Resources Control Board in order to protect public health. Customers can mitigate a noticeable chlorine taste and/or odor by allowing drinking water to sit in a pitcher, without a sealed lid, prior to drinking. Chlorine will naturally evaporate, reducing the taste and odor of chlorine.

The District is excited to be completing this important rehabilitation project, improving the resiliency of our water distribution system. Customers are encouraged to contact the District with any questions or concerns.

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MCWD provides water and wastewater utility service to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and surrounding areas. MCWD strives to provide reliable, affordable utility service to our customers and to conduct our operations in a manner reflecting our stewardship role. We encourage our customers to practice responsible use of our limited water resources, and to take advantage of the information and services available to support this goal.