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May 19, 2021

Dear Turlock Business Owner / Tenant:

This is a notice that, as a City of Turlock (City) water customer, there will be upcoming changes to the water system. **As of August 2021, the City will begin dosing the water with chlorine on an on-going basis to provide disinfection and protection from harmful bacteria, viruses, and microorganisms.** Initially, the City will begin with a low dose of chlorine and gradually increase the dosage over a few months until the system reaches the desired chlorine dosage. There will be safeguards in place to ensure that the levels of chlorine in the water remain within the acceptable limits.

Previously the City water system relied entirely on untreated groundwater which did not require chlorination. However, additional treatment, specifically activated carbon filtration, is being added to the City's water system and when activated carbon filtration is used in a system, disinfection is required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to kill any microorganisms that may be introduced during the filtration process.

**While there are no health risks associated with drinking chlorinated water, chlorinated water can pose risks for individuals on dialysis and aquatic animals.** Fish, shellfish, amphibians, and some reptiles can be affected since these animals can absorb chlorine directly into their bloodstream through their skin or gills. If you have any aquatic animals, it is recommended that you install a water conditioner or filter to remove the chlorine and protect the animals. Additionally, chlorine must also be removed from the water when used for dialysis machines since this water can come in contact with the blood. It is recommended that dialysis patients consult with their physician if they have concerns about using water treated with chlorine. However, dialysis patients can safely drink chlorinated water.

**To find out more information about the project may impact you or your business, you are invited to attend a public meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 2 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Turlock City Hall Council Chambers, located at 156 South Broadway, however, in-person seating capacity will be limited to the first 14 people to ensure all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines are met. All members of the public may also join the meeting and provide public comment via Zoom by using the direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85065295809>, or by calling (669) 900-9833, Webinar ID: 850 6529 5809.

If you have additional questions, please refer to the attached frequently asked questions (FAQ) for answers to common questions related to chlorination, or contact Carl Brown, Interim Deputy Director of Municipal Services at 209-668-5590.

Sincerely,

Carl Brown  
Interim Municipal Services Deputy Director



# City-Wide Chlorination Project

## Proyecto de Cloración en Toda la Ciudad

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why is the chlorination necessary?**

Chlorination prevents the growth of harmful bacteria and eliminates viruses and microorganisms that can cause serious illness if consumed.

#### **Why wasn't the water chlorinated previously?**

Previously the City water system relied entirely on untreated groundwater which did not require chlorination. However, additional treatment, specifically activated carbon filtration, is being added to the system and when activated carbon filtration is used in a system, disinfection is required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to kill any microorganisms that may be introduced during the filtration process. Additionally, the City will begin utilizing treated surface water as part of the City's water supply in the upcoming years. Disinfection is imperative and mandated when surface water is used for drinking water purposes due to the presence of microorganisms in surface water bodies (lakes, rivers, etc.).

#### **What is involved in the chlorination process?**

The City will be using sodium hypochlorite which will be injected into the water in liquid form at each of the City's well and storage tank sites. There is a chlorine analyzer downstream of the injection point that ensures that the dosage remains within acceptable limits.

#### **What safeguards are in place to prevent the dosage of sodium hypochlorite from being exceeded?**

At every location at which sodium hypochlorite is being administered there will be a chlorine residual analyzer installed. The chlorine residual analyzer is equipped with an alarm that will alert operators if the chlorine level falls below the lower limit or exceeds the upper limit. Operators will also visit the chlorination sites daily to check on the equipment.

#### **Are there any health risks associated with chlorinated water?**

No, there are no health risks associated with drinking chlorinated water.

#### **Will chlorine affect aquatic animals?**

Yes, chlorine can affect fish, shellfish, amphibians, and some reptiles since these animals can absorb chlorine directly into their bloodstream through their skin or gills. A water conditioner or filter can be installed to remove the chlorine and protect the animals.

#### **Can chlorinated water be used for dialysis?**

Chlorine must be removed from the water used for dialysis machines since this water can come in direct contact with the blood. Dialysis patients should consult with their physician if they have concerns about using water treated with chlorine. However, dialysis patients can safely drink chlorinated water.

### Preguntas Frecuentes

#### **¿Por qué es necesaria la cloración?**

La cloración previene el crecimiento de bacterias dañinas y elimina virus y microorganismos que pueden causar enfermedades graves si se consumen.

#### **¿Por qué el agua no estaba clorada anteriormente?**

Anteriormente, el sistema de agua de la ciudad dependía enteramente de aguas subterráneas que no requerían cloración. Sin embargo, se está agregando tratamiento adicional, específicamente filtración, al sistema y cuando la filtración se utiliza en un sistema, la desinfección es requerida por la Junta Estatal, División de Agua Potable (DDW) para matar cualquier microorganismo que pueda ser introducido durante el proceso de filtración. Además, la ciudad comenzará a utilizar agua superficial tratada como parte del suministro de agua de la ciudad en los próximos años. Y la desinfección es imperativa cuando el agua superficial se utiliza con fines de agua potable debido a la presencia de microorganismos en el agua superficial.

#### **¿Qué está involucrado en el proceso de cloración?**

La ciudad estará utilizando hipoclorito de sodio que se inyectará en el agua en forma líquida en cada uno de los pozos y tanques de almacenamiento de la ciudad. Hay un analizador de cloro más abajo del punto de inyección que asegura que la dosis permanece dentro de los límites.

#### **¿Qué medidas de seguridad existen para prevenir que se exceda la dosis de hipoclorito sódico?**

En cada lugar en el que se esté administrando hipoclorito de sodio habrá un analizador residual de cloro instalado. El analizador residual de cloro está equipado con una alarma que alertará a los operadores si el nivel de cloro cae por debajo del límite inferior o supera el límite superior.

¿Hay algún riesgo para la salud asociado con el agua clorada?

No, no hay riesgos para la salud asociados con el agua clorada.

#### **¿El cloro afectará a los animales acuáticos?**

Sí, el cloro puede afectar a peces, mariscos, anfibios y algunos reptiles, ya que estos animales pueden absorber cloro directamente en su torrente sanguíneo a través de su piel o branquias. Se puede instalar un acondicionador o filtro de agua para eliminar el cloro y proteger a los animales.

#### **¿Se puede utilizar agua clorada para la diálisis?**

El cloro debe retirarse del agua utilizada para las máquinas de diálisis, ya que esta agua puede entrar en contacto directo con la sangre. Los pacientes con diálisis deben consultar con su médico si tienen preocupaciones sobre el uso de agua tratada con cloro. Sin embargo, los pacientes con diálisis pueden beber agua clorada de forma segura.