



NEW SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROJECT WILL SUPPLY HIGH-QUALITY WATER TO SMWD AND OTHER WATER AGENCIES

HOW DOES SMWD ENSURE THE WATER IT DELIVERS IS SAFE?

California has some of the nation's most stringent drinking water standards, and SMWD ensures the water it delivers meets those standards by:

- Conducting up to 30,000 lab tests annually on water supplies
- Gathering samples from 39 locations across the District, representing all water sources
- Using a lab certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
- Sharing water quality testing results in its annual Water Quality Report

The Cadiz Project is an innovative plan to provide a new supply of Southern California water by actively managing a groundwater basin that is part of a 1,300-square mile watershed in eastern San Bernardino County. Water that would otherwise evaporate will be collected and conserved for beneficial use.

The water will then be conveyed to Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) and other Southern California water agencies, increasing the reliability of supplies and stabilizing prices. Water from the project must meet the same stringent drinking water standards as all other water supplies.

SMWD: PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY WATER

SMWD is committed to providing customers with the highest quality drinking water. We are vigilant in ensuring that the water we supply to our customers meets or exceeds the standards required by state and federal regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Public Health.

Water delivered by SMWD to our ratepayers MUST meet all federal and state standards for drinking water, which are some of the most stringent in the nation.

CADIZ PROJECT MEETS ALL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Groundwater at Cadiz, without any treatment, meets all current water quality standards for drinking water set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Public Health.

Recent news reports have focused on the presence of total chromium, a naturally-occurring element in groundwater. Total chromium levels in Cadiz water are between 10 to 16 parts per billion (ppb) – well below the limits established by state (50 ppb) and federal (100 ppb) regulatory agencies for drinking water.

Chromium-6 is also a naturally-occurring element in groundwater basins and is common throughout California. There is no established state or federal regulatory standard for chromium-6 levels in drinking water. However, the state has published a public health goal and is working to adopt a new standard in the coming years. Water from the Cadiz Project will also have to comply with any future state or federal drinking water quality standards for chromium-6, and Cadiz will treat the water at their expense.