

# **Press Release**

March 17, 2006

Citizens Concerned About Chloramine CCAC

## **BAWSCA Confirms No Studies Done**

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency BAWSCA 's meeting March 16, 2006, at the Foster City Library, Foster City, was well attended by a large number of participants for Public Comment, among them, Citizens Concerned About Chloramine CCAC.

At the meeting, BAWSCA confirmed that letters from public agencies showed that there were No health studies done on the dermal or inhalant effects of chloramine in the water supply. The public agencies replying to the request for health study information were the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission SFPUC, the California Department of Health Services CaDHS, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management, and the Environmental Protection Agency EPA. This finding was a surprise to the Board but verified CCAC's assertion that NO studies had been done.

Also discussed was Assembly Member Ira Ruskin's Bill AB 2402. This bill was the result of overwhelming response from people who contacted Ruskin's office who had the health effects or concerns regarding chloramine. The bill is preliminary at this point but CCAC is working closely in its development with Peter Hartnet who is Ira Ruskin's senior legislative assistant.

Public Comments from CCAC members told about their symptoms, and the hardships they suffered because they had to avoid the water. They implored the Board to speak on their behalf to find a way to get the health studies done and provide relief to the suffering public. Earlier in the meeting, Art Jensen, General Manager of BAWSCA, had commented that he thought BAWSCA had a limited role as to what they could do about the chloramine issue. In her comment CCAC President Denise Johnson-Kula, replied that BAWSCA consisted of representatives from each of the cities served by the Hetch Hetchy water distribution system. As such, the Directors are our representatives and in a position to speak for us. She emphasized that their voice as an agency carried influence and could make a difference on CCAC's behalf and the people affected.

Other Public Comments from CCAC members brought up the point that doctors will not make the chloramine connection without health studies that show the causal effect between chloramine and the symptoms of the patients they are seeing. Another comment addressed the long-term effects from chloramine that remain unknown. People suffering the most severe symptoms made a plea for relief from the suffering they are enduring now and suggested a moratorium on the use of chloramine in the water until the health studies are completed. As it is, it is impossible for them to use the water for all their needs. Asthma, that is brought on by the inhalation of the chloramine in the indoor air, especially as a result of showering, can be life threatening.

Prior to the Public Comment, there were questions posed by the BAWSCA Board that showed genuine concern about the use of chloramine. The Board and Susan Leal of the SFPUC are supportive of Ira Ruskin's bill that will be exploring alternatives to the use of chloramine. CCAC feels that this meeting was a significant step forward in the process to finding solutions to the chloramine issue. CCAC will be following up with BAWSCA in the months to follow.

### **Contact Information**

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