

Laguna County Sanitation District



Proposed Water Softener Ordinance for New Development

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- Santa Maria Valley groundwater supply is very hard (high in minerals)
- Regenerating Water Softeners add salts and chlorides to the wastewater.
- Excess salt in the ground water affects water quality and viability of farm land.
- RWQCB regulates water quality through the “Basin Plan” adopted in 1989



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2001 Plant Upgrade			
Salt Constituent	Before	After	Limit
TDS	1081	707	900
Sodium	242	164	180
Chloride	312	171	150



Regulatory History

- RWQCB regulates LCSD including effluent disposal.
- Salt content in effluent has been a challenge since Basin Plan adoption in 1989
- Failed 1992 Water Softener ban
- 2001 Plant Upgrade solved TDS and sodium concern.
- Chloride limit is the current regulatory challenge.

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- Chloride Reduction Strategy

- Allow only non-regenerating (canister exchange) water softeners in new developments
- Offer incentive program to existing customers to convert to exchange canisters
- Measure results
- Avoid additional costly upgrades and more restrictive controls



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Proposed New Ordinance:

- Amends Chapter 29-26.1 of the County Code
- Allows only non-regenerating water softeners in new development
 - Canister exchange systems
- Second Reading on Nov 1, 2011
- Proposed effective date Jan 1, 2012

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- Recommendation:
 - Amend Chapter 29-26.1 of the County Code, allowing only non-regenerating water softeners in new developments.
- Thank you
- Staff is available for questions

