

HISTORY OF EVENTS FOR SANTA CLARA RIVER CHLORIDE LIMIT

YEAR	STATE AND REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD REGULATORY ACTIONS	SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT ACTIONS
1962		Saugus Water Reclamation Plant built
1967		Valencia Water Reclamation Plant built
1989	State regulators set chloride limit of 100 mg/L for Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants	Sanitation District indicates limit cannot be met due to high chloride levels in drinking water
1990-1997	State regulators adopt Drought Policy to provide relief from chloride limits, set interim limit of 250 mg/L	
1997-2000	State regulators conduct studies to establish new chloride limit	Sanitation District advocates for 143 mg/L chloride limit
2000	State regulators elect to keep 100 mg/L chloride limit in place	Sanitation District closely monitors state process to adopt regulatory order
2002	State regulators adopt formal order setting schedule for Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants to comply with 100 mg/L chloride limit	On behalf of its ratepayers, who would have to pay for treatment facility modifications, Sanitation District appeals both chloride limit and schedule
2003		Sanitation District bans installation of new automatic water softeners
2004	State regulators extend schedule to allow time for studies to set alternative chloride limit; studies justify chloride limit in range of 100-117 mg/L	Sanitation District finances, closely monitors, and provides input into studies
2006	State regulators reduce compliance schedule by two years	Sanitation District appeals decision
2007	State rejects Sanitation District's appeal	Sanitation District continues to provide evidence to support a higher chloride limit and initiates additional negotiations with state regulators
2008	State regulators allow two alternatives: (a) 117 mg/L chloride limit that would require construction of both treatment plant upgrades and new facilities in Ventura County; or (b) 100 mg/L chloride limit with no Ventura County facilities	Voters approve Ordinance to remove existing automatic water softeners
2009		Ordinance requiring removal of existing automatic water softeners becomes effective.
2009, 2010		Sanitation District attempts to finance compliance project to meet state-mandated 117 mg/L chloride limit but community members object. Board of Directors rejects project including costly facilities in Ventura County and directs Sanitation District staff to work on more cost-effective options
2010-2011		Sanitation District supports the City of Santa Clarita's effort to seek relief from the state legislature while continuing to work on lowest cost options
2011	State legislature does not provide relief; state regulators issue "Notices of Violation" to the Sanitation District threatening significant fines if the Sanitation District does not begin taking action to meet the chloride regulation	To protect ratepayers from multi-million dollar fines, the Sanitation District begins preparation of a Draft Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report for a project, without any facilities in Ventura County, to meet the state-mandated 100 mg/l chloride limit
2012		Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District releases "Notice of Preparation" that signals the start of the environment review process; multiple meetings for public comment announced

Prepared by the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District has spent many years trying to resolve the chloride problem at the least cost to the ratepayers.

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District's two wastewater treatment plants were constructed more than a decade before state regulators set a chloride limit of 100 mg/L for treated wastewater discharges into the Santa Clara River. These treatment facilities were not designed to reduce chloride levels and are unable to achieve the 100 mg/L limit without significant upgrades. Realizing this, the Sanitation District has worked to persuade state regulators and the California legislature to modify the chloride limit to a level that would bring the pre-existing SCVSD reclamation plants within the legal limits. These efforts have been met with significant resistance by state regulators, who have refused to modify the limit, and have recently threatened to impose substantial fines if chloride levels are not reduced below the legal limit. These fines would have to be paid by all ratepayers.

The Sanitation District has also worked to change state law so automatic water softeners could be banned. After Ordinances were approved by voters, the Sanitation District developed programs to reimburse residents for removing automatic water softeners. These efforts caused chloride levels to be significantly reduced.