



Southwest Membrane Operator Association  
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## **SWMOA NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2009**

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

SWMOA membership has soared to 337! As 2009 draws to a close, SWMOA offers all of our members best wishes for this holiday season.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

Don't forget that nominations for SWMOA's 2010 awards are due by **December 10, 2009**. You may be working at the next Plant of the Year...you might know the next Operator of the Year. You could even BE the next Operator of the Year. But not unless you step up and make your nominations. Selection criteria and application forms for Plant of the Year and Operator of the Year awards are available on the website at [www.swmoa.org](http://www.swmoa.org). Winners will be announced at next year's Annual Symposium in Carefree, AZ. So submit those nominations before the deadline.

### **SWMOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

The results are in! SWMOA wishes to thank everyone who ran for the open Board seats, as well as those members that took time out to cast their votes. This organization wouldn't be possible without the dedicated members willing to get involved and participate. The newest SWMOA board members for the 2010-2011 Term are as follows:

#### **DIVISION 1**

**Scott McClelland – Sweetwater Authority**  
**Art Nunez – City of Scottsdale**

#### **DIVISION 2**

**John Deogracias – Miox Corporation**

#### **DIVISION 3**

**Seth Ginter – GE Water and Process Technologies**

Congratulations to the newest Directors on their election, and to Scott McClelland on his re-election. We look forward to working with you all in 2010. SWMOA owes a very special thanks to outgoing board members Wyatt Won, Lynne Gulizia, and Khos Ghaderi. These three individuals were all founding Board members of SWMOA. Without their early support SWMOA would not be the organization it is today.

## **UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM:**

2009 is almost gone, but you still have time to register for SWMOA's 3rd Annual Symposium to be held in Carefree, AZ on February 22-25, 2010. As if attending great technical sessions aren't enough, the government room rates at the resort have been **reduced to \$140/night**, view the online registration brochure for full hotel information at: [www.swmoa.org](http://www.swmoa.org). Below are the highlights you can expect at the Symposium.

### **Monday, Feb. 22nd - DAY ONE**

- Exhibitor Set-Up
- Early Registration
- Welcome Reception

### **Tuesday, Feb. 23rd - DAY TWO**

- Keynote Speaker
- Session 1 - Concentrate Disposal
- Session 2 – Facility Tour of 70 mgd Scottsdale CAP WTP

### **Wednesday, Feb. 24th - DAY THREE**

- Session 3 - Start-Up Issues/Resolutions
- Session 4 - New Treatment Processes and Innovations
  - Membership Meeting
  - Networking Reception

### **Thursday, Feb. 25th - DAY FOUR**

- Session 5 – System Optimization
- SWMOA Board Meeting

Exhibit Space and Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. Call SWMOA for more information about this Symposium – 888-463-0830.

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES:**

SWMOA held the last Technology Transfer Workshop of 2009 on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Ventura, CA at the Ventura Avenue Water Treatment Plant. The one day, Hands-On Membrane Plant Operator Training Workshop focused on ultrafiltration membrane operation, with topics including Surface Water Regulations, Membrane Integrity Testing, Fiber Repair, and Membrane Cleanings.

The Technology Transfer Committee is currently working on the plans for the next Workshop scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Twin Oaks Valley WTP in San Marcos. Stay tuned for more information soon.

## **IN THE NEWS:**

November 17, 2009 - From the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website, a comparison of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and public health goals (PHGs):

### ***MCLs***

MCLs are adopted as regulations by CDPH. They are health protective drinking water standards to be met by public water systems. MCLs take into account not only chemicals' health risks but also factors such as their detectability and treatability, as well as costs of treatment. Health & Safety Code §116365(a) requires CDPH to establish a contaminant's MCL at a level as close to its PHG as is technically and economically feasible, placing primary emphasis on the protection of public health (see [the MCL process](#)).

Along with the MCL, a regulated chemical also has a [detection limit for purposes of reporting \(DLR\)](#), the level at which CDPH is confident about quantification being reported.

## **PHGs**

PHGs are established by Cal/EPA's [Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment](#) (OEHHA). They are concentrations of drinking water contaminants that pose no significant health risk if consumed for a lifetime, based on current risk assessment principles, practices, and methods. OEHHA establishes PHGs pursuant to Health & Safety Code §116365(c) for contaminants with MCLs, and for those for which CDPH will be adopting MCLs.

Public water systems use PHGs to provide information about drinking water contaminants in their annual [Consumer Confidence Reports](#). Certain public water systems must provide a report to their customers about health risks from a contaminant that exceeds its PHG and about the cost of treatment to meet the PHG, and hold a public hearing on the report.

### **Review of MCLs in Response to PHGs**

Once OEHHA establishes or revises a PHG for a contaminant with an MCL, CDPH determines whether the MCL should be considered for possible revision. For chemicals so designated, CDPH subsequently conducts an in-depth risk management analysis to determine whether or not to propose a revision. For more information, see [MCL review status](#)

**Let your friends at other water districts know about SWMOA** - we are dedicated to providing a forum for membrane system operators to exchange information, experience and knowledge. As important, we provide educational credits through our workshops and hands-on training necessary for Operator Certification. Our goal is to make our vital industry stronger and the technology more reliable. Prospective members can find application information online on our website at [www.swmoa.org](http://www.swmoa.org).

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SWMOA was formed in 2006 as an affiliate of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA). It is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of water supplies through desalting, reuse and other water sciences. The Corporation's members are concerned with design, research and development, equipment manufacture, operation and maintenance, environmental regulations and legislation.

The Corporation's objectives include promotion, both to the public and to elected officials, of available technologies that improve water quality; education, training and certification of plant operation personnel; communication within the membership; development of meaningful interface with regulatory agencies; technology transfer; and protection of the environment.

The Corporation is committed to the advancement of its objectives throughout the Southwest United States region including but not limited to Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada within the limits of it's resources.

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