



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GREEN VALLEY WATER PLANT NOW DELIVERING TOP-QUALITY WATER
New state of the art treatment system solves trihalomethane condition**

The City of Vallejo's Green Valley Water Treatment Plant's new state-of-the-art ion exchange treatment process has residents served by the plant receiving some of the highest quality drinking water in the State.

The City recently installed a magnetic ion exchange treatment system - MIEX[®] - to bring the plant into compliance with a recently-enacted Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for trihalomethanes (THMs), a disinfection by-product (DBP). DBPs form when chlorine, commonly used in disinfection, reacts over time with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water sources.

The EPA rule sets a limit on the running annual average for THMs in distribution systems measured on a quarterly basis at 80 micrograms per liter. The water in the distribution system served by the Green Valley Plant can take up to four weeks to reach the furthest customers, providing a considerable amount of time for THMs to form.

"To compensate for this long detention time, we had to upgrade the treatment plant to remove far more organics than almost all treatment plants are capable of," said Franz Nestlerode, Deputy Water Superintendent with the City.

The EPA standard for THMs was first introduced for plants serving less than 10,000 customers in January 2004. Prior to that, small systems did not have to measure or report levels of disinfection by-products.

By January 2005, the City was required to issue notices of violations to about 2,800 customers in the communities of Gordon Valley, Old Cordelia, Green Valley, and parts of American Canyon for exceeding the annual average limit for THMs. These notices included information regarding the concerns of drinking water containing THMs in excess of the maximum contaminant level.

(More)

The City, in anticipation of the new EPA rule, conducted a comprehensive evaluation of technologies capable of achieving exceptional removal of organic carbon. In 2004 the two most viable technologies, GAC (granulated activated carbon) and magnetic ion exchange treatment were pilot tested. The results demonstrated that both technologies achieved exceptional organic carbon removal; however, the magnetic ion exchange treatment system did so at a fraction of the operating cost.

The decision was made to implement a MIEX[®] System solution, and construction on only the third MIEX[®] system in North America began in June 2005. The System went on-line in January 2006 and was in continual operation by March. From start-up, the reduction in organic carbon has been significant with an average removal of approximately 60 percent. The vast majority of modern plants achieve a 15 to 35 percent removal of organic carbon. The THM disinfection by-product levels quickly fell well below the EPA limit, allowing the Green Valley plant to be brought back into compliance after only two quarters of operation.

“We are pleased to have brought the Green Valley plant back into compliance in a relatively short period. Also, the comfort margin below the current standard will allow us to meet the recently enacted Stage II DBP regulation,” noted Nestlerode.

For more information, please contact Franz Nestlerode, Deputy Water Superintendent for the City of Vallejo at (707) 648-4308.

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