

To All

# **TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER CONSUMERS**



*Fluoridation of Municipal  
Drinking Water Supplies*

**City of Torrance**  
Public Works Department

## *Drinking Water Fluoridation*

In the fall 2007 the major water wholesaler for all of Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), began fluoridation treatment for its entire service area including the City of Torrance. Currently MWD fluoridated imported water deliveries account for approximately 75- 80% of Torrance Municipal Water's (TMW) drinking water supply. The Metropolitan Water District adds supplemental fluoride to reach an optimum level (approximately 0.8 parts per million or ppm) for preventing tooth decay. However, due to the blending of local TMW supplies and MWD imported sources, the level of fluoridation is inconsistent and variable in many portions of the Municipal service area.

Water fluoridation is not a new concept. Over 70% of cities in the United States provide fluoridated drinking water. California State law requires that all water utilities with 10,000 or more service connections provide fluoridated water when funding becomes available for the construction of treatment facilities. The City of Torrance received grant funding from the First 5 LA Organization for the construction of fluoridation treatment facilities at its local Municipal water sources. Once these local source treatment facilities are completed in mid 2012, the entire municipal service area will receive a uniform level of fluoridated water that is consistent with fluoridated water supplies purchased from the Metropolitan Water District.

## *Why Add Fluoride*

Fluoride is naturally occurring mineral found in local water supplies at approximately 0.2 parts per million (ppm). The optimum level of 0.7- 0.8 ppm is well below limits set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Drinking optimally fluoridated water has been identified as the single-most cost-effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health. Extensive scientific research over the last 50 years has established the safety and effectiveness of this practice and fluoridation of drinking water is supported by local, state and national health agencies including; the American and California Dental Associations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Surgeon General, the World Health Organization and other prominent health organizations.

## *Who Benefits from Fluoridated Water*

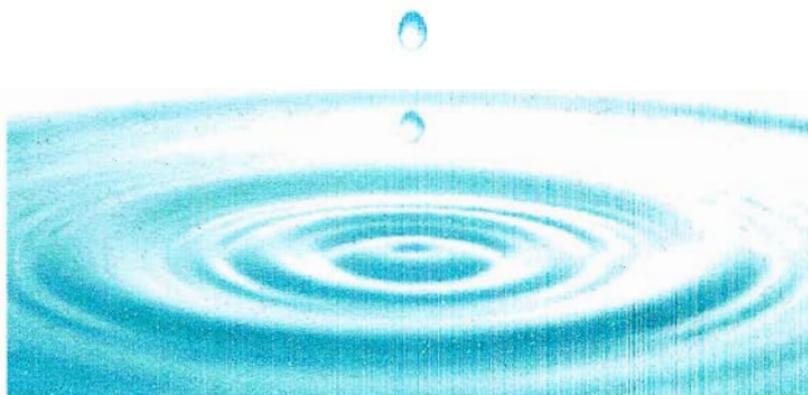
People of all ages benefit from drinking fluoridated water. Fluoridated water will provide substantial protection necessary to fight cavities. Fluoride works to strengthen tooth enamel so teeth become more resistant to decay, and it reverses newly formed cavities. This is a particular advantage for children. Fluoride also prevents cavities in the root surfaces of teeth of older adults when the gums start to recede.

## *What This Means to Torrance Municipal Water Customers*

Most of the Torrance Municipal Water service area receives water that is already fluoridated at or near the optimal level. However, drinking water in some areas may contain less than optimized levels or inconsistent amounts of fluoride because TMW produces approximately 15-20% of its local drinking water from non-fluoridated sources. Once these local water sources are converted to fluoridated treatment in mid 2012, the entire municipal service area will receive the same optimized level of fluoridated water. You will not notice a change in the taste, smell or appearance of your water-nor in the size of your water bill because this program will be conducted within current water rates.

## *How much fluoride will be added?*

Fluoride is nature's cavity-fighter and although there has always been a certain amount of fluoride naturally present in all of Torrance Municipal Water's local water sources, the levels are not sufficient to protect against tooth decay. TMW's fluoridation of local supplies will match the recommended optimum range of 0.7- 0.8 ppm of imported water supplies purchased from the Metropolitan Water District. At this



range, fluoridation has proven to be safe and effective in preventing tooth decay.

### *How will fluoridation be done?*

Torrance Municipal Water has recently converted both of its current local water supply sources to fluoridated treatment. These local sources will be fluoridated to match that of the MWD supply to ensure consistency throughout the system. Similar to the MWD supply, the fluoride level at local sources will be monitored continuously.

### *If I Take Fluoridated Supplements*

Drinking optimally fluoridated water on a regular basis generally eliminates the need to take supplemental fluoride tablets or drops. Consultation with your professional dental care provider is recommended.

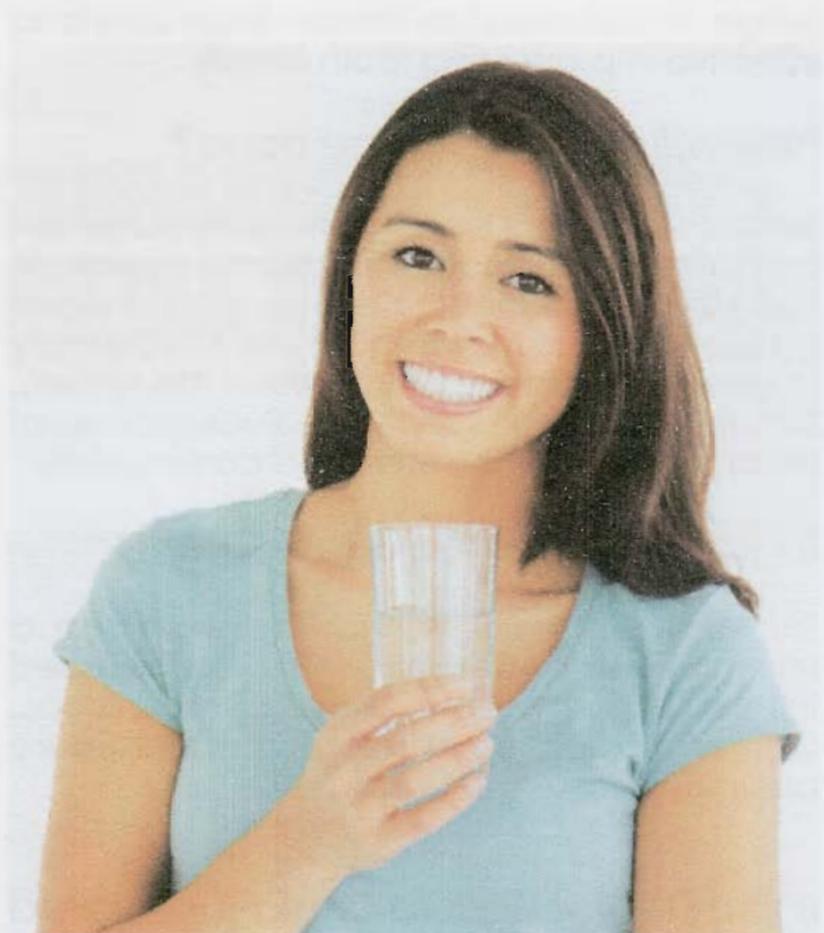
### *If You Do Not Wish to Drink Fluoridated Water*

Customers who do not wish to drink fluoridated water should know that most bottled water does not contain significant levels of fluoride. Home water treatment devices that use a reverse osmosis membrane process (RO) will effectively remove fluoride. However carbon filters without an RO feature will not remove fluoride. Customers should be sure that any treatment device they buy is registered with the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). [www.nfs.org](http://www.nfs.org).

### *Where Can I Get More Information*

For more information on fluoride in the Torrance Municipal Service area call our main number (310) 781-6900 or visit our website at [www.TorranceCA.gov/PublicWorks/Water](http://www.TorranceCA.gov/PublicWorks/Water). For more information on fluoride in MWD's drinking water, call the Water Quality Information Line at (800) 354-4420 or visit the MWD website at [mwdh2o.com/fluoridation](http://mwdh2o.com/fluoridation).

For additional fluoridation information contact the Office of the Dental Director, Los Angeles County Public Health Department at (213) 351-7804 or visit the American Dental Association website at [www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/news.asp](http://www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/news.asp)



**Torrance Municipal Water(TMW) is committed to providing excellent service and a water supply that meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. TMW believes that it is the responsibility of public health experts and officials to study and decide on public health issues. Overwhelmingly, these experts support the addition of supplemental fluoride to public water supplies to promote better dental health.**

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