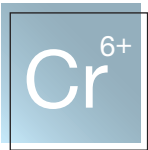


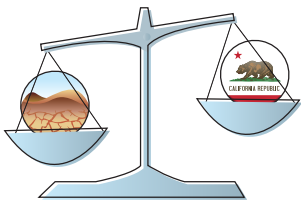


## What is Chromium-6 (Cr6)?



Cr6 is one of several naturally occurring forms of Chromium, an element that enters the groundwater through

geological formations throughout California, including many of those located in the Santa Ynez Valley.



## How is the drought making the situation worse?

ID No. 1 has historically been able to endure droughts by relying more heavily on groundwater supplies, as opposed to surface supplies, such as Lake Cachuma, which run low when California doesn't get enough rain and snow.

During past droughts, ID No. 1 was able to comply with Chromium standards even though the old standards were twice as strict as the rest of the country. The new State standard is so stringent and surface supplies are so diminished that ID No. 1 cannot maintain full deliveries to accommodate current demands without conscientious conservation.

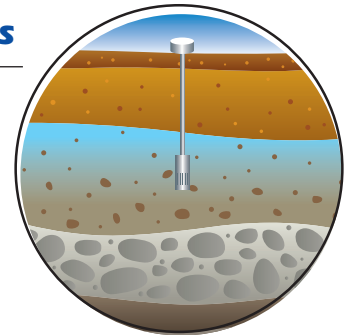
## Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ID No. 1:

# OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS FOR RESTORING WATER SUPPLIES AND MEETING NEW STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

**T**he Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. 1, and its customers are facing a severe water supply shortage driven both by drought and new State standards regulating water supplies.

Recently, California adopted a new water quality standard that significantly reduces the amount of Cr6 allowed in drinking water. Although California's water quality standards for total Chromium were already stricter than federal limits, the new State mandate is even more stringent. As a result, ID No. 1 has had to take key wells out of service because the water from those wells no longer meets the State's standards. This has triggered an immediate and substantial loss of available water supplies.

## Upland Groundwater Wells



**DOWN BY**  
**68%**  
**COMPARED TO**  
**NORMAL YEARS**

## ID No. 1 is working to restore water supplies & meet new water quality standards

ID No. 1 has always provided drinking water that is safe and reliable. While everyone must conserve water to help preserve resources, we need to consider making a long-term investment that will ensure groundwater supplies meet public health and safety standards and are available when we need them most.

To prepare for the scenario we are in today, ID No. 1 hired outside experts early on to assess the situation and identify potential actions that would enable ID No. 1 to meet water quality and supply needs. Experts explored a range of options, varying in cost, water supply and water quality benefits. From the six major concepts and over 18 alternatives analyzed, **ID No. 1 is presenting three different approaches for the Board of Trustees to consider:**

## OPTION **A** Five New Treatment Facilities

ESTIMATED COST:

**\$5.1**  
**MILLION**  
per year

Option A calls for the construction of five new separate water treatment plants to treat all wells with Cr6 concentrations higher than or near the allowable 10 parts per billion. **This option would give ID No. 1 the most water supply and water quality benefits, increasing current production while providing full assurance that groundwater supplies meet State Cr6 standards.**

## OPTION **D** Two New Treatment Facilities and Blending

ESTIMATED COST:

**\$3.4**  
**MILLION**  
per year

Option D, a less expensive option, includes the construction of two new water treatment plants. **Three-quarters of ID No. 1's Upland wells would be treated with a high level of certainty.** Wells that have Cr6 levels near the State standard would not be treated, but blended with low Cr6 water supplies. Those wells may be vulnerable if Cr6 concentrations increase or if the blending supplies are low, however this risk could be addressed if needed in the future by making certain upgrades.

## OPTION **E** One New Treatment Facility, Blending and Well Modification

ESTIMATED COST:

**\$2.3**  
**MILLION**  
per year

Option E is the least expensive option but carries the most risk, relying heavily on blending and well modification to treat wells impacted by Cr6. Under this option, only one new treatment plant would be built. ID No. 1 would be largely dependent on other water sources to bring its overall supply into compliance with the new State standards. Approximately half of ID No. 1's groundwater supply would remain vulnerable to future changes in Cr6 concentrations.



### Balancing needs: Public health, water supply & cost

ID No. 1 staff has analyzed these options, and a multitude of others, to determine how it can provide long-term water supply reliability to all of its customers under the confines of the new State standards. It is recommended that the range of options A, D, E, be considered by the Board of Trustees as alternatives for restoring groundwater supplies while meeting the new State standards.

### ID No. 1 is seeking relief on behalf of ratepayers

Treating water to meet the State's Cr6 standard is expensive, but ID No. 1 can only deliver water that complies with the new regulation; there is no other option. Without a long-term solution that enables ID No. 1 to treat groundwater supplies, we risk severe shortages and customers may face significant water cutbacks. ID No. 1 is working on behalf of ratepayers however for relief.

Well before the new standard was adopted, ID No. 1 joined with other water agencies and organizations to seek assistance and communicate the costs and difficulties associated with effectively implementing the new regulation to State elected officials, the Governor's Office and regulatory agencies. ID No. 1 has and continues to pursue funding to help pay for complying with these new regulations to help offset potentially substantial costs that would impact ratepayers.



For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.syrwd.org>.

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