



Angeles Chapter

News Release

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Sierra Club Applauds Newhall County Water District for Accurate Water Supply Reporting

Santa Clarita – The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club commends the Board of Directors of the Newhall County Water District for passing resolution 2004-03 yesterday, which calls for accuracy in reporting water supplies. The resolution can be viewed at http://www.ncwd.org/Pub_News.asp.

Until now, projected water supplies that are subject to variability due to environmental conditions such as rainfall, as well as water contaminated by the rocket fuel ingredient ammonium perchlorate, have been considered “available” for use under the Regional Urban Water Management Plan. Ammonium perchlorate causes a lack of iodine absorption, which reduces thyroid function. Reduced thyroid function causes retardation in fetuses and small children, and may cause cancer. In 2001, the Sierra Club sued the Santa Clarita water agencies, including Newhall County Water District, for including the contaminated water as available supply. The case is now before the Kern County Appellate Court.

“The Sierra Club cares about the health of our communities, and clean water is a priority campaign of the Sierra Club,” said Conservation Program Coordinator Johanna Zetterberg, “Polluted water should not be considered an available source of water for our families. Would you knowingly serve anything contaminated to your kids?”

Accurate water reporting is a positive step for Santa Clarita and for all of Southern California. Just as households must budget and live within their means, planners and regulatory agencies must not sink their communities into debt by gambling with water resources that may or may not be there. This conservative approach is a responsible way to guarantee that existing water customers will have clean water flowing from their taps.

“The Board is simply following the law,” explained Zetterberg, “SB 221 (Kuehl) and SB 610 (Costa) both require water assessments to be based on proven, existing supplies.” The Sierra Club encourages other water agencies to follow suit.

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