



News Release

Suburban Water Systems

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For Immediate Release

Suburban Water Systems to Provide Lead Testing For Schools

February 14, 2017, COVINA, CA.— As part of its commitment to water quality, Suburban Water Systems (Suburban) announced today that it has finalized plans to test for lead in water in schools within its service areas. The announcement follows the release of new guidelines for lead testing in schools by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water.

The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water recently announced an initiative encouraging California schools to work with their local water providers to sample for the presence of lead in the drinking water served to students and staff. In accordance with the new guidelines, schools or school districts serving any kindergarten through 12th-grade level may request lead testing by its water utility.

Suburban will work with the schools and school districts in their service area, if requested by the agency, to develop a sampling plan, test samples, and conduct follow-up monitoring if any school needs to take corrective action on its plumbing fixtures. Suburban's dedicated team of water quality professionals regularly treats, tests and monitors the water we deliver. However, the most common cause of lead exposure in the drinking water at schools is often prolonged contact with a building's lead-based pipes and plumbing fixtures.

Under the federal Lead and Copper Rule, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency already requires public water systems to test for lead at customers' taps, targeting the highest risk homes based on the age of their plumbing. California's compliance rate with the Lead and Copper Rule is among the highest in the country, but the rule does not require testing for schools and businesses. The Board's new requirement ensures schools that request lead testing can receive it for free. The Board consulted with water systems and schools in developing the requirement.

Because California has newer infrastructure and less corrosive water than other parts of the country, lead problems at the tap are uncommon. However, national events have

highlighted the importance of ongoing water quality monitoring and in 2015 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. directed the State Water Resources Control Board to incorporate schools into the regular water quality testing that community water systems conduct at customer's taps.

"Suburban is looking forward to working with our school districts and schools to ensure their drinking water safety", said Richard Rich, Suburban General Manager. "Their health and safety are a number one priority of ours."

Suburban Water Systems has been serving high-quality water to approximately 300,000 people in or near Covina, West Covina, La Puente, Glendora, Hacienda Heights, Whittier, La Mirada, Buena Park, La Habra, Walnut, and other adjacent unincorporated areas in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, California since 1925.

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