WATER SOFTENER RULES AND REGULATIONS REVISIONS
• Water hardness is a measure of specific minerals in water that can impact the performance of various household and commercial functions

• “Hard Water” is a measurement of mainly Calcium and Magnesium levels in water

• Water Softener units use “ion exchange” technology to remove hardness

• Brine and backwash discharge are byproducts of “regenerating water softeners” that enter sewer
TYPICAL WATER SOFTENERS

Commercial / Industrial

Residential
WATER SOFTENING PROCESS
WATER SOFTENING PROCESS

1. **Backwash**
   - Water from the **water supply** enters the tank and moves to the **brine tank**.
   - **Mineral tank** is drained.
   - The tank is filled with clean water.

2. **Recharge**
   - Clean water is drained from the tank.
   - Brine solution is pumped from the **brine tank**.
   - Brine solution is mixed with water to soften it.

3. **Rinse**
   - Water from the **water supply** enters the tank and moves to the **brine tank**.
   - **Mineral tank** is drained.
   - The tank is filled with clean water.
   - **Water is supplied to the house**.
District R&R’s currently prohibit use of self-regenerating water softeners

Two Statutes, Health & Safety Code and California Water Code, require specific conditions be met to allow for restricting residential water softener use

Codes do not provide policy on restriction of non-residential water softener use

Health & Safety Code: Local agency must have specific findings through independent studies showing restriction is “necessary means” of Waste Discharge or Permit compliance

Water Code: Specific findings by Regional Board on impacts to water quality objectives be substantiated to “control” salinity input from residential water softeners

No findings have been made by Region 9 of San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board or by MNWD / SOCWA

Relief of District’s prohibition would not have noticeable impact on wastewater salinity levels

Revisions will reference compliance with Health & Safety Code Section 116775, et seq.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Sections 5.B.2, 5.J.1.k, and 12 of District’s Rules and Regulations be modified (per Exhibit A) and adopted to comply with Health and Safety Code Section 116775, et seq
Questions?
Cumulative Monthly Water Purchases versus SWRCB Allocation

2013/2014 Production

SWRCB Target

2015/2016 Production

June 13, 2016
Single Family Residential Accounts Above Tier 2

June 13, 2016
AF in Tier 3, 4, 5 | 94 | 89 | 101 | 154 | 131 | 159 | 102 | 148 | 134 | 187 | 173 | 110 | 70 | 78 | 83 | 119

**Potable Usage by Tier**

**Percent Potable Usage by Tier**
Total Turf Removal Applications by Month

Applications

- Residential
- Commercial

June 13, 2016
Total Turf Removed

Square Feet

June 13, 2016