

McIntire, Angela@Calwater

From: McGhee, Ken@CalWater
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 10:38 AM
To: McIntire, Angela@Calwater
Subject: Emailing: modules

for the EJ listserve please.

Ken

THE BLACK VOICE NEWS *Online Edition*

Serving the Inland Empire for over 30 years.

Volume 32 Number 41 :: Wednesday

Member Login

Username:

Password:

Remember me

Submit



Are You Drinking Rocket Fuel?

Posted on Feb 01, 2005 - 09:23 AM by blackvoice

Residents Urged to Fight Cancer Causing Agents in Water

Quick Search

Go

Fontana

By Cheryl Brown



Residents are suffering from high incidences of thyroid disease, cancer and low learning levels, attention deficit disorders, and learning disabilities because of the rocket fuel in the water, charged Penny Newman, Executive Director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice.

Main Menu

Home

- About Us
- Calendar
- Chat
- Classifieds
- Directory
- Downloads
- FAQ
- Forum
- Jobs
- Legal Advertising
- Members List
- PDA / Palm
- Recipes
- Recommend Us
- Search
- Subscribe
- Topics
- Web Links



Senators Gloria Negrete McCloud and Nell Soto urge residents to "get involved."

"Polluters need to provide replacement water and clean up the water," said Newman. Forum host and guest speaker Senator Nell Soto was strong in her response as she urged the audience of 100 to get involved, "they won't pay attention until we start working together. Public pressure is going to be the only thing that will work. Start a revolution!"

Who's Online

You are an anonymous user. You can register for free by clicking here.

[Vote](#)

You can only vote if you log in or register.

Do you think the Iraq elections will proceed on schedule?

- Yes
- No

[[Results](#) | [Polls](#)]

At the highest risk are pregnant women, infants, children and those whose immune systems have been compromised. "In Norco there have been clusters of thyroid problems, and other illnesses," said one participant who was asking for help for her community.

"The area with the highest number of incidents is the Wiley Labs located just 1500 ft from two schools. The people affected are unrelated to each other and as new people move in they are becoming ill. We have been documenting the cases. In one case the family had a case of thyroid cancer and the next person who moved in the same house also had thyroid problems," said the woman.



Alan Dryer, West Valley Water District

The community forum, held at the Fontana City Hall, focused on the high incidence of rocket fuel in the entire Inland Empire's drinking water. Senators Nell Soto and Gloria Negrete McCloud were there to support the grassroots movement to clean up the drinking water.

Perchlorate is the primary ingredient in rocket fuel and is emerging as the major contaminate in California and in the nation. Because of the high number of military and aerospace contractors and manufacturers of explosive chemicals in the Inland Empire there is widespread contamination in the water, milk and lettuce of about 16 million Californians. West Valley Water District director Alan Dryer said, "the water companies want to sell clean water but we have no money to clean it up and we are not working together to go after money from the EPA."

He said that they don't even have the tools to measure the amount of pollution in the water. Supervisor Josie Gonzales took issue with presenters and said her approach is to clean-up the problem. "We need to focus on the clean-up, not the money it costs to do it," she said. However she was met with opposition. "It is the responsibility of the polluters not the taxpayers to clean up the water," said Newman. Gonzales said that time was of the essence.

The work of Environment California Research & Policy Center representative Sujatha Jahagirdar summed up the problem and said that Santa Ana Water Quality Board hasn't issued a fine. "The government agency that is charged with clean water hasn't issued a fine to any of the companies who are the polluters. If the polluters are put into the Superfund the water will be cleaned up," she said. Jahagirdar said that the company Kerr-McGee Industries has almost single handedly polluted the entire Southern California region. "It is paramount no matter where we live," she said.



Sujatha Jahagirdar

Senator McCloud said her research found that a plume of perchlorate is in her district near Pomona, (where the GE Iron Company used to be) over to the Big Chino Aquifer and is meeting the San Bernardino/Riverside plume at about a rate of 3 feet a day.

The issue of the standard of what is the safe level of water was discussed. Jahagirdar said that California doesn't have a safe standard and that setting the standard is political. "The companies that pollute are trying to convince the government to agree on a standard that is dangerously high.

Massachusetts, she said "has the nation's best standard. It is 1 part per billion." The California Department of Health Services is unofficially moving toward recommending the very high rate at 6 parts per billion" she said.

"In setting the final perchlorate standard, the state should use the weight of scientific evidence, including experiments showing the damage to infant rats when exposed to small amounts of perchlorate in the womb," said Jahagirdar. According to Jahagirdar, the study that was done used grown men and not pregnant women or children. "They gave some grown, healthy men perchlorate laced water for two weeks and another

The
Nis
Al

ALL
INT

Redesigned
New Finishes
New Center
Optional DVD

group clean water, they (perchlorate) were not affected," she said.

The study done by Environment California Research and Policy Center recommends, in addition, the State of California, local governments and water suppliers should hold responsible parties fully liable for cleanup and for supplying replacement drinking water to affected communities.

Congress should not exempt the Department of Defense. Secondly, Congress should reinstate Superfund fees for polluting industries to ensure that contamination caused by now-bankrupt companies will be cleaned up. Federal and State Agencies should require American Pacific, Kerr-McGee Chemical and other responsible parties to excel rate clean up of perchlorate contamination currently leaking into the Colorado River and local aquifers.

Our choice is setting a health standard for perchlorate is a choice between protecting the financial interests of a handful of companies and government agencies, or protecting California Children, recommended the report. According to the presenters the water is contaminated and hurting us and the ones who are hurt the most are people who cannot afford bottle water.

What can the community do? Sign the petitions, get involved, and help save the children. We need to protect all people. Those who can afford bottled water and those who can't," said Penny Newman. For information call (951) 360-8451.

Are You Drinking Rocket Fuel? | [Login/Create an account](#) | 0 Comment

Threshold Thread Oldest first

Comments are owned by the poster. We aren't responsible for their content.

Black Voice News Copyright © 2005
Contact the webmaster.