

CITY OF TURLOCK



156 S. Broadway  
Turlock, CA 95380  
Phone (209) 668-5590  
[www.turlock.ca.us](http://www.turlock.ca.us)

# Press Release

**Contact:** Trilby Barton,  
[tbarton@ppeng.com](mailto:tbarton@ppeng.com)  
**Phone:** (209) 809-2300

May 18, 2021

## *For Immediate Release*

### **City of Turlock Adding Chlorination to Water System; Public Meeting Scheduled for May 26**

The City of Turlock is adding chlorination to the water system, and the project will be fully functional in August 2021. For information on how chlorinated water will impact city residents and local businesses, the public is invited to participate in a public meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Turlock City Hall's Council Chambers, located at 156 South Broadway.

The May 26 public meeting will consist of an overview of the project, followed by a question-and-answer session for residents and business owners.

Seating capacity will be limited to the first 14 people to ensure all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines are met. All members of the public may participate in the meeting and provide public comment via Zoom by using the direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85065295809>, or by calling 1-669-900-6833, Webinar ID 850 6529 5809.

According to City staff, the City-Wide Chlorination Project will improve drinking water quality throughout Turlock's municipal water system. Chlorination prevents the growth of harmful bacteria and eliminates viruses and microorganisms that can cause serious illness if consumed.

Businesses that may be specifically affected by the chlorination project include pet stores and aquariums, medical facilities such as dialysis centers, and food processors.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is the chlorination necessary?** – Chlorination prevents the growth of harmful bacteria and eliminates viruses and microorganisms that can cause serious illness if consumed.
- **Why wasn't the water chlorinated previously?** – Previously the City water system relied entirely on untreated groundwater which did not require chlorination. However, additional treatment, specifically activated carbon filtration, is being added to the system and when activated carbon filtration is used in a system, disinfection is required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to kill any microorganisms that may be introduced during the filtration process. Additionally, the City will begin utilizing treated surface water as part of the City's water supply in the upcoming years. Disinfection is imperative and mandated when surface water is used for drinking water purposes due to the presence of microorganisms in surface water bodies (lakes, rivers, etc.).
- **What is involved in the chlorination process?** – The City will be using sodium hypochlorite which will be injected into the water in liquid form at each of the City's well and storage tank sites. There is a chlorine analyzer downstream of the injection point that ensures that the dosage remains within acceptable limits.
- **What safeguards are in place to prevent the dosage of sodium hypochlorite from being exceeded?** – At every location at which sodium hypochlorite is being administered there will be a chlorine residual analyzer installed. The chlorine residual analyzer is equipped with an alarm that will alert operators if the chlorine level falls below the lower limit or exceeds the upper limit. Operators will also visit the chlorination sites daily to check on the equipment.
- **Are there any health risks associated with chlorinated water?** – No, there are no health risks associated with drinking chlorinated water.
- **Will chlorine affect aquatic animals?** – Yes, chlorine can affect fish, shellfish, amphibians, and some reptiles since these animals can absorb chlorine directly into their bloodstream through their skin or gills. A water conditioner or filter can be installed to remove the chlorine and protect the animals.
- **Can chlorinated water be used for dialysis?** – Chlorine must be removed from the water used for dialysis machines since this water can come in direct contact with the blood. Dialysis patients should consult with their physician if they have

concerns about using water treated with chlorine. However, dialysis patients can safely drink chlorinated water.

###