

Notice and Agenda
ADJOURNED
REGULAR MEETING

— BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

NEWHALL RANCH
SANITATION DISTRICT

To be held in the HEARING ROOM
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California

TUESDAY		July 28, 2026		At 9:30 A.M.
BARGER	HAHN	SOLIS (Chairperson)	HORVATH	MITCHELL

1. Recommendation: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Installation of Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softener (5)
 - a) Introduce *Resolution Adopting an Ordinance to Prohibit the Installation of Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softening Appliances*
 - b) Introduce *An Ordinance Prohibiting the Installation of Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softening Appliances* and Waive Reading of Said Ordinance in its Entirety
 - c) Authorize Chief Engineer and General Manager to Establish an Incentive Program for the Value of Existing Units and Removal of Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softening Appliances
 - d) Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance
 - e) Set Public Hearing for Proposed Ordinance Adoption

Adjourn



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
Converting Waste Into Resources

Robert C. Ferrante

Chief Engineer and General Manager

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June 4, 2026

Boards of Directors
County Sanitation Newhall Ranch Sanitation District
of Los Angeles County

Directors:

The enclosed agenda includes the following item for the adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Newhall Ranch Sanitation District meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

1. Resolution and Ordinance Prohibiting the Installation of Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softening Appliances (5) The proposed Ordinance prohibits the installation of residential self-regenerating water softening appliances that discharge into the community sewer system and provides the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District (District) with legal authority to control their use within the District in order to attain water quality objectives set by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board). The Regional Board imposed a strict chloride effluent limit of 100 milligrams per liter in treated wastewater discharged from the District in the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The District meets the criteria set forth in California Water Code Section 13148, which provides that any local agency that owns or operates a community sewer system or water recycling facility and that is subject to a finding made by a Regional Board may take action to control salinity inputs from residential self-regenerating water softening appliances to protect the quality of the waters of the State. Prohibiting the installation of residential self-regenerating water-softening appliances in the District is a necessary means of protecting and achieving water quality objectives and protecting the Santa Clara River. The Board Resolution includes language establishing a program to compensate owners for the value of each removed device and the reasonable cost of removal and disposal.

A copy of the proposed Board Resolution and Ordinance is attached. For any further comments or questions, please contact me at (562) 908-4288, ext. 1501, or Mr. Ray Tremblay at ext. 2701.

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Ferrante

RCF:drs
Enclosures

NEWHALL RANCH SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE INSTALLATION OF
RESIDENTIAL SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENING APPLIANCES

WHEREAS, Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County (“District”), pursuant to authority contained in the County Sanitation District Act, California Health and Safety Code Sections 4700 *et seq.* and authority conferred by law including, but not limited to, Government Code Section 25131, and Article 3, Chapter 3, Division 7, Section 13148 of the California Water Code, enacts an ordinance to prohibit the installation of self-generating water softening appliances within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the California state legislature has found and declared that pollution prevention should be the first step in a hierarchy for reducing pollution and managing wastes, and to achieve environmental stewardship for society; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined and thus promulgates that the purposes of this Ordinance include, but are not limited to, the protection of the quality of the waters of the State by reducing salinity inputs from residential self-regenerating water softeners, protection of beneficial uses of the Santa Clara River downstream of the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District, and the advancement of public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 13148 provides that any local agency that owns or operates a community sewer system or water recycling facility and that is subject to a finding made by a regional board may take action to control salinity inputs from residential self-regenerating water softeners to protect the quality of the waters of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has made the necessary preconditional finding, as part of its consideration of a water quality action for salt and nutrient management for a groundwater basin or subbasin, that the control of residential salinity input will contribute to the achievement of water quality objectives; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2016, the Regional Board approved Resolution No. R16-008 to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region to incorporate Stakeholder-Developed Groundwater Quality Management Measures for Salts and Nutrients in the Upper Santa Clara River Basin (“SNMP”); and

WHEREAS, the SNMP was developed by local stakeholders and water entities located in the Upper Santa Clara River Basin (*i.e.*, Newhall Ranch and Santa Clarita Valley) and is designed to maintain water quality to protect beneficial uses while increasing the use of recycled water to allow for more sustainable usage of groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, the SNMP is supported by the SNMP Final Report, dated October 25, 2016, which identifies self-regenerating water softeners as one of the principal sources of chloride in the sewerage system (both the SNMP and SNMP Final Report are incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS, following the Regional Board's amendment of the Water Quality Control Plan, on June 13, 2019, the Regional Board held a public hearing and adopted Order No. R4-2019-0077 for the Newhall Ranch Water Reclamation Plant (NRWRP), which was a water quality action to establish the waste discharge requirements for the NRWRP; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board, at the public hearing for Order No. R4-2019-0077, found that the control of residential salinity input will contribute to the achievement of water quality objectives, based on evidence in the record demonstrating that salinity input from residential use of self-regenerating water softeners is a significant source of controllable chloride; and

WHEREAS, the prohibition of the installation of Residential Self-regenerating Water Softening Appliances in the District is a necessary means of protecting and attaining water quality objectives and beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance prohibiting the installation of Residential Self-regenerating Water Softening Appliances is a project under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Pub. Res. Code §21000 *et seq.*) and title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 *et seq.* ("CEQA Guidelines") that is exempt from CEQA environmental impact review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §§ 15307 and 15308, actions by a regulatory agency for the protection of natural resources and the environment, respectively.

NOW THEREFORE, THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREBY takes the following actions:

1. Approve and Adopt AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE INSTALLATION OF RESIDENTIAL SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENING APPLIANCES based on the findings set forth in the Recitals above; and

2. Approve and Adopt a Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15062 based on the findings set forth in the Recitals above; and

3. Establish a program to compensate owners of residential self-regenerating water softeners within its service area for 100% of the reasonable value of each removed residential self-regenerating water softener for 12 months from the Effective Date of the Ordinance and the reasonable cost of the removal and disposal of that residential self-regenerating water softener from the Effective Date of the Ordinance with no end date.

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of
Los Angeles County

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Directors
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of
Los Angeles County

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Newhall Ranch Sanitation District
of Los Angeles County on _____, by the following vote.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Secretary of the Board of Directors of
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of
Los Angeles County

NEWHALL RANCH SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE INSTALLATION OF
RESIDENTIAL SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENING APPLIANCES

The Board of Directors of the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County ordain as follows:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the quality of the waters of the State including, but not limited to, protecting beneficial uses of the Santa Clara River downstream of the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the terms used in this Ordinance:

(a) "District" means the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County.

(b) "Person" includes any individual, firm, association, organization, estate, partnership, business, trust, corporation, company, district, governmental entity, or any other legal entity, including its legal representatives, agents and assigns.

(c) "Regional Board" means the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, created and exercising its powers pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California Water Code Sections 13000 et seq.

(d) "Community Sewer System" means the network of facilities owned and operated by the District or that are tributary to the District-owned and operated facilities that convey wastewater from within the District's service area.

(e) "Residence" means a structure which is or is intended to be, in whole or in part, a place of dwelling, whether occupied or not, whether fully constructed or not, and includes, without limitation, homes, whether attached to another structure or not, apartments, condominiums and mobile homes.

(f) "Residential self-regenerating water softening appliance" means a water softening device located within or adjacent to a residence located within the District or which discharges into a community sewer system that is tributary to the sewer system owned and operated by the District, whereby the capability of the appliance to remove hardness from water is renewed by the on-site application of a chloride salt-containing brine solution to the active softening or conditioning material contained therein, followed by a subsequent rinsing of the active softening or conditioning material.

3. PROHIBITION

No person shall install, cause to be installed, or in any manner assist in the installation of a Residential self-regenerating water softening appliance that discharges into the community sewer system owned and operated by the District or that discharges into a Community Sewer System that is or may be tributary to the

sewer system owned and operated by the District.

4. REQUIREMENT FOR REMOVAL OF RESIDENTIAL SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENERS

Every person who has a residential self-regenerating water softening appliance that is installed upon their property or premises, and every person occupying or leasing the property or premises of another who has a residential self-regenerating water softening appliance installed thereon, that discharges into the Community Sewer System shall remove and dispose of the installed residential self-regenerating water softening appliance after the Effective Date of this Ordinance.

5. VIOLATION

The maintenance or operation of a residential self-regenerating water softening appliance that is capable of or actually discharges directly to or is tributary to the Community Sewer System owned and operated by the District is hereby declared a public nuisance. The District may suspend or terminate wastewater service to any parcel found to have a self-regenerating water softening appliance that is capable of discharging to the community sewer system, until the parcel owner can demonstrate that the appliance is removed.

A violation of this Ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both.

6. ENFORCEMENT

The Chief Engineer and General Manager of the District shall administer, implement and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the Chief Engineer and General Manager may be delegated to persons acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the District.

7. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, and to that end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date of final passage and shall be prospective in nature.

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Directors
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District
of Los Angeles County

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District
of Los Angeles County

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County on _____ by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Secretary of the Board of Directors
Newhall Ranch Sanitation District
of Los Angeles County