Section 6
Water Quality Impacts on Reliability

Potable water supplies within the DWP's service area are derived primarily from local groundwater, with a small amount of imported water from CLAWA. In the future, recycled water will provide a significant portion of the potable supplies. Contamination of these sources or more stringent regulatory requirements has the potential to result in adjustments to water resource management strategies and, in the worse case scenario, impact supply reliability. As opposed to most water districts, DWP does not have the option of blending the local ground water supplies with the imported supplies, since the imported water is delivered to a service area that is not connected to the rest of the DWP's service area, and delivered in quantities that will not mitigate water quality impacts to the ground water. The ground water itself is blended in the system to help mitigate against water quality impacts.

California Title 22 Drinking Water Standards (Title 22) incorporates the federal requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and compliance with Title 22 is required by all water service providers. Therefore, Title 22 Monitoring of all regulated chemicals as well as a number of unregulated chemicals is conducted by the DWP. In order to be in compliance with Title 22, they must ensure that the regulated chemicals meet established primary drinking water standards to ensure the safety of the water supply. In addition to the primary drinking water standards, secondary drinking water standards have been set for some minerals based on non- health related aesthetics, such as taste and odor. Both primary and secondary standards are expressed as the maximum contaminated levels (MCL) that are allowable for a given constituent. Unregulated chemicals do not have established drinking water standards, but are chemicals of concern for which standards may be eventually adopted. These unregulated chemicals often have a "notification level", which is a health based advisory level established by Department of Health Services for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs.

Three wells out of the fifty-five wells in the DWP system presently have water quality issues that need to be addressed. The Pennsylvania well presently has high levels of manganese, which is presently being treated via Ion Exchange treatment plant at the well head. The Knickerbocker well has levels of arsenic that exceed the 2006 MCL (but not prior to 2006), and has been taken out of service. The DWP is actively pursuing the installation of Ion Exchange well head treatment at the Knickerbocker well to address these arsenic levels, and allow the well to be put back into service. The Monte Vista well presently exceeds Flouride MCL levels, but is blended with the Onyz well to bring Flouride level into compliance. There is also concern about fluoride levels at several other wells in a few subunits in the system, but these levels are not near regulatory levels.

In the past, the DWP has built, or is planning to build, well head treatment to address any water quality impacts at the wells. The DWP cannot afford to lose any wells to water quality, and is committed to bringing treatment online to deal with water quality issues as they arise.