

San Mateo County Times

Opinion

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OUR OPINION

Ruskin's bill step in right direction

CHLORAMINE is a chemical agent used to disinfect the drinking water provided by the San Francisco Water Department here on the Peninsula and in other parts of the Bay Area.

It is a relatively new additive. All of its effects on human beings are not clear at this point.

San Francisco officials believe the substance, on balance, is benign. Others aren't so sure. Concerns about skin rashes and possible links to asthma, among other worries, have been expressed.

It's better to be safe than sorry. That's why we are pleased to see that one of our state legislators, Assemblyman Ira

Ruskin, D-Redwood City, is sponsoring a bill that would take a long look at chloramine and water treatment in general.

The proposed legislation, AB 2402, which is also being pushed by an anti-chloramine lobbying group, would seek water-treatment options that may reduce or eliminate the need for disinfectants and chemical additives.

Naturally, the aim of everyone involved is public safety. And nothing is more critical to the public good than safe, clean drinking water.

Ruskin's bill, if it is eventually approved by the Assembly and Senate and signed into law by the governor, would be a step in the right direction.

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Please limit My Word articles to 550 words or less. All letters are subject to verification and editing for legal aspects, style, clarity and brevity.

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