



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333

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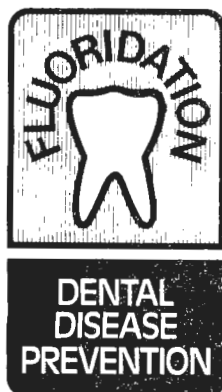
CLARIFICATION OF CALIFORNIA'S POSITION  
ON FLUORIDATION

On May 17, 1979, the Department of Health Services, State of California, issued a new policy statement on fluoridation of water supplies. The following memorandum from Beverlee A. Meyers, Director, Department of Health Services, is quoted in its entirety:

"It is the policy of the Department of Health Services to assist and encourage local health departments in whatever dental public health programs they undertake, including, where they choose, fluoridation of water supplies. The Department of Health Services believes that fluoridation of public water supplies has been proven to be a safe, economical, and effective means of combating dental decay and reducing dental costs. Dental research and community experience has (sic) demonstrated that:

- \* Fluoridation is a safe and cost-effective method of reducing tooth decay as much as 65%.
- \* Fluoridation can significantly reduce the need and cost of restorative dental care per person.
- \* Fluoridation poses no known health risks to consumers.

Ultimately, the decision of whether to fluoridate a specific water system or utility is a local policy decision. The Department of Health Services believes that it does have a public responsibility to make available to interested parties the relevant medical and dental facts which the public may wish to consider, along with other factors, in reaching an enlightened decision on whether to fluoridate a water system."



Dental Disease Prevention Activity  
Bureau of State Services