

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Tenorio", located below the name of the Lt. Governor.

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery
And E-mail to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

September 25, 2025

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-06

Hafa Adai Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-06

**RELATIVE TO DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO DIELDRIN
CONTAMINATION OF YIGO WATER WELLS.**

Senseramente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jeffrey A. Moots", located above the name and title of the Legal Counsel.

JEFFREY A. MOOTS
Legal Counsel

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2025-06

CC via email: The Hon. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hāgan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam
The Hon. Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guahan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
The Hon. Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of Guam
Compiler of Law
Central Files
Cabinet Members



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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-06

**RELATIVE TO DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO
DIELDRIN CONTAMINATION OF YIGO WATER WELLS**

WHEREAS, dieldrin is an insecticide that was widely used from the 1950s to 1970 for crops like cotton or corn. It was banned by US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) in 1987 due to environmental hazards and potential health risks, including cancer; and

WHEREAS, though production of dieldrin ceased nearly 40 years ago, it persists in the environment, remaining in soil and water for long periods due to its resistance to breaking down; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA has identified dieldrin as a probable carcinogen. Long-term exposure is toxic to humans, and may increase the likelihood of developing cancer. Drinking water containing dieldrin may also cause adverse effects on the liver and nervous system in higher concentrations; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA does not regulate dieldrin in drinking water because it is banned, dieldrin exposure was not widespread nationally, and it was assumed levels in the environment would decline over time; and

WHEREAS, dieldrin has been detected in Guam's drinking water for over a decade, and all public water systems are required to monitor for dieldrin at least quarterly; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2024, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency ("GEPA") established an Interim Action Level (IAL) for dieldrin, requiring public notification and a "Do Not Drink without Treatment" ("DNDT") advisory when levels exceed 0.2 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), and additional notification when levels exceed 0.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$; and

WHEREAS, the IAL took effect on August 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2025, the Guam Waterworks Authority ("GWA") issued a DNDT advisory to 1,118 customers in Yigo, after tests showed average



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dieldrin levels of 1.75 µg/L between December 2024 and July 2025, exceeding established IAL thresholds; and

WHEREAS, GWA has reported that the source of dieldrin contamination in Guam is unknown, but may be linked to disturbance of areas in which dieldrin was previously used due to construction or excavation, which caused the chemical to percolate into groundwater due to rainfall or leach from excavated construction material disposed of at hardfill sites; and

WHEREAS, GWA confirms that dieldrin levels in 97 of its 99 wells do not exceed IAL levels; and

WHEREAS, affected households have been advised not to drink or cook with untreated water, and to obtain water for drinking and cooking from alternative sources. Boiling water contaminated with dieldrin will not make the water safe for consumption; and

WHEREAS, GWA is working to install an approved treatment system at the affected well sites, which is targeted for completion within one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, since issuance of the DNDT advisory, many members of our community have justifiably expressed serious concerns regarding our government's efforts to address this issue. I join in these calls for urgent action; and

WHEREAS, I have been in close communication with GWA and GEPA regarding ongoing efforts, and additional measures they must take to keep our community safe and informed; and

WHEREAS, funding has been identified and approved for the purchase and installation of Point-of-Entry or Point-of-Use systems for affected households, as well as permanent Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) systems for affected wells; and

WHEREAS, while our agencies work diligently to take corrective measures, we must ensure that the affected households have access to safe water. GWA has designated fill stations for families to retrieve water, but I believe we can and we must do more; and

WHEREAS, to expedite procurement of necessary supplies and implementation of corrective measures, it is necessary to declare an emergency to address the elevated presence of dieldrin in the identified wells, which constitutes a threat to public health, welfare and safety, as well as the health and safety of the environment; and



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WHEREAS, as provided herein, I am directing GWA and GEPA to effectuate emergency measures to address the crisis, which shall include enhanced monitoring and reporting regarding dieldrin levels; delivery of clear, timely, and detailed information to affected communities; diligent and expedited remediation and/or treatment of affected wells; and interim measures to efficiently provide drinking and cooking water to affected households; and

WHEREAS, I expect our responding agencies to work diligently to address this emergency, and expeditiously restore safe water to all affected communities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOSHUA F. TENORIO, I *Ákto Maga'låghen Guåhan*, Acting Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam as amended, do hereby order:

1. **DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY.** A state of emergency is hereby declared due to the dieldrin contamination of water wells in Yigo.
 - a. **Emergency Procurement and Emergency Expenses.** Pursuant to 5 GCA §§ 5215 and 22402, I authorize emergency procurement of supplies, materials, goods, services or other expenditures for expenses resulting from this emergency, including up to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) as provided in Section 22402, and such other amounts as may be authorized under Section 5215.
 - b. **GWA to be Lead Agency; Purpose of Emergency Procurement.** GWA shall be the lead agency for the emergency procurement under this Executive Order, the effective period of which shall be for ninety (90) days as provided in 5 GCA § 5215.
 - c. **Documentation of Expenses.** GWA shall keep appropriate documentation on all emergency expenses incurred pursuant to this Executive Order for inspection by the Executive and Legislative Branches and by the Public Auditor of Guam.
2. **EMERGENCY MEASURES.** I hereby direct that responding agencies, including GWA and GEPA, undertake the following measures during the pendency of this emergency:
 - a. **Delivery of Safe Water to Affected Households.**



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- i. GWA shall coordinate with the General Services Agency ("GSA") to procure drinking and cooking water for affected households.
 - ii. GWA shall coordinate with the Yigo Mayor's Office to arrange for distribution of drinking and cooking water to affected households. A copy of the distribution plan shall be provided to the Office of the Governor and the Yigo Mayor's Office.
- b. Expedited Treatment of Affected Wells.**
 - i. GWA shall submit monthly reports regarding the status of the procurement, delivery and installation of proposed GAC treatment systems to the Office of the Governor, GEPA, and the Yigo Mayor's Office. GWA shall further publish such reports through timely and effective means, including but not limited to social media, updates on the GWA website, direct mail, and any other communication channels GWA deems appropriate.
 - ii. Reports shall identify measures that may expedite the proposed treatment of affected wells, as well as interim measures to deliver safe water to affected communities pending installation of GAC treatment systems, including the procurement and installation of Point-of-Entry systems to filter contaminants from water entering homes.
- c. Enhanced Monitoring of Dieldrin Levels.**
 - i. GWA shall conduct monthly testing of affected wells.
 - ii. GWA shall submit monthly reports on the results of such tests, reports to the Office of the Governor, GEPA, and the Yigo Mayor's Office. GWA shall further publish such reports through timely and effective means, including but not limited to social media, updates on the GWA website, direct mail, and any other communication channels GWA deems appropriate.
- d. Communications Support.**
 - i. GWA shall coordinate with the Yigo Mayor's Office to establish and maintain a hotline or comparable system through which residents may direct inquiries and receive clear, accurate and timely responses. GWA



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shall publicize availability of the hotline or comparable system on its website, and through other means to reach affected residents.

- ii. GEPA shall further distribute health alerts notifying the public of risks associated with dieldrin exposure through timely and effective means, including but not limited to social media, updates on the GEPA website, direct mail, and any other communication channels GEPA deems appropriate.
3. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Order that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this order are severable.
4. **PRIOR ORDERS REMAIN IN EFFECT.** All prior Executive Orders remain in full force and effect except to the extent they conflict with this Order.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam, this 25th day of September, 2025.

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Åkto Maga'låhen Guåhan
Acting Governor of Guam

Attested by:

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
Åkto Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Acting Lt. Governor of Guam

