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February 10, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its monitoring activities, including findings and actions taken to address water quality issues. Attached is the first of such reports, covering the period of July 1 to September 30, 2011. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County, and outlines the actions taken by DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:km
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for
Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County**

July 1 to September 30, 2011

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Division
January 2012

BACKGROUND

On November 29, 2011, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors instructed the Department of Public Health (DPH) to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This is the first of such reports, covering the period July 1 to September 30, 2011.

On July 13, 2010, the Board instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of arsenic, total chromium, hexavalent chromium (chromium+6), and lead as a follow up study to the study published on February 14, 2001.

DPH's Drinking Water Program (DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DWP currently inspects 185 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies. The water system operators are required to report monitoring results to the DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or properly report sampling data constitutes a violation enforceable by the DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State Law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance, while public notices continue to be posted. Throughout this process, the DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of a treatment system and/or a new water source. Additionally, since the expense of installing a treatment system or a new well is typically a concern for small water systems, the DWP frequently assists water systems in applying for financial assistance from the State of California.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State Law. During the reporting period, the DWP issued sixty-two (62) Notices of Violation and Order for lapses in bacteriological sampling.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in violation of the State requirement to perform bacteriological analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900904	ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP # 11	ACTON
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900658	ACTON REHAB CENTER- LA COUNTY ISD	ACTON
1907004	ACTON-AGUA DULCE LDS CHURCH	AGUA DULCE
1900009	ADAMS RANCH MUTUAL	ROSEMEAD
1907024	AGUA DULCE FOURSQUARE CHURCH (Living Springs)	AGUA DULCE
1900768	AGUA DULCE GENERAL STORE	AGUA DULCE
1909646	AGUA DULCE WINERY/VINEYARDS	AGUA DULCE
1900942	ALPINE SPRINGS MOBILE HOME PARK	PALMDALE
1900761	ANGELES SHOOTING RANGES	SAN FERNANDO
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900224	BIG SANTA ANITA CANYON DAM	ARCADIA
1900547	BSA-FIRESTONE SCOUT RESERVATION	BREA
1900007	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP # 14	SAUGUS
1900834	CAMP EATON	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900613	CAMP HI HILL	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900603	CAMP JOSEPHO-BSA	PACIFIC PALISADES
1900201	CAMP LOUIS ROUTH	TUJUNGA
1907026	CAMP MILLER & KILPATRICK	MALIBU
1900620	CAMP VALCREST	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
1900529	CAMP WILLIAMS- RESORT	AZUSA
1900089	CAMPS MUNZ & MEDNENHALL	LAKE HUGHES
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER	LANCASTER
1900227	COGSWELL DAM	AZUSA
1907034	CRESCENT VALLEY MOBILE HOME PARK	NEWHALL
1900712	DAEHAN CHRISTIAN SOODOWON	PALMDALE
1900130	DEL RIO MUTUAL	EL MONTE
1907020	FIRE CAMP 9	SANTA CLARITA
1900901	FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19	AZUSA
1907011	FLYING J TRAVEL CENTER	LEBEC

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900099	FORESTER HAVEN CALIFORNIA	SAN FERNANDO
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE (Vasquez)	AGUA DULCE
1900912	GORMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/DISTRICT OFFICE	GORMAN
1900639	HALLELUJAH PRAYER CENTER (Hathaway-Sycamores)	LAKE VIEW TERRACE
1900578	HAWTHORNE YOUTH CAMP	WRIGHTWOOD
1900246	JUMP FOR JOY (Ozark Mountain Ranch)	SANTA CLARITA
1900977	KCAL TV AND FM STATION	MOUNT WILSON
1900226	KCBS	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1907015	KIRK BUSINESS CENTER	AGUA DULCE
1900303	LLANO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	LLANO
1900944	MILE HIGH WATER ASSOCIATION	VALYERMO
1900127	MOUNT WATERMAN SKI RESORT	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1900868	RIVERS END TRAILER PARK	CANYON COUNTRY
1900231	SAN DIMAS CANYON DAM	LA VERNE
1900230	SAN GABRIEL CANYON DAM	AZUSA
1900229	SAWPIT DAM	MONROVIA
1900021	SIERRA INN	AGUA DULCE
1910158	STERLING MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	EL MONTE
1900677	STICKLE BACK RANCH (Oasis Park MHP)	SAUGUS
1900126	THE ROBIN'S NEST RECR. RESORT	ACTON
1900034	THE SIERRA HIGHWAY SHELL STATION	CANYON COUNTRY
1900207	TRAIL CANYON EQUESTRIAN	TUJUNGA
1900612	UNITED METHODIST CAMP COLBY	PALMDALE
1900220	U.S. FOREST SERVICE ANGELES CREST STATION	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900528	U.S. FOREST SERVICE CHARLTON FLATS A-8	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1907019	U.S. FOREST SERVICE LOS ALAMOS S-15	GORMAN
1900937	U.S. FOREST SERVICE PYRAMID LAKE S-14	GORMAN
1900599	VALHALLA WATER ASSOCIATION	TUJUNGA
1907013	WAGON WHEEL PLAZA -SWEETWATER	AGUA DULCE
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

The DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DWP educates and provides assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard. During the reporting period, the DWP issued nine (9) Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in violation of the State’s Drinking Water Standards for bacteriological levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900707	AGUA DULCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	AGUA DULCE
1900527	CLEAR CREEK OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL CENTER	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900817	CLEAR SKIES MOBILE HOME RANCH	LANCASTER
1900912	GORMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/DISTRICT OFFICE	GORMAN
1900154	TIERRA BONITA MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	LANCASTER
1900239	TWEEDY LAKE CORPORATION	LAKE HUGHES
1900571	U.S. FOREST SERVICE CHILAO MAIN A-9	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900155	WILSONA GARDENS MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Three of the 185 small water systems (Clear Creek Outdoor Educational Center, U.S. Forest Service Chilao Main, and Wilsona Gardens Mutual) had laboratory test results that were positive for *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Six tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*. Both coliform bacteria and *E. coli* have been absent in subsequent testing in all of these small water systems.

CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

During the reporting period, the DWP issued eight Notices of Violation and Order for exceedances of the Arsenic Standard.

Table 3: Small Water Systems in violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at seven (7) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the Standard.

Table 4: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1909007	OUR LADY OF FATIMA	ARTESIA
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900756	WARM SPRINGS REHABILITATION CENTER	CASTAIC
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at three small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the Standard. These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 5: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1900756	WARM SPRINGS REHABILITATION CENTER	CASTAIC

SUMMARY

Sixty-two small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. Nine small water systems were cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Eight small water systems were cited during the reporting period for exceedances of the Arsenic Standard. Increased sampling and public notification continued at seven small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances and at three small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

Laboratory analyses of water samples taken during the quarter ending December 31, 2011, will be completed by late January 2012. The DWP will subsequently report to the Board in March 2012.

Questions or inquiries about this report may be directed to Richard Lavin, Chief of the DWP, at (626) 430-5420.