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August 30, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

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

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF SMALL WATER SYSTEMS**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its water quality monitoring of small water systems. Attached is the quarterly report covering the period April 1 to June 30, 2013. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

Our next Quarterly Report will be provided to your Board on November 29, 2013. If you should have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

JEF:rl
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

## April 1 to June 30, 2013

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Division
August 2013

## BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (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 an earlier study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DPH-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 DPH-DWP currently inspects 180 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, and to report monitoring results to the DPH-DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation of State law enforceable by the DPH-DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that either (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 DPH-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. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems, as well as the consideration of new water sources. Additionally, the DPH-DWP works with system operators in applying for financial assistance from the CDPH to address identified violations.

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period April 1 to June 30, 2013.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

## A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DPH-DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State law. The DPH-DWP issued Notices of Violation and Orders to eight water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling during the reporting period.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in Violation of State Requirements to Perform Bacteriological Analyses.

| System ID | Small Water System | City |
|---|---|---|
| 1900658 | ACTON REHAB CENTER | ACTON |
| 1900011 | CAMPS SCOTT AND SCUDDER | SAUGUS |
| 1900130 | DEL RIO MUTUAL | EL MONTE |
| 1900730 | GARDENS OF PARADISE | AGUA DULCE |
| 1901000 | GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL – GRAY BUTTE | LANCASTER |
| 1907015 | KIRK BUSINESS CENTER | AGUA DULCE |
| 1900838 | PACOIMA DAM | SYLMAR |
| 1900868 | RIVERS END TRAILER PARK | CANYON COUNTRY |

The DPH-DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

## B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DPH-DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the State's Bacteriological Standard. The DPH-DWP issued one Notice of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances during the reporting period.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for Bacteriological Levels.

| System ID | Small Water System | City |
|---|---|---|
| 1909015 | 21ST CENTURY HOLINESS TABERNACLE | CANYON COUNTRY |

The 21st Century Holiness Church water system initially tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Follow-up analyses did not detect the presence of *E. coli,* and neither coliform bacteria nor *E. coli* have been detected in subsequent testing of this small water system.

## C. Microbiological Treatment Requirement

Small water systems are designated as "Surface Water Systems" when they use water from streams, lakes, and open reservoirs. Similarly, small water systems are designated as "Groundwater Systems Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water" (GWUDI) when their wells are in close proximity to such features.

These small water systems are required to implement "multibarrier treatment," an enhanced preventative measure against potential contamination. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at six small water systems that have previously been notified regarding their designation as Surface Water Systems or GWUDI Systems but have not completed full implementation of multibarrier treatment.

Table 3: Small Water Systems Designated as Surface Water and GWUDI that Have Not Met the Microbiological Treatment Requirements.

| System ID | Small Water System | City |
|---|---|---|
| 1900904 | ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP # 11 | ACTON |
| 1900007 | CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP # 14 | SAUGUS |
| 1900901 | FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19 | AZUSA |
| 1900764 | HENNINGER FLATS – LA COUNTY FIRE DEPT | ALTADENA |
| 1900591 | STURTEVANT CAMP, UNITED METHODIST | ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST |
| 1900569 | TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION- SAN GABRIEL | MONROVIA |

The DPH-DWP is continuing to work with these water systems to develop and implement multibarrier treatment systems.

Trask Scout Reservation–San Gabriel (Water System 1900569) collects water from a stream as its only supply of potable water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has determined that Trask Scout Reservation has not met the required frequency for monitoring the water supply for *E. coli*, a potential pathogen also used as an indicator for other pathogens. The DPH-DWP has been working with the US EPA and the CDPH on issuing enforcement actions to bring Trask Scout Reservation into compliance with Federal and State regulations.

# CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

## A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the State's Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the State Standard (10 parts per billion).

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 |
|---|---|---|
| 1900894 | ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH | ACTON |
| 1900228 | BIG DALTON DAM | GLENDORA |
| 1900305 | CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP | LANCASTER |
| 1900038 | LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK | LANCASTER |
| 1900100 | METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL | LANCASTER |
| 1900785 | MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK | 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 |
| 1900520 | VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK | LANCASTER |
| 1900961 | WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES | LANCASTER |

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

Big Dalton Dam (Water System 1900228), New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036), and Rancho Ybarra Christian Camp (Water System 1907031) have proposed treatment plans for Arsenic in their potable water supplies which are currently under review by the DPH-DWP.

## B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at two small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the State Standard (45 parts per million). 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 |

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

SUMMARY

Eight small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. One small water system was cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at six small water systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at thirteen small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the July to September quarter will be completed in late October 2013. The DPH-DWP will provide the report for that quarter on November 30, 2013.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.