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June 14, 2016

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

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 public water systems.

The DPH Division of Environmental Health (EH) has been providing quarterly reports to Board in response to the motion. Attached is the report covering the period January 1 through March 31, 2016. The report summarizes water quality findings in public water systems throughout the County and outlines the actions taken by EH in response to these findings.

Our next quarterly report will be provided to the Board on September 15, 2016. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

CAH:lm
PH:1111:009

Attachment

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

Public Water Systems in Los Angeles County

January 1 through March 31, 2016

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 public 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 "public water systems" in Los Angeles County. A "public water system" is defined by the California Health and Safety Code as a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. The DPH-DWP currently inspects 142 public water systems with less than 200 service connections within the County.

Operators of each public 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 State Water Resource Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW). 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 SWRCB-DDW 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 (NOV) or Citation 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 SWRCB-DDW 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 January 1 through March 31, 2016.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DPH-DWP issued NOVs to the small water systems listed in Table 1 for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State law.

A public notice approved by the DPH-DWP was issued by the water system to inform their customers of the monitoring lapses. The DPH-DWP also received documentation from the water systems certifying the date and method used to distribute the notice to their customers.

Table 1: Public Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for Bacteriological Monitoring.

System ID	Public Water System	City
1900057	SAINT ANDREWS ABBEY	VALYERMO
1900061	AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	AGUA DULCE
1907013	WAGON WHEEL PLAZA	AGUA DULCE
1900145	REESEDALE MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900130	DEL RIO MUTUAL	EL MONTE
1900903	SLEEPY VALLEY WATER COMPANY	SANTA CLARITA

B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DPH-DWP issued a NOV to the small water system listed in Table 2 for violation of total coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The water system has returned to compliance based on the current bacteriological water sample laboratory reports submitted to the DPH-DWP.

The 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 the public water systems.

Public notice approved by the DPH-DWP was issued by the water system to inform their customers of the exceedance. The DPH-DWP also received documentation from the water systems certifying the date and method used to distribute the notice to their customers.

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

System ID	Public Water System	City
1900631	CAMP CISQUITO/LIVE AGAIN RECOVERY HOME	SAUGUS

CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

The DPH-DWP previously issued a citation on April 4, 2015 to all five (5) water systems for arsenic MCL violation with a compliance date of October 6, 2016. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP continued to work closely with the SWRCB-DDW to assist the water systems with compliance measures, which may include consolidation of the system with a large public water system, installation of a treatment plant for the removal of arsenic, or implementation of a new water source. Until compliance with the arsenic standard is achieved, these five water systems will conduct quarterly monitoring of the potable water source.

A public notice approved by the DPH-DWP was issued by all five water systems to inform their customers of the exceedance. The DPH-DWP also received documentation from the water system operator certifying the date and method used to distribute the notice to their customers.

Table 2: Public Water Systems Exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Public Water System	City
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900520	THE VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

The DPH-DWP previously issued a citation on June 30, 2015 to the Acton Four Square Church water system for nitrate MCL violation with a compliance date of December 31, 2016. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP continued to work closely with the SWRCB-DDW to assist the Acton Four Square Church water system with compliance measures, which may include consolidation of the system with a large public water system, installation of a treatment plant for the removal of nitrate, or implementation of a new water source. Until compliance with the Nitrate Standard is achieved, the water system will conduct quarterly monitoring of the potable water source.

The New Apostolic Church water system has an approved treatment plant for nitrate removal. The laboratory analysis of the post treatment water sample collected on December 9, 2015 revealed the exceedance of Nitrate MCL. The DPH-DWP issued a NOV to the water system on March 8, 2016 to repair or replace the malfunctioning treatment plant at once. The violation was previously reported on the quarterly report for the second quarter. The water system has returned to compliance based on the current laboratory analysis of the post treatment water sample collected on April 13, 2016.

A public notice approved by the DPH-DWP was issued by both water systems to inform its customers of the exceedance. The DPH-DWP also received documentation from the water system operator certifying the date and method used to distribute the notice to its customers.

Table 3: Public Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate

System ID	Public Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON

C. Exceedances of the Manganese Standard

The DPH-DWP previously issued a citation on June 19, 2015 to the White Rock RV Lake water system for manganese MCL violation with a compliance date of December 19, 2016. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP continued to work closely with the SWRCB-DDW to assist the water system with compliance measures, which may include consolidation of the system with a large public water system, installation of a treatment plant for the removal of manganese, or implementation of a new water source. Until compliance with the manganese standard is achieved, White Rock Lake RV Park will conduct quarterly monitoring of the potable water source.

A public notice approved by the DPH-DWP was issued by the water systems to inform its customers of the exceedance. The DPH-DWP also received documentation from the water system operator certifying the date and method used to distribute the notice to its customers.

Table 4: Public Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Manganese

System ID	Public Water System	City
1900975	WHITE ROCK LAKE RV PARK	ACTON

SUMMARY

During the reporting period:

A. NOVs were issued to seven (7) public water systems
   - Six (6) for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses
   - One (1) for exceeding the MCL for bacteriological standard

B. EH continued to work with seven (7) water systems to achieve compliance with the State's Drinking Water Standards
   - Five (5) water systems to achieve compliance with the State's Arsenic Standard
   - One (1) water system to achieve compliance with the State's Nitrate Standard
   - One (1) water system to achieve compliance with the State's Manganese Standard

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2015-16 will be completed by the end of July 2016. The DPH-DWP will provide the quarterly report covering April 1 through June 30, 2016 by September 15, 2016.

For questions or for further information, please contact Lusi Mkhitaryan, Chief Environmental Health Specialist of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.