

Arnold Schwarzenegger

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

RECEIVED

February 24, 2009

FEB 26 2009

Certified Mail
7006 0810 0001 8418 3300 Paradise Irrigation District

Paradise Irrigation District
P.O. Box 2409
Paradise, CA 95967

Attention: George Barber, District Manager

Subject: Paradise Irrigation District, System No. 0410007 – Bacteriological Water Quality Failure Notice

This letter is to inform you that the Paradise Irrigation District's (PID's) domestic water system failed to meet bacteriological domestic water quality standards for the month of January 2009. Three routine water distribution system samples collected on Friday, January 23, 2009, tested positive for total coliform organisms. The number of positive bacteriological samples exceeds five percent of monthly samples, thereby violating Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Article 3, Section 64426.1(b).

In a letter, dated February 3, 2009, including additional documentation provided on February 9, 2009, PID requested invalidation of the three distribution bacteriological samples in question. During a telephone meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009, the Department informed PID staff that the invalidation request would not be approved. In the Department's view, PID did not demonstrate that the positive total coliform detections resulted from an accident or error on part of the laboratory, i.e., the laboratory did not follow "prescribed analytical methods" (Title 22 CCR, §64425(a)(2)). PID's explanation of what may have happened does not rule out the possibility, however unlikely, that total coliforms were actually present in the water system.

Title 22 CCR, §64426.1(c) requires water suppliers to provide a Tier 2 public notice to water consumers when an MCL violation is triggered by a total coliform exceedance. The pertinent requirements of a Tier 2 notification, as specified in Title 22 CCR, §64463.4, are:

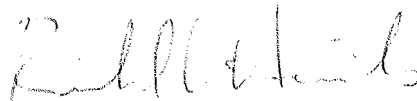
1. §64463(b) – "Each water system required to give public notice shall submit the notice to the Department for approval prior to distribution or posting, unless otherwise directed by the Department."
2. §64463.4(b) – "Each water system shall give the notice as soon as possible within 30 days after it learns of a violation or occurrence specified in subsection (a), except that the water system may request an extension of up to 60 days for providing the notice."

3. §64463.4(b)(1) – “In addition, the water system shall . . . [m]aintain posted notices in place for as long as the violation or occurrence continues, but in no case less than seven days”
4. §64463.4(c) – “Each water system shall deliver the notice . . . as follows:”
 - a. §64463.4(c)(1)(A) – “Mail or direct delivery to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the water system; and”
 - b. §64463.4(c)(1)(B) – “Use of one or more of the following methods to reach persons not likely to be reached by a mailing or direct delivery (renters, university students, nursing home patients, prison inmates, etc.):”
 - i. §64463.4(c)(1)(B)1. – “Publication in a local newspaper;”
 - ii. §64463.4(c)(1)(B)2. – “Posting in conspicuous public places served by the water system, or on the Internet; or”
 - iii. §64463.4(c)(1)(B)3. – “Delivery to community organizations.”
5. §64465. “Public Notice Content and Format” – Attachment A to this letter contains a copy of §64465.

Attachment B to this letter is a sample notification that you may use or modify. Modification requires the Department’s approval prior to posting.

Within 60 days of receiving this letter, PID shall provide this office with a completed “Certification of Completion of Public Notification Form,” (Attachment C).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Ray Bruun at (530) 224-3252 or me at (530) 224-4867.



Richard L. Hinrichs, P.E.
Valley District Engineer
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Enclosures

cc: Butte County Environmental Health Division, Oroville
Ken Neely, Cranmer Engineering and Analytical Laboratory, Grass Valley