



PARADISE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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2/3/2009

California Department of Public Health
Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management
415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 110
Redding, CA 96002

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

Subject: Invalidation of Bacteriological Test Results


On Tuesday, January 20th ten routine and one special sample were collected for bacteriological examination by the District's contract laboratory, (Cranmer Analytical Laboratory, Grass Valley, Ca.). In transit to the laboratory four sample bottles were damaged, which required the collection of replacement samples on Friday January 23rd. The replacement samples were analyzed and the results indicated the presence of total coliform bacteria in all four samples.

Twelve retake and ten routine samples were collected on January 27th and results for total coliform bacteria were negative. The District contacted Mr. Ken Neely, the lab director at Cranmer Analytical Laboratory and requested an investigation into the specifics and procedures that may have contributed to failed samples on January 23rd.

A written report explaining the results of the investigation was received by the District on February 1st, 2009. In that report, Mr. Neely states "we have reason to suspect the integrity of the poly-styrene bacteria sampling bottles used in this sampling event". He also states that, "The bottles are suspected of being compromised via fracture, thus enabling contamination".

Therefore, pursuant to Titles 17 and 22 California Code of Regulations, section 64425 Sample Invalidation, sub-section 64415 (A), the District is formally requesting a ruling of sample invalidation based on the results of Mr. Neely's report. Furthermore, the District believes the evidence supports a test procedure flaw involving sample bottle integrity, in that all routine and retake samples taken prior to and subsequent to 1/23/2009 were negative for total coliform bacteria. Thank you for your time and commitment in resolving this issue.

Sincerely,


Richard R. Terrano
Water Treatment Superintendent
Paradise Irrigation District

Attachments:

Laboratory Reports: 01/20/2009 & 01/23/2009
Amended Report, 02/02/09