
Boe Del Heights Mutual Water

Updated on: March 11, 2019

County: Riverside
Population: 500
Challenges: Arsenic Drinking Water Standard Violation
Consolidation date: August 1, 2018

The community of Boe Del Heights is located within a heavily populated residential area of the City of Indio in Riverside County. The community is considered a severely disadvantaged community (DAC) with a median household income (MHI) of \$32,000. The Boe Del Height's water system (water system) is a private community water system previously managed by the Boe Del Heights Mutual Water Association (BDHMWA) and consisted of two wells serving a population of approximately 500 people. The primary well was 447 feet deep, 12-inch well drilled in 1947 but was taken offline due to perchlorate contamination above the California Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The second well was 740 feet deep and was drilled in 1973, but it was never put into production due to numerous bacteriological issues.

As mentioned above, the water system exceeded the MCL (6.0 ug/L) for perchlorate in 2010 with levels of 6.4 ug/L in November 2010 and 8.9 ug/L in December 2010. Subsequently, the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (Riverside County DEH) directed BDHMWA to issue a Tier I notice to the water consumers on December 16, 2010 and also issued the water system a Citation and a Compliance Order on December 22, 2010. Soon after, Indio Water Authority (IWA) was approached by BDHMWA for the installation of a temporary above-

ground intertie but follow up samples indicated that the well was back in compliance and the temporary intertie was not installed at that time.



Image: 2013 temporary intertie with IWA.

In April 2013, the primary well again exceeded the perchlorate MCL. Due to the ongoing water quality issues, BDHMWA requested the installation of a temporary intertie from IWA to supply safe drinking water to the Boe Del Heights community and began to work with IWA on a long-term consolidation project. The temporary intertie was installed and operational for approximately two months before the BDHMWA Board made the decision to switch back to using the contaminated well due to the lack of

funding to continue purchasing water from IWA. The residents of the community had no other option but to start purchasing bottled water for drinking purposes. The BDHMWA Board dissolved on March 6, 2016.

On September 13, 2016, the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance approved \$57,088 of Cleanup and Abatement contamination set-aside funding for the IWA permanent intertie to Boe Del Heights. Boe Del Heights is being served through a permanent emergency intertie from IWA consisting of an above ground fire house connected to an IWA fire hydrant with a hydrant meter.

In July 2018, IWA entered into a financing agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to consolidate the Boe Del Heights into the IWA system. Construction at Boe Del Heights started in December 2018 and included a new water distribution system and decommissioning of the old water system. The new distribution system will include over 8,000 liner feet of water mains, 11 fire hydrants, and 119 service connections to serve approximately 500 residents. Construction of the water mains, service connections, and well abandonment were completed in March 2019.