CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water

June 15, 2016

Mr. Art Chianello, Water Resources Manager
City of Bakersfield - Water System No.: 1510031
1000 Buena Vista Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Dear Mr. Chianello:

State Water Resources Control Board Notice Regarding Mandatory

Effective June 24, 2015, Senate Bill 88 (Statutes 2015, Chapter 27) added Sections 116680 – 116684 to California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Our records indicate that the water delivered by Old River Mutual Water Company's public water system (System) contains uranium at levels that exceed the maximum contaminant level established in state and federal regulations. Since approximately December 2008, the System has consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. According to our records, the City's system and the System have distribution systems within 100 feet.

The Division issued a pre-consolidation letter dated November 10, 2015 (enclosed) encouraging the System and the City to work out a voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. In addition a meeting was held on January 27, 2016 with both City and the System representatives. The System seemed willing to consolidation or interconnection with the City. The City indicated that it would be necessary to evaluate the source water capacity of the City's system prior to evaluating the possibility of a consolidation or interconnection.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) strongly encourages the System and the City to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. If a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the State Water Board intends to take action pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) for consolidation of the System with the City's public water system. Please note that as used in the applicable statutory authority, the City is hereby identified as the potentially receiving water system and the System is identified as the potentially subsumed water system.

This letter serves as official notification that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (b) (6), the City, the potentially receiving water system, is directed to negotiate consolidation with Lakeside School, the potentially subsumed water system. The City is further directed to complete such negotiations and report the outcome to State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, Visalia District Office not later than six (6) months following the date of this letter.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your neighboring community in a cost-effective manner. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682 subdivision (b) (6) (A), during the six month negotiation period, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the City and Lakeside School to develop an appropriate and necessary financing package. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mrs. Tricia Wathen, Visalia District Engineer for the State Water Board, DDW, at (559) 447-3398, or me at (559) 447-3132. For funding related questions, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 341-5700.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Carlucci, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Central California Section
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Harvey L. Hall, Mayor, City of Bakersfield
Mr. Jason Meadors, Water Resources Director, City of Bakersfield
City Council, City of Bakersfield
Ms. Donna Fenton, Kern County Environmental Health Department
Ms. Rebecca Moore, Executive Officer, Kern County LAFCo
Mr. Dennis Gaston, McMor Chlorination
Ms. Kylie Moore, McMor Chlorination

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State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water

November 10, 2015

Ms. Taryn Rickel
Old River Mutual Water Company - Water System No. 1500096
6734 Charity Avenue, Bay #8
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Dear Ms. Rickel:

Effective June 24, 2015, Senate Bill 88 (Statutes 2015, Chapter 27) added Sections 116680 – 116684 to California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Our records indicate that the water delivered by Old River Mutual Water Company (System No. 1500096) public water system (System) contains uranium at levels that exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) established in state and federal regulations. Since approximately 2009, the System has consistently failed to provide safe drinking water due to the uranium levels. It is our understanding that the System's service area is outside the boundaries of City of Bakersfield (City) but within the City's sphere of influence.

There is a funding project to connect Lakeside School to the City of Bakersfield with a transmission pipe along Old River Road. It is also our understanding that the proposed transmission main to Lakeside School will pass along your water system. In addition to Lakeside School, there is another small public water system along the proposed transmission pipe alignment – South Kern Mutual Water Company which has elevated uranium levels but has not yet completed the required monitoring to determine compliance with the uranium MCL. According to our records, your System and the Old River Mutual Water Company have distribution systems within 100 feet.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) strongly encourages the System and the City to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. However, if a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the State Water Board may determine to exercise its authority pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) to achieve consolidation of System with the City's public water system.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your community in a cost-effective manner. The State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the City and Lakeside School, Old River Water Company and South Kern Mutual Water Company to develop an appropriate and necessary financing package. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

In the near future, we will be contacting all the water systems to set up a meeting. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (559) 447-3300. For funding related questions, please contact Mr. Joel Greathouse at (559) 447-3300.

Sincerely,

Tricia A. Wathen

Tricia A. Wathen P.E.
Senior Sanitary Engineer
Visalia District
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

cc: Mr. Art Chianello
Water Resources Manager
City of Bakersfield
1000 Buena Vista Road.
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Ms. Donna Fenton, Kern County EHD
2700 M Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Ms. Rebecca Moore
Executive Officer
Kern County LAFCo
5300 Lennox Ave, Suite 303
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Mr. Ty Bryson, Superintendent
Lakeside School
1435 Old River Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Ms. Sherry Settlemoir, President
South Kern Mutual Water Company
9612 Beam Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93311