

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IN RE: **SIERRA ENDANGERED CAT HAVEN**  
Water System No. 1000525

TO: Mr. Dale Anderson  
Sierra Endangered Cat Haven  
38257 E. Kings Canyon Rd.  
Dunlap, CA 93621

**CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE  
TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION  
AND  
TOTAL COLIFORM MONITORING AND REPORTING**

**NOVEMBER 2013 and JANUARY 2014**

**Issued on April 15, 2014**

Section 116650, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC), authorizes the issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of the California Safe Drinking Water Act, or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued hereunder.

**VIOLATION**

The Drinking Water Field Operations Branch of the California Department of Public Health (hereinafter 'Department') hereby issues a Citation to Sierra Endangered Cat Haven (hereinafter 'Water System'), for failure to comply with Section 116555(a)(1) of the CHSC and Section 64426.1(b)(2) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). Specifically, the Water System (mailing address: 38257 E. Kings Canyon Road, Dunlap, CA 93621) failed to comply with the total coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the month



1 of November 2013 as well as with bacteriological monitoring and reporting requirements  
2 during January 2014.

3  
4 The Water System operates under a domestic water supply permit issued by the County of  
5 Fresno (hereinafter County) in September of 1998. Sierra Endangered Cat Haven is a  
6 transient non-community water system serving a population of approximately twenty five  
7 (25) transient persons. The Department's records show that the operating season for the  
8 Water System is year round. The Department has taken on the task of tracking compliance  
9 as of September 1, 2007, since the County relinquished regulatory authority for public  
10 drinking water systems.

11  
12 Section 64426.1(b)(2) specifies that a public water system collecting fewer than 40 samples  
13 per month is in violation of the total coliform MCL when more than one sample collected  
14 during any month is total coliform-positive.

15  
16 The Water System is required to collect a minimum of one (1) distribution system  
17 bacteriological samples per quarter. The bacteriological water analysis results submitted by  
18 the Water System reported the presence of total coliform bacteria in five (5) of five (5)  
19 samples collected by the Water System in November 2013. **Two of the positive samples**  
20 **showed the presence of *E. coli* bacteria. One of those positive *E. coli* samples was the**  
21 **spring source.**

22  
23 The following table summarizes the bacteriological monitoring conducted during the  
24 months of September, October, November, December of 2013 and January, February and  
25 March of 2014.

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27

1	Collection Date	Number of Samples	Sample Type	Number TC positive	Number E. Coli positive
2					
3	9/30/2013	1	Routine	1	1
4	10/9/2013	2	Routine	0	0
5	11/14/2013	5	Repeat	5 (including source)	2 (including source)
6	1/14/2014	1	Routine	1	0
7	2/12/2014	2	Other	1	0
8	3/6/2014	1	Other	1	1

9  
10 Due to the above-mentioned total coliform and *E. Coli* positive samples, the Water System  
11 failed the total coliform MCL for the month of November 2013. All water samples for  
12 coliform bacteria collected since January 2013 are summarized in Attachment A.

13  
14 A Do Not Drink order was issued on November 16, 2013. The cause of the contamination is  
15 believed to have originated in the Spring Source. Water System Staff have reconstructed the  
16 spring and efforts to ensure its proper disinfection are continuing. Recent developments  
17 include the discovery of a toad living in the spring. The Department recognizes the  
18 significant efforts being taken to clean up the spring to preclude the total coliform and  
19 *E.coli* contamination.

20  
21 The five routine samples required the month following a month with one or more total  
22 coliform-positive samples were not collected in December due to ongoing reconstruction  
23 and disinfection of the system.

24  
25 The Groundwater Rule adopted by the Department, effective August 18, 2011, requires the  
26 collection of a sample for bacteriological evaluation from wells serving the system in  
27 response to a coliform positive distribution sample. This requirement was met with the  
round of repeat sampling conducted by the Water System in November 2013.



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**ASSOCIATED VIOLATIONS**

Additionally, the Water System has failed to comply with the following Section 64424 of Title 22, CCR:

Section 64424(a) specifies that if a routine sample is total coliform-positive, the water supplier shall collect a repeat sample set as described in Sections 64424(a)1 and 64424(b) within 24 hours of being notified of the positive result. The repeat samples shall all be collected within the same 24 hour period.

Sections 64424(a) and 64424(b) specifies that for systems collecting only one sample per month or quarter, a repeat sample set shall consist of four (4) samples as follows: one (1) from the routine sample site at which the positive occurred, one (1) from the upstream repeat sample site, one (1) from the downstream repeat sample site and one (1) from the operating well or another location within the system that would best help to identify the source or area of contamination.

Section 64424(c) specifies that if one or more samples in the repeat sample set are total coliform-positive, the water supplier shall collect and have analyzed an additional set of repeat samples. The supplier shall repeat this process until either no coliform are detected in one complete repeat sample set or the supplier determines that the MCL for total coliform specified in Section 64426.1 has been exceeded and notifies the Department.

No repeat samples were collected following the positive total coliform sampling on January 14, 2014.

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3 **Since it is believed the cause of coliform contamination has been identified and the**  
4 **water system is working to correct the problem, no additional violations will be**  
5 **incurred while corrective action is being taken. The Do Not Drink/Boil Water Order**  
6 **will remain in place until the problem is corrected and data show at least two rounds**  
7 **of repeat samples (source and distribution system) show the absence of coliform**  
8 **bacteria.**

9  
10 **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

11 Section 64426.1(c) requires a public water system to notify the Department and the  
12 consumers of the water system, when a violation of Section 64426.1(b)(1) through (4)  
13 occurs. Notification to the Department shall be by the end of the business day on which the  
14 violation has been determined. If the Department is closed, notification shall be within 24  
15 hours of the determination. The Department was notified on November 16, 2013, in  
16 accordance with the above-referenced section.

17  
18 A Tier 1 Public Notice for violation of paragraph 64426.1(b)(3) shall be given pursuant to  
19 Section 64463.1 and 64465. The Tier 1 Public Notice shall include the mandatory health  
20 effects language from Appendix 64465-A for a total coliform MCL failure accompanied by  
21 the presence of *E. coli* bacteria.

22  
23 The Water System shall post the public notice in conspicuous locations within the water  
24 system. Section 116450(g) requires that upon receipt of notification from a public water  
25 system, schools must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are  
26 minors), residential rental property owners or managers (including nursing homes and care  
27 facilities) must notify their tenants and business property owners, managers or operators



1 must notify employees of businesses located on the property. These secondary notification  
2 requirements are included in the public notice.

3  
4 Proof of notification is required.

5  
6 Notification of the public was conducted on November 16, 2013, advising each consumer  
7 of the failure of the total coliform MCL during the month of November 2013. A copy of  
8 the notice that was posted for each consumer is provided as Attachment B. Photographic  
9 evidence of notification is provided as Attachment C.

10  
11 **DIRECTIVES**

12 The Water System is hereby directed to take the following actions:

- 13  
14 1. The Water System shall remove the toad from the spring. The spring shall then be  
15 disinfected. The BWO/Do Not Drink order shall remain in place until the spring and  
16 distribution system show no presence of coliform in two rounds of samples taken one week  
17 apart. Each round of samples should consist of the following: **Spring** -three samples each  
18 taken 10 minutes apart. **Distribution** – three samples collected at routine sample sites. The  
19 results of those tests shall be submitted to the Department.
- 20  
21 2. The Water System shall collect repeat samples as required by Section 64424 and as  
22 discussed in this Citation whenever a routine sample is positive for total coliform  
23 bacteria.
- 24  
25 3. Whenever the Water System has one or more total coliform-positive samples in a  
26 given month, at least five (5) routine samples shall be collected the following month  
27 as required by Section 64424(d) and as discussed in this Citation.



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4. If any additional violations of the total coliform MCL occur, the Water System will be required to install continuous chlorination.

**CIVIL PENALTIES**

Sections 116650(d) and 116650(e) of the CHSC allow for the assessment of a civil penalty for failure to comply with requirements of the California Safe Drinking Water Act. Failure to comply with any provision of this Citation may result in the Department imposing an administrative penalty of not less than \$100 (one hundred dollars) per day as of the date of violation of any provision of this Citation.

4/15/14  
Date

Betsy S. Lichti  
Betsy S. Lichti, P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer, Fresno District  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH



- BSL/EL  
Attachments:  
Attachment A: Summary of Bacteriological Samples collected since January 2013  
Attachment B: Public Notice  
Attachment C: Proof of Notification Photograph

# Bacteriological Distribution Monitoring Report

**1000525**     **SIERRA ENDANGERED CAT HAV**     *Distribution System Freq: 1/Q*

Sample Date	Time	Location	T Coli	E Coli	F Coli	Type	CI2	Violation	Comment
2/19/2013	11:00	Kit	A	A		Routine			
2/19/2013	11:00	MB	A	A		Routine			
2/19/2013	11:00	Outside Frost	A	A		Routine			
6/30/2013		No Sample						MR2	10/21/13 Issued EL 03-23-13
9/30/2013	8:30	Men's Bathroom	P	P		Routine		MCL	Significant Rise with E. Coli - 10/21/13 Addressed in 03-23-13
10/9/2013	8:00	Bathroom	A	A		Repeat		MR5	10/21/13 Addressed in 03-23-13
10/9/2013	8:00	Faucet	A	A		Repeat			
10/9/2013	8:00	Source	A	A		Source Repeat			
11/14/2013	20:00	Faucet	P	A		Repeat			
11/14/2013	20:00	Men's Bath sink 1	P	P		Repeat			
11/14/2013	20:00	Men's Bath sink 2	P	A		Repeat			
11/14/2013	20:00	Source	P	P		Repeat			
11/14/2013	20:00	Women's Bathroom	P	A		Repeat		MCL	11/16/13 Do Not Drink Order
1/14/2014	9:45	CH Men's RR	P	A		Routine		MR5	WS working to repair and dis Spring
2/12/2014	12:05	CH Tank	A	A		Other	0.01		
2/12/2014	12:10	CH Spring	>23	<1.1		Other	0.0		
2/14/2014	12:00	CH Men's RR	A	A		Other	0.12		
3/6/2014	10:00	Spring	>23	3.6		Source Other			

### Violation Key

MCL	Exceeds the maximum contaminant level	MR5	Incorrect number of repeat samples as follow-up to a positive sample
MR1	No monthly sample for the report month	MR6	No source sample
MR2	No quarterly sample for the report month	MR7	No summary report submitted
MR3	Incorrect number of routine samples for the report month	MR8	Other comments and/or info
MR4	Did not collect 5 routine samples for previous month's positive sample	MR9	CI2 not reported

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### DO NOT DRINK THE WATER

Sierra Endangered Cat Haven's water  
is contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria

*E. coli* bacteria were found in the water supply in samples collected on November 14, 2013. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

#### What happened? What is being done?

Water supplies such as those flowing from spring boxes can be contaminated when animals create openings in the reservoir. Openings allow bacterial contamination from dirt, leaves, etc. as well as animal activity. The Water System's spring box was found to have a hole in it. Repairs were made and disinfection was conducted. Three repeat samples from the system showed that no coliform bacteria is present at this time.

For more information, please contact Dale Anderson at \_\_\_\_\_

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

#### Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Musick Meadows #1 Mutual Water Company

State Water System ID#: 1000525

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

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*E. coli* bacteria were found in the water supply in samples collected on November 14, 2013. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

- Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Millions of these bacteria can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, vomiting, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, those of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms listed above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Contact your physician for more information. For more information, please contact Dale Anderson at 530-436-3218.

**What happened? What is being done?**  
Water supplies such as those flowing from spring heads can be contaminated when animals create openings in the reservoir. Openings allow bacterial contamination from dirt, leaves, etc. as well as animal activity. The Water System's spring box was found to have a hole in it. Repairs were made and disinfection was conducted. Three repeat samples from the system showed that no coliform bacteria is present at this time.

For more information, please contact Dale Anderson at 530-436-3218.  
Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

**Water is for Hand  
Washing Only**



CAT HAVEN