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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

IN RE: San Vicente Water Company
340 Old Mill Road, #135A
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

TO: Mr. Stewart Clyde
Park Manager

SYSTEM NO.: 4210005

CITATION NO.: 04_06_16C_013_4210005_23

CITATION

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

VIOLATION

The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, (hereinafter Division) hereby issues a citation to the San Vicente Water Company (hereinafter SVWC) for the following violation:

1. Section 64423, Title 22, CCR. Specifically, the SVWC failed to collect and/or report a routine distribution coliform sample for the month of March 2016.



BACKGROUND

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3 The SVWC serves 550 people with 277 residential unmetered service connections, 1
4 irrigation service connection, and is a community water system, operating by the
5 authority of a domestic water supply permit issued on January 20, 1989 by the
6 Division. The SVWC provides its customers chlorinated groundwater from local wells.
7 Two wells, Well 02, and Well 03, provide a total of 200 gpm, and due to a past history
8 of high iron and manganese levels, are treated via a Filtronics filtration plant. The
9 treated water is stored in one of the two 175,000 gallon embankment tanks and a
10 16,500 gallon clearwell.
11

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13 Water from the storage tanks is pumped from two booster pumps and a 5,000 gallon
14 hydro-pneumatic tank to the distribution system. The Total Coliform Rule requires the
15 SVWC to collect two routine coliform samples every month from the system.
16

17 On March 30, 2016, Lawrence Price, the system operator for SVWC, collected two
18 total coliform bacteriological samples from the distribution system; one at the
19 maintenance building lockbox at 06:00PM, and another at the tennis court lockbox at
20 08:45PM, and brought both samples into Fruit Growers Lab in Santa Paula on March
21 31, 2016 at 11:50AM. The sample collected from the maintenance building was
22 reported on the chain of custody by Mr. Price to have a chlorine residual of 1.6 mg/L,
23 and the sample collected at the tennis court lockbox was reported to have a chlorine
24 residual of 1.7 mg/L. Upon initializing the analyses for both samples, the lab informed
25 Lawrence Price that there was too much chlorine in both sample bottles to analyze for
26 bacteria. On April 1, 2016, Lawrence Price collected two replacement samples at the
27 same previous locations; the maintenance building lockbox sample was collected at



1 10:30AM, with a reported chlorine residual of 1.6 mg/L, and the tennis court lockbox
2 sample was collected at 09:45AM, with a reported chlorine residual of 1.5 mg/L. Both
3 analyses were completed by the lab on April 2, 2016, and were found to be absent of
4 total coliform and E. coli.
5

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7 On April 22, 2016, Ellen Mendoza, Sanitary Engineering Technician for the Division,
8 sent an email to Lawrence Price, requesting the March 2016 monthly summary and
9 bacteriological results for SVWC, stating that no bacteriological results were received,
10 so it appears no samples were collected. On April 24, 2016, Lawrence Price
11 responded by sending the requested documents, and explaining in an email that the
12 bacteriological samples collected and analyzed on March 31st were voided by the lab
13 due to defective sodium thiosulfate inside the sample bottles. He followed up with a
14 phone call stating 4 out of 10 sample bottles had the defective reagent of sodium
15 thiosulfate, and wanted to know if our Division would allow the samples that were
16 collected on April 1st to suffice for the March 2016 monitoring period.
17

18 Ellen Mendoza brought this to the attention of Jeff Densmore, the Santa Barbara
19 District Engineer for the Division, who then attempted to contact Fruit Growers Lab by
20 phone to confirm whether or not defective sodium thiosulfate was supplied in the
21 sample bottles used. As of June 28, 2016, the Division had not received a response,
22 therefore, Ellen Mendoza sent an email to a lab technician, who forwarded the
23 message to her supervisor, Raquel Harvey. Raquel left Ellen a voice mail message,
24 explaining that for the SVWC, the measurements indicated on the chain-of-custody
25 didn't seem to match what was in the sample, and further explained that each lot of
26 bottles they receive is tested to ensure the dechlorinating agent is capable of
27 dechlorinating up to 20 ppm. Any lots used would have had to pass that testing.



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When colilert is added, if too much chlorine is present, it will turn the water in the sample bottle blue. In Raquel's opinion, it wasn't the sodium thiosulfate being defective, there was just too much chlorine. The Division will not allow the March 30th samples to be replaced by samples taken on April 1, 2016.

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DIRECTIVES

The SVWC is hereby directed to take the following actions:

1. Immediately, follow proper TCR routine and repeat sampling/reporting procedures in accordance with Article 3, Title 22, CCR, Sections 64423, 64424.
2. Within 30 days, the system shall notify the public of the monitoring failure to collect and analyze the required routine bacteriological distribution sample for the month of March 2016.
3. The SVWC is recommended to provide continuous chlorine disinfection treatment to its well water supply at all times. A chlorine residual of 0.5 to 1.0 mg/L should be maintained at all times.
4. A copy of the notification and certification form shall be submitted to:

Jeff Densmore, P.E., District Engineer
 Division of Drinking Water
 Santa Barbara District
 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200
 Carpinteria, CA 93013-2000

Sept. 13, 2016
 Date


 Jeff Densmore, P.E., District Engineer
 Southern California Section
 Santa Barbara District (SWRCB-DDW)

cc: Santa Barbara County Environmental Health

