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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

Northern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
Monterey District



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 9, 2014

Mr. Ralph Bracamonte, District Manager
Central Water District
400 Cox Road
Aptos, CA 95003

Attention Mr. Bracamonte:

CITATION NO. 02-05-14C-009-4410018-22
TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION FOR APRIL 2014 AND
BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATION FOR MAY 2014
CENTRAL WATER DISTRICT – SYSTEM NO. 4410018

Enclosed is a Citation issued to the Central Water District water system. The Citation is being issued because the Central Water District water system has failed to comply with the total coliform maximum contaminant level as specified in Section 64426.1(b)(2), Chapter 15, Title 22, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) during the month of April 2014. The water system also failed to comply with bacteriological monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in Section 64424(d), Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR, during the month of May 2014.

The Citation consists of five sections: Violation, Background, Notification Requirements, Directives and Further Enforcement Actions. The Violation and Background sections describe the events leading up to the issuance of the Citation. The Notification Requirements section specifies what, when, and to whom notifications are required. The Directives section specifies required actions that must be implemented by the water system to return to compliance. The Further Enforcement Actions section describes penalties to be assessed for failure to comply with the Citation. No civil penalty is levied with the attached Citation.

Your water system will be billed at the Department's hourly rate for the time spent on issuing this Citation since this is an enforcement action for noncompliance with state regulations. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jonathan Weinger of my staff at (831) 655-6932 or me at (831) 655-6934.

Sincerely,

Jan R. Sweigert, P.E.
District Engineer, Monterey District
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH

Enclosures

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7008-1830-0004-5435-0523
cc (w/enclosures): Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department

Citation No. 02-05-14C-009-4410018-22

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Date of Issuance: June 9, 2014

RE: Central Water District
Water System No. 4410018

TO: Mr. Ralph Bracamonte, District Manger
Central Water District
400 Cox Road
Aptos, CA 95003

CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION

APRIL 2014

AND

BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATION

MAY 2014

Chapter 4, Article 9, Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code (H&S Code) authorizes the issuance of a Citation for failure to comply with this Chapter (California Safe Drinking Water Act) or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued or adopted thereunder.



1 **Violations**

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3 The California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations
4 Branch, (hereinafter "Department") hereby issues a Citation to the Central Water
5 District (hereinafter "Central WD") for the following violations:

6

7 1. Violation of the total coliform maximum contaminant level (MCL) for
8 compliance with the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) pursuant to Section
9 64426.1(b)(2), Chapter 15, Title 22, of the California Code of
10 Regulations (CCR).

11

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

16

17 During April 2014, the Central WD water system had two out of nine
18 distribution samples that tested positive for total coliform and negative
19 for *E. coli*. This constitutes a violation of the total coliform MCL for the
20 Central WD water system for the month of April 2014.

21

22 2. Violation of bacteriological monitoring and reporting requirements
23 pursuant to Section 64424(d), Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR. Section
24 64424(d) specifies that if a public water system, for which fewer than
25 five routine samples per month are collected, has one or more total
26 coliform-positive samples, the water supplier shall collect at least five
27 routine samples the following month.



1 The Central WD water system collected three out of five required
2 routine distribution samples during May 2014. Failure to collect the
3 correct number of routine distribution samples for coliform analysis
4 testing constitutes a bacteriological monitoring and reporting violation
5 for the Central WD water system for the month of May 2014.

6

7 **Background**

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9 The Central WD is classified as a community water system that serves an
10 estimated population of 2,700 persons through 803 service connections. The
11 water system has five groundwater wells that have continuous disinfection
12 treatment provided.

13

14 The Central WD water system is required to collect three bacteriological samples
15 from the distribution system per month for compliance with the TCR. The
16 Groundwater Rule (GWR) requires sampling from active raw water sources in
17 addition to repeat distribution bacteriological samples, within 24 hours of
18 notification, following any total coliform-positive result from the distribution
19 system.

20

21 On April 2, 2014, the Central WD water system collected one of three monthly
22 routine bacteriological samples from the distribution system for compliance with
23 the TCR for the month of April 2014. This routine distribution sample tested
24 positive for total coliform and negative for *E. coli*. In response, on April 3, 2014,
25 the Central WD water system collected three repeat distribution bacteriological
26 samples and one raw water sample from the active source, Well 12. One of
27 three repeat distribution samples, collected at "350 Redwood Heights", tested



1 positive for total coliform and negative for *E. coli* and the raw water sample from
2 Well 12 tested free of coliform bacteria. On April 4, 2014, Mr. Ralph Bracamonte,
3 District Manager for the Central WD water system, notified the Department that
4 the system had exceeded the TCR MCL for April 2014.

5

6 On April 4, 2014, the Central WD water system collected one distribution repeat
7 bacteriological sample and two additional repeat distribution samples were
8 collected on April 7, 2014. All repeat distribution samples collected on April 4,
9 2014 and April 7, 2014 tested free of coliform bacteria. The final two of three
10 monthly routine distribution bacteriological samples for compliance with the TCR
11 rule for the month of April 2014 were collected on April 8, 2014 and April 16,
12 2014. Both routine distribution samples tested free of coliform bacteria. The two
13 bacteriological samples from the distribution system that tested positive for total
14 coliform resulted in violation of the total coliform MCL for the compliance period
15 of April 2014.

16

17 On June 4, 2014, the Department received analytical results showing that three
18 routine distribution bacteriological samples were collected for the compliance
19 period of May 2014. All samples tested free of coliform bacteria.

20

21 Failure to collect five routine distribution samples during the month following a
22 total coliform-positive sample resulted in violation of Section 64424(d) for the
23 month of May 2014 for the Central WD water system.

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1 **Notification Requirements**

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3 Section 64426.1(c), Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR requires a public water system to
4 notify the Department and its consumers when a violation of the total coliform
5 MCL occurs. Notification to the Department shall be by the end of the business
6 day on which the violation has been determined. If the Department is closed,
7 notification shall be within 24 hours of the determination. **The Department was**
8 **notified in accordance with the above-referenced section by Mr. Ralph**
9 **Bracamonte, District Manager for the Central WD water system, on April 4,**
10 **2014, that the system had exceeded the total coliform MCL for the month of**
11 **April 2014.**

12

13 **Directives**

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15 The Central WD water system is hereby directed to take the following actions:

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17 1. Immediately cease and desist from failing to comply with Sections
18 64426.1(b)(2) and 64424(d), Chapter 15, Title 22, CCR.

19

20 2. Conduct public notification of the bacteriological water quality monitoring
21 standard violations in conformance with Section 64463.4, Chapter 15, Title
22 22, CCR. The notification shall be completed in accordance with the
23 following:

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- 25 • Mail or direct delivery of the Public Notification to each customer
26 served by the water system by **July 10, 2014.**

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- By one of the following secondary methods to reach persons not likely to be reached by mail or direct delivery;
 - By publication in a local newspaper, by internet posting of the notice, by posting the public notice in conspicuous public places within the water system or delivery to community organizations. Notice by secondary method shall be conducted within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Citation. If the water system opts to issue the notice via internet website, the public notice shall remain posted for a minimum of seven (7) days. The Central WD water system must determine which option will be used to conduct the secondary distribution of the notice and notify the Department of their decision no later than **June 30, 2014**.

3. Submit the Public Notification required by Directive No. 2 of this Citation to the Department for approval prior to distribution. A sample notice is enclosed (Attachment A) that may be used to fulfill the notification requirement. **The Central WD water system must edit the wording of the sample notification as necessary.**

4. Proof of Notification must be provided to the Department by submitting copies of the notice mailed or hand delivered and distributed to the customers with the completed Proof of Notification form (Attachment B), to the Department **within ten (10) days following issuance of the Public Notification.**

1 5. The Central WD water system shall collect five routine distribution
 2 samples the month following any total coliform positive sampling result in
 3 accordance with the Department approved BSSP. Analytical results of all
 4 required samples shall be reported to the Department no later than the
 5 tenth day of the following month. The Central WD water system shall
 6 collect five routine bacteriological samples during the month of June 2014
 7 and analyses results shall be reported to the Department no later than
 8 **July 10, 2014.**

9

10 All responses to the directives contained in this Citation shall be submitted to:

11

12 Jan R. Sweigert, P.E.
 13 District Engineer, Monterey District
 14 California Department of Public Health
 15 Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
 16 1 Lower Ragsdale, Building 1, Suite 120
 17 Monterey, CA 93940

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Further Enforcement Actions

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Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, (commencing with section 116270) of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the Department to: issue additional citations with assessment of penalties if a public water system continues to fail to correct a violation identified in a citation; take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with orders of the Department; and petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with orders of the Department. By issuance of this Citation, the Department does not waive



1 any right to take additional or alternative enforcement action against the System
2 including, but not limited to, assessment of penalties as authorized by law.

3
4 Failure to comply with any provision or directive of this Citation may result in the
5 Department imposing penalties.

6
7 6/9/2014
8 Date

9 Jan Sweigert
10 Jan R. Sweigert, P.E.
11 District Engineer, Monterey District
12 DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATION BRANCH
13
14



15 Enclosures: Attachment A: Public Notification Sample
16 Attachment B: Proof of Notification Form

17 **CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7008-1830-0004-5435-0523**
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Instructions for Tier 2 Resolved Total Coliform Notice Template

Template Attached

Since exceeding the total coliform bacteria maximum contaminant level is a Tier 2 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation [California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 15, Section 64463.4(b)]. **Each water system required to give public notice must submit the notice to the Department for approval prior to distribution or posting, unless otherwise directed by the Department [64463(b)].**

Notification Methods

You must use the methods summarized in the table below to deliver the notice to consumers. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

<i>If You Are a...</i>	<i>You Must Notify Consumers by...</i>	<i>...and By One or More of the Following Methods to Reach Persons Not Likely to be Reached by the Previous Method...</i>
Community Water System [64463.4(c)(1)]	Mail or direct delivery ^(a)	Publication in a local newspaper
		Posting ^(b) in public places served by the water system or on the Internet
		Delivery to community organizations
Non-Community Water System [64463.4(c)(2)]	Posting in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system ^(b)	Publication in a local newspaper or newsletter distributed to customers
		Email message to employees or students
		Posting ^(b) on the Internet or intranet
		Direct delivery to each customer

(a) Notice must be distributed to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the water system.

(b) Notice must be posted in place for as long as the violation or occurrence continues, but in no case less than seven days.

The notice attached is appropriate for the methods described above. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects and notification language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory [64465].

Multilingual Requirement

Spanish. Each public notice must contain information in Spanish regarding (1) the importance of the notice or (2) contain a telephone number or address where Spanish-speaking residents may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the public notice or assistance in Spanish.

Non-English Speaking Groups Other than Spanish-Speaking. For each group that exceeds 1,000 residents or 10% of the residents in the community served, whichever is less, the public notice must (1) contain information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the notice or (2) contain a telephone number or address where such residents may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the notice or assistance in the appropriate language.

Population Served

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system -- you may need to list the areas you serve.

Description of the Violation

Make sure that the notice is clear about the fact that the coliform problem has been resolved, and there is no current cause for concern. The description of the violation and the MCL vary depending on the number of samples you take. The following table should help you complete the second paragraph of the template.

<u>If You Take Fewer Than 40 Samples a Month</u>	<u>If You Take 40 or More Samples a Month</u>
State the number of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may be positive.	State the percentage of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than 5.0 percent of samples may test positive each month.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you have taken. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with total coliform violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- "We have increased sampling for coliform bacteria to catch the problem early if it recurs."
- "The well and/or distribution system has been disinfected and additional samples do not show presence of coliform bacteria."

After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to the Department within ten days after you issue the notice [64469(d)].

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

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.

**Central Water District Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria
Above the Drinking Water Standard**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. The Central Water District water system collected a total of nine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria from the distribution system during April 2014. Two of our samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria and negative for *E. coli*. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may do so. In addition, during the month of May 2014, the water system was required to collect five samples from the distribution system for a month following a total coliform-positive sample result during April 2014. The water system collected three out of five required distribution samples during May 2014. All samples collected during May 2014 tested free of coliform bacteria.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing conducted during May 2014.**
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

[Describe corrective action].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

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 the Central Water District water system.

State Water System ID#: 4410018 Date distributed: _____

System Representative Name & Title: _____

System Representative Signature: _____

PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

Citation No. 02-05-14C-009-4410018-22

Central Water District

System Number: 4410018

Certification

As required by Section 116450 of the California Health and Safety Code, I notified the users of the water supplied by the Central Water District water system of the violations of Title 22, California Code of Regulations for the compliance periods of April and May 2014. I complied with the directives of this Citation as indicated below:

<u>Required Action</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
Public Notification – Mail or Direct Delivery	
Public Notification - List Secondary Method Used: _____	
Proof of Notification	
_____ Signature of Water System Representative	_____ Date

***** Attach a copy of the notice distributed. *****

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT

Disclosure: Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code states that any person who knowingly makes any false statement on any report or document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the attached order may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.