



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

May 22, 2015
Certified Mail/Return
7012 3460 0003 1113 1830

Rio Alto Water District
22099 River View Drive
Cottonwood, CA 96022

Attention: Martha Slack, General Manager

RE: Rio Alto Water District, Public Water System No. 5210005 – Citation No. 21-15C-029 for Exceedance of the Bacteriological Maximum Contaminant Level in April 2014.

Enclosed is a citation issued to Rio Alto Water District. The citation is being issued because the District failed to achieve the drinking water standard for total coliform bacteria during April 2015. Please read this citation carefully. Public notification is required to inform customers that the standard was not achieved in April 2015.

Note that Section 116577 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for the Division to be reimbursed by the public water system for costs incurred for preparing and issuing a citation. In accordance with Section 116577, the System will be billed for the preparation and issuance of this citation. The current reimbursement rate is approximately \$128 per hour.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Paul Rowe at (530) 224-4866 or me at (530) 224-4861.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Crenshaw".

Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E.
Valley District Engineer
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Enclosures

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Citation No. 21-15C-029

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

Public Water System: Rio Alto Water District
Water System No.: 5210005

To: Rio Alto Water District
Attn: Martha Slack, General Manager
22099 River View Drive
Cottonwood, CA 96022

Issued: May 22, 2015
VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

**CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE
With Title 22 California Code of Regulations
Section 64426.1(b)**

Section 116650 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 (CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with Section 116270), or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued thereunder.

1 The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), acting by and
2 through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director
3 for the Division, hereby issues a citation to Rio Alto Water District for failure to
4 comply with Section 64426.1 (b), Title 22, of the California Code of Regulations
5 (CCR).

6
7 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

8 Section 116650 of the CHSC states:

9
10 *(a) If the department determines that a public water system is in*
11 *violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation,*
12 *or order issued or adopted thereunder, the department may issue a*
13 *citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served*
14 *upon the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service*
15 *shall be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the*
16 *date of receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is*
17 *directed refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of*
18 *service shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.*

19
20 *(b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the*
21 *violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory*
22 *provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to*
23 *have been violated.*

24
25 *(c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the*
26 *condition constituting the violation.*
27

1 (d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in
2 subdivision (e).

3
4 (e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed
5 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation
6 occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A
7 separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.

8
9 Section 64426.1(b), Title 22, of the CCR states:

10
11 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL
12 [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following
13 occurs:

14
15 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40
16 samples per month, more than 5.0 percent of the
17 samples collected during any month are total coliform-
18 positive; or

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20 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than
21 40 samples per month, more than one sample
22 collected during any month is total coliform-positive; or

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24 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or *E. coli*-
25 positive; or

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2. **Within 30 days** of the issuance of this Citation, notify all persons served by the System of the MCL violation as required by Section 64463.4 and Section 64465, Title 22, of the CCR. Notification shall be completed in accordance with each of the following:

(A) Mail or direct delivery to each customer.

3. Changes and/or modifications to Attachment 'A' shall not be made unless approved by the Division.

4. Complete and return Attachment 'B' "Certification of Completion of Public Notification" form **within 10 days** of giving public notice. A copy of the notice used to provide public notification shall be attached to the form.

1 The completed and signed copy of Attachment 'B' shall be submitted to the following
2 address:

3
4 Reese B. Crenshaw, P. E.
5 Valley District Engineer
6 Drinking Water Field Operations
7 Division of Drinking Water
8 State Water Resources Control Board
9 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101
10 Redding, CA 96002
11 (530) 224-4800

12
13 Nothing in this Citation relieves the System of its obligation to meet the requirements
14 of Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 (California Safe
15 Drinking Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted
16 thereunder.

17
18 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may
19 deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be
20 issued as amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

21
22 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

23 The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue citation with assessment of
24 administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation
25 of the requirements of the California SDWA or any permit, regulation, permit or order
26 issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a
27 violation identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA also

1 authorizes the Board to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been
2 issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or
3 regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Board; and to petition the
4 superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system
5 that has failed to comply with violates an order of the Board. The Board does not
6 waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

7

8 **PARTIES BOUND**

9 This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the System, its officers, directors,
10 agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

11

12 **SEVERABILITY**

13 The directives of this Citation are severable, and System shall comply with each and
14 every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

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R. Crenshaw

5/21/15

19 Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E., District Engineer
20 Valley District
21 Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Date

22

23 Attachments:

24

'A' Certification of Completion

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Rio Alto Water District

22099 River View Drive • Cottonwood, CA 96022

Phone: (530) 347-3835 • Fax: (530) 347-1007 • Website: www.rawd.org

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.

Rio Alto 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. We took 15 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during April 2015. Two of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

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, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**
- 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

Attachment A

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?

Repeat testing at the sites, and testing of upstream and downstream of positive test sites all tested negative for total coliform bacteria. Additionally, all groundwater sources tested negative for total coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact Ms. Martha Slack or Mr. Dean Sherrill at (530)347-3835 or 22099 River View Dr. Cottonwood, Ca 96022.

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 Rio Alto Water District.

State Water System ID#: 5210005. Date distributed: 05-22-2015 .

