

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

### LABORATORY NOTIFICATION & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This announcement is being distributed to all laboratories accredited by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) because of recent investigations regarding laboratories failing to report to the water supplier's designated contact person **within 24 hours** when laboratory analysis shows presence of total coliforms, fecal coliforms, or *Escherichia coli* (E. coli).

ELAP would like to remind all laboratories of their responsibility to know and understand California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 64819, Notification and Reporting. CCR Section 64819 states, in part:

*...(2) The laboratory shall notify a water supplier's designated contact person as soon as possible, but within 24 hours, and record the method and time of notification or attempted notification, whenever any of the following occur:*

- (A) The presence of total coliforms, fecal coliforms, or Escherichia coli (E. coli) is confirmed.*
- (B) A bacterial sample is invalidated due to an interference as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 64425(b).*
- (C) A nitrate sample exceeds the MCL."*

*(3) If the laboratory is unable to make direct contact with the supplier's designated contact person within 24 hours, pursuant to subparagraphs (2)(A) or (C), the laboratory shall immediately notify the Department<sup>1</sup> and provide a written record of the time and method of attempted contacts.*

In addition, all laboratories must document evidence of their quality assurance program pursuant to CCR Section 64815. Specifically, laboratories must have a Quality Assurance Manual and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) identifying the method of compliance with Section 64819, Notification and Reporting. At a minimum, the laboratory SOP must contain the following:

- Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Chapter 4, Section 116460, Emergency Notification Plan. Specifically, how the laboratory will notify the water

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<sup>1</sup> 'the Department' refers to the Division of Drinking Water, or the County Local Primacy Agency if regulation of the water system has been delegated to the county.

supplier's designated contact person after normal business hours, including weekends and holidays when notification is required under CCR Section 64819.

- Governors Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) HAZMAT Spill Notification Hotline 1-800-852-7550 notification procedures if all attempts fail to contact the water supplier's designated contact person.

As an ELAP-accredited laboratory, you are required to comply with CCR Section 64819 and failure to do so could result in enforcement action being taken against your laboratory.

This official notice will be posted at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap).

**APPROVED: Christine Sotelo, Chief of ELAP - February 8, 2016**