

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

November 15, 2016

Mr. Art Chianello, Water Resources Manager  
City of Bakersfield - Water System No.: 1510031  
1000 Buena Vista Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Dear Mr. Chianello:

### State Water Resources Control Board Notice Regarding Mandatory Consolidation

Effective June 24, 2015, Senate Bill 88 (Statutes 2015, Chapter 27) added Sections 116680 – 116684 to California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Our records indicate that the water delivered by South Kern Mutual Water Company's public water system (System) contains uranium at levels that exceed the maximum contaminant level established in state and federal regulations. Since approximately October 2016, the System has consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. According to our records, the City's system and the System have distribution systems within one mile.

The Division issued a pre-consolidation letter dated November 10, 2015 (enclosed) encouraging the System and the City to work out a voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. In addition a meeting was held on January 27, 2016 with both City and the System representatives.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) strongly encourages the System and the City to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. If a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the State Water Board intends to take action pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) for consolidation of the System with the City's public water system. Please note that as used in the applicable statutory authority, the City is hereby identified as the potentially receiving water system and the System is identified as the potentially subsumed water system.

This letter serves as official notification that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (b) (6), the City, the potentially receiving water system, is directed to negotiate consolidation with South Kern Mutual Water Company water system, the potentially subsumed water system. The City is further directed to complete such negotiations and report the outcome to State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, Visalia District Office not later than six (6) months following the date of this letter.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your neighboring community in a cost-effective manner. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code section

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

City of Bakersfield  
November 15, 2016

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116682 subdivision (b) (6) (A), during the six month negotiation period, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the City and South Kern Mutual Water Company to develop an appropriate and necessary financing package. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mrs. Tricia Wathen, Visalia District Engineer for the State Water Board, DDW, at (559) 447-3398, or me at (559) 447-3132. For funding related questions, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 341-5700.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Carlucci, P.E.  
Supervising Sanitary Engineer  
Central California Section  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Harvey L. Hall, Mayor, City of Bakersfield  
Mr. Jason Meadors, Water Resources Director, City of Bakersfield  
City Council, City of Bakersfield  
Ms. Donna Fenton, Kern County Environmental Health Department  
Ms. Rebecca Moore, Executive Officer, Kern County LAFCo  
Mr. Dennis Gaston, McMor Chlorination  
Mrs. Sherry Settlemoir, President South Kern MWC





EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

November 10, 2015

Ms. Sherry Settlemoir, President  
South Kern Mutual Water Company - Water System No. 1500344  
9612 Beam Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Dear Ms. Settlemoir:

Effective June 24, 2015, Senate Bill 88 (Statutes 2015, Chapter 27) added Sections 116680 – 116684 to California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Our records indicate that the water delivered by South Kern Mutual Water Company (System No. 1500344) public water system (System) contains uranium at levels that have exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) established in state and federal regulations. However, adequate follow-up sampling was not conducted. The last sample collected in September of 2015 showed a uranium level of 21 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) which exceeds the uranium maximum contaminant level of 20 pCi/L. Since the uranium compliance is determined on a running annual average based on quarterly samples, it will take additional monitoring to determine compliance. If the System is deemed to be out of compliance with the uranium MCL, the System will be required to correct the problem.

It is our understanding that the System's service area is outside the boundaries of City of Bakersfield (City) but within the City's sphere of influence. There is a funding project to connect Lakeside School to the City of Bakersfield with a transmission pipe along Old River Road. It is also our understanding that the proposed transmission main to Lakeside School will pass along your water system. In addition to Lakeside School, there is another small public water system along the proposed transmission pipe alignment - Old River Road Mutual Water Company which has been in non-compliance with the uranium MCL since 2009. According to our records, your System and the Old River Mutual Water Company have distribution systems within 100 feet.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) strongly encourages the System and the City to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. However, if a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the State Water Board may determine to exercise its authority pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) to achieve consolidation of System with the City's public water system.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your community in a cost-effective manner. The State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the City and Lakeside School, Old River Water Company and South

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Kern Mutual Water Company to develop an appropriate and necessary financing package. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

In the near future, we will be contacting all the water systems to set up a meeting. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (559) 447-3300. For funding related questions, please contact Mr. Joel Greathouse at (559) 447-3300.

Sincerely,



Tricia A. Wathen P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer  
Visalia District  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

cc: Mr. Art Chianello  
Water Resources Manager  
City of Bakersfield  
1000 Buena Vista Road.  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Ms. Taryn Rickel  
Old River Mutual Water Company  
6734 Charity Avenue, Bay #8  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Ms. Donna Fenton, Kern County EHD  
2700 M Street, Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Mr. Ty Bryson, Superintendent  
Lakeside School  
1435 Old River Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Ms. Rebecca Moore  
Executive Officer  
Kern County LAFCo  
5300 Lennox Ave, Suite 303  
Bakersfield, CA 93309