
State Water Resources Control Board

April 10, 2019, UPDATED Drinking Water Disclosure For Del Oro Water Company customers affected by the Camp Fire

Based on recent water sampling conducted at Del Oro Water Co., the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, is updating the March 5, 2019 advisory to a disclosure. This disclosure applies to the following affected Del Oro Water Company districts: Lime Saddle, Paradise Pines, and Magalia.

The Division's March 5 advisory stated that "testing to date has not revealed an ongoing occurrence of organic chemical contamination." While this statement remains correct for water supplied to existing consumers through the Del Oro water distribution system, testing that occurred on March 11 indicates that some dead-end service lines that once served standing homes in the Paradise Pines District had detectable levels of the organic chemical benzene. Twelve service lines to burned homes were tested after being stagnant for 72 hours; five of these indicated the presence of benzene over the state's standard of 1 ug/L. Follow up sampling of the main line water drawn through these 12 service connections did not show the presence of benzene.

Four burned home service lines, both in the Magalia District and the Lime Saddle District, were also tested. Benzene was not detected in these service lines or in the main line water drawn through these service lines.

Additionally, 12 standing homes, two schools and three RVs were absent for benzene in the Paradise Pines District. Four standing homes were absent for benzene in the Lime Saddle District. Four standing homes in the Magalia District were also absent for the presence of benzene.

The Division of Drinking Water has determined that benzene is an excellent indicator for the presence of volatile organic chemical (VOC) contamination in this situation. However, validation testing with full VOC scans is forthcoming for all the test results mentioned above.

Testing of the water systems will continue. In the meantime, Del Oro Water Co. operators are flushing all dead-end service lines that once served standing homes to minimize the potential for any VOC contamination to diffuse back into the main line water. The Waterboard has determined, and current evidence supports, that the VOC contamination potential for water served to existing consumers from these service lines is negligible.

These test results are available on the Del Oro Water Company district websites at <http://bit.ly/2SGC5oJ>. This message will be modified accordingly when subsequent test results become available. You will be notified immediately of any test results at your standing structure. **For 24-hour customer support or emergency, call 1-877-335-6764.**