



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enter date

ENTER REQUIRED INFORMATION AS DESCRIBED WHERE HIGHLIGHTED AND REMOVE HIGHLIGHTS

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM ID NUMBER: AWXXXX

Si necesita ayuda en español llame al (805) 549-3881

Enter Operator name Address, from Operation Info Sec. I eNOI City, CA, Zip

如果協助必要用中文, 請叫 (805) 542-4648

Don't include email address here, place on cc: list, first address.

DRINKING WATER NOTIFICATION

Dear Operator name:

DOMESTIC SUPPLY WELL EXCEEDS THE DRINKING WATER STANDARD FOR NITRATE: OPERATION NAME, RANCH NAME, RANCH ADDRESS, COUNTY (AGLXXXXXXXXXX)

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about your water analysis results for the private domestic well located on the above referenced farm, and to request additional information from you. Based on the water analysis results submitted pursuant to Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011, your private domestic well exceeds the drinking water standard for either nitrate (as nitrate) or nitrate (as nitrogen), and presents a health risk to those who may be drinking the water. Nitrate is a regulated drinking water contaminant in California and drinking water standards are established by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for public drinking water supplies. The safe drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 45 milligrams per liter (mg/L) as nitrate or 10 mg/L as nitrogen1. The additional information we are requesting from you is described below.

Results from your Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring data collected on enter date sampled from your domestic well "enter well name" show a nitrate concentration of enter lab result mg/L as nitrate (or replace with "as nitrogen", as applicable), which is above the drinking water standard of 45 mg/L as nitrate

1 The CDPH MCL for nitrate or nitrogen applies to public drinking water supplies. However, under California Water Code section 13304(a), the Central Coast Water Board may issue a cleanup and abatement order requiring the provision of, or payment for, uninterrupted replacement water service to private well owners. The water boards consistently use the MCLs established by CDPH as the basis for a requirement to provide replacement water. See In the matter of Petitions of Olin Corp. and Standard Fusee, Inc. Order WQ 2005-0007, ps. 4-6.

(or replace with "10 mg/L as nitrogen", as applicable). For a copy of your groundwater monitoring results, you should contact the laboratory that sampled your well.

**Please alert all persons using the private domestic water supply well and post notifications within 10 days indicating the water poses a human health risk due to elevated nitrate concentration.** The notice should include a warning against the use of this water for drinking or cooking. It may also be necessary to provide the well users with either appropriately treated drinking water or an alternative drinking water supply (e.g. bottled water).

In addition, provide written notification to any new well users (e.g. tenants and employees with access to the effected well), whenever there is a change in occupancy, explaining that the water poses a human health risk.

**Please provide the following information in writing to this office within 30 days of the date of this letter:**

1. Confirmation that you notified the domestic well users, farm operators, and land owners of the contaminated well(s).
2. Confirmation that you posted the appropriate public health notification, and provided the Water Board's Nitrate Guidance Document (English, Spanish or Chinese versions, as appropriate, attached).
3. Identification of contaminated well(s) used for drinking water supply and the number of people served.
4. A description of any treatment method or alternative drinking water supplies provided, both long-term and short-term, to ensure safe drinking water (e.g. bottled water, drinking water treatment system installation, well shut off, etc.).

Central Coast Water Board staff will evaluate groundwater quality information regarding your farm and follow-up with you regarding management practices and other actions necessary to reduce nitrate pollution from your operations and protect water quality. In addition, since your farm is in an area where groundwater is impacted by nitrate, the Central Coast Water Board may require you in the future to submit technical reports evaluating whether discharge of waste from your operation has caused or contributed to nitrate pollution, pursuant to Water Code section 13267. If the Central Coast Water Board finds that a discharge from your operation has caused or contributed to pollution, the Executive Officer may require you to develop a plan to provide alternative drinking water supplies pursuant to Water Code section 13304.

**For More Information**

Attached is a general guide regarding nitrate in drinking water, including the potential health effects associated with drinking water containing elevated levels of nitrate and general recommendations for private domestic well owners/users. This document also includes a list of resources and contacts where you can obtain additional information. For specific questions regarding the safety of your private domestic well, please contact your local public health agency. Please distribute the nitrate guide to all persons using the domestic well.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact **Staff name and phone number (805) XXX-XXXX or at XXXXX@waterboards.ca.gov** or Angela Schroeter at (805) 542-4644 or at [aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov). For general information about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program please visit the Central Coast Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/aq\\_waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/aq_waivers/index.shtml)

Addressee/Ranch Name

- 3 -

Date

Sincerely,

*For*  
Michael Thomas  
Assistant Executive Officer

**Enclosure:** Resources for Growers - Regarding Nitrate in Drinking Water (English) (Spanish)  
or (Chinese) as applicable  
Drinking Water Notification Insert – Non English

P:\Ag - ILRP\8 - Drinking Water Notifications\Revised-Template.doc

cc:

Enter Operator name  
Operation Name  
Email from Operation Info Sec. I eNOI

(Enter appropriate local agency information  
from reference list)

**Landowner(s):**

Enter Landowner Name  
Address, from Sec. IX eNOI  
City, State, Zip  
(Concerning APN: XXX-XXX-XXX)

**Water Board Watershed Lead Staff:**

Enter Staff name  
Central Coast Water Board  
[XXXXXX@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:XXXXXX@waterboards.ca.gov)

Enter Landowner Name  
Email, if available, from Sec. IX eNOI

Enter Staff DWN Coordinator (Enter Corey  
Walsh information)  
Central Coast Water Board  
[XXXXXX@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:XXXXXX@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Local Public Health Agency Contact:**