

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
2 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3 IN RE: Seeley County Water District  
4 1898 W. Main Street  
5 Seeley, CA 92273

6 TO: Mr. John Valdez  
7 Chief Operator

8 CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE - WATER SYSTEM NO. 1310013  
9 CITATION NO. 05-14-13C-004

10 Issued on March 26, 2013

11 Section 116650, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code  
12 (H&S Code), authorizes the California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking  
13 Water and Environmental Management (CDPH) to issue a citation for failure to comply  
14 with the requirements of Chapter 4, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, or any  
15 regulation, permit, standard, or order issued or adopted thereunder.

16 VIOLATION

17 CDPH has determined that the Seeley County Water District (hereinafter Seeley) has  
18 violated provisions contained in the H&S Code and Title 22, California Code of Regulations  
19 (CCR). These violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 20 1. Title 22, CCR, Section 64426.1: Specifically, Seeley failed to meet the primary  
21 drinking water standard for the Total Coliform (TC) Maximum Contaminant Level  
22 (MCL) for the month of January 2013. A public water system which collects fewer  
23 than 40 samples per month is in violation of the total coliform MCL when more than  
24 one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive.
- 25 2. CCR, Section 64463.4: Specifically, Seeley failed to provide public notification for  
26 TTHM MCL violations for the first, second and third quarters of 2012.
- 27



**ENFORCEMENT HISTORY**

A Notice of Violation was issued to Seeley on May 28, 2002 for failing to submit the Monthly Summary of Distribution System Coliform Monitoring Report for March 2002 by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month.

Citation 05-14-13C-002 was issued to Seeley on January 24, 2013 for failing to meet the primary drinking water standard for the TC MCL for the month of December 2012.

Citation 05-14-12C-006 was issued to Seeley on April 3, 2012 for exceedance of the MCL for TTHM for drinking water supplied to the public by Seeley during the third and fourth quarters of 2011. This citation contained directives to continue to provide public notice in accordance with CCR, Section 64463.4 until the system is in compliance with the TTHM MCL. Since Seeley is still out of compliance with the TTHM MCL, public notice should have been issued after each calendar quarter since the citation was issued.

**BACKGROUND**

Seeley is a small community water system that supplies water for domestic purposes to approximately 2,000 permanent residents through 549 service connections. Seeley collects three routine bacteriological samples each week from the distribution system in accordance with an approved Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan, last updated December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003. There are no dedicated sample stations in the water system, so sample sites include faucets and hydrants. This may contribute to a higher chance of positive bacteriological results.

Seeley receives raw surface water from the Imperial Irrigation District through Gate 94D of the Elder Canal via the Central Main. The raw water is treated by a U.S. Filter Co. Micro Floc Trimite-350A Water Treatment System. The filtered water exits the treatment plant and is chlorinated prior to being pumped to two 500,000-gallon reservoirs piped in series. Water from the reservoirs is pressurized to 60 psi to feed a single pressure zone distribution system.



1 **CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

2 **Thursday, January 24, 2013, 10:00 – 11:30 am:** Seeley collected five (5) routine  
 3 bacteriological samples from the distribution system at Sites 1, 2, and 3 (1898 Main St.,  
 4 1702 W. Evans Hewes Hwy., and the Caltrans Rest Area respectively) as well as two  
 5 additional sites including the first service connection after the WTP effluent and the Seeley  
 6 Market (intersection of W. Evan Hewes Hwy and Haskell Rd).

7 **Friday, January 25, 2013, 12:05 pm:** The laboratory notified Seeley staff that four (4) of  
 8 the samples had tested present for Total Coliform and E-coli bacteria.

Sample Site	Total Coliform	E. Coli	Cl <sub>2</sub> residual
1. 1898 Main St	Presence	Presence	0.70 mg/L
3. 1702 W. Evans Hwy	Presence	Presence	0.41mg/L
4. Caltrans Rest Area	Presence	Presence	0.50 mg/L
WTP effluent	Absence	Absence	0.61 mg/L
Seeley Market	Presence	Presence	0.65 mg/L

9 On this date, Seeley staff collected eleven (11) repeat samples. Three samples were taken  
 10 from each of the sample sites that had tested present for Total Coliform except for the  
 11 Caltrans Rest Area which only had two repeat samples because there was no downstream  
 12 site. WTP staff increased chlorine dosing to a target residual of 2.0 mg/L. The laboratory  
 13 test began at 4:00 pm.

14 **Saturday, January 26, 2013, 4:10 pm:** The laboratory test concluded that all repeat  
 15 samples had tested Absent for Total Coliform and E-coli bacteria.

16 **Monday, January 28, 2013, 9:43 am:** The laboratory notified Seeley and CDPH staff that  
 17 all repeat samples had tested Absent for Total Coliform and E-coli bacteria. The chlorine  
 18 residual results ranged from a low of 0.25 mg/l at the Caltrans Rest Area to 0.85 mg/L at  
 19 Seeley Market. CDPH staff had requested immediate notification of the results, but  
 20 arrangements were not made to communicate this information over the weekend.



1 **DIRECTIVES**

2 Seeley is hereby directed to:

- 3 1. Forthwith, Seeley shall cease and desist from failing to comply with the Primary  
4 Drinking Water Standard for bacteriological water quality.
- 5 2. Repeat sampling results shall be reported to CDPH as soon as the laboratory  
6 analysis is complete (immediately after the 18 or 24 hour incubation period). If the  
7 analysis concludes on a weekend or holiday, arrangements shall be made with  
8 the laboratory to report the results to CDPH on the same day.
- 9 3. By March 1, 2013, Seeley shall provide public notice of the TC MCL violation in  
10 accordance with CCR, Section 64463.4. Public notice shall be via 1. Mail or direct  
11 delivery to each customer, and 2. Posting notice using one or more of the  
12 following methods: posting on the internet and/or local newspaper, posting in  
13 conspicuous public spaces served by the water system, and delivery to  
14 community organizations. A draft notification shall be submitted to CDPH for  
15 review and approval prior to conducting public notification.
- 16 4. Within 10 days of conducting public notifications, a copy of the notice and the  
17 "Proof of Notification" certification shall be submitted to CDPH using the enclosed  
18 form.
- 19 5. By July 1, 2013, Seeley shall report violation 1 and 2 listed earlier in this citation in  
20 the 2012 Consumer Confidence Report.
- 21 6. By May 1, 2013, Seeley shall submit an updated cross-connection control survey  
22 by a certified cross connection control specialist and a plan including a schedule  
23 for implementing the survey recommendations.
- 24 7. By May 1, 2013, Seeley shall provide the following information on the service  
25 connections that currently have dual service (Seeley potable water and Imperial  
26 Irrigation District canal water):





**Drinking Water Notification to Consumers**

**PROOF OF NOTIFICATION**

**Name of Water System:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain what caused the problem if you have determined what it was and what steps you have taken to correct it. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Consumers Notified \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If not, Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Notification: \_\_\_\_\_

On the date of notification set forth above, I served the above referenced document(s) on the consumers by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sending a copy through the U.S. Mail, first class, postage prepaid, addressed to each of the resident(s) at the place where the property is situated, pursuant to the California Civil Code. Attach copy of Notice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper (if the problem has been corrected). Attach a copy of Notice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Personally hand-delivering a copy to each of the consumers. Attach a copy of Notice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Posted on a public bulletin board, that will be seen by each of the consumers (for small, non-community water systems with prior Department approval). Attach copy of Notice.

**I hereby declare the forgoing to be true and correct under penalty of perjury.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Serving Notice

**\*\* Notice:** Complete this Proof of Notification and return it **along with a copy of the notification** to the Department within **30 days** of receipt of your order.

Disclosure: Be advised that the California Health and Safety Code states that any person who knowingly makes a false statement on any report or document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the attached order may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by fine of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in county jail not to exceed one year or by both the fine and imprisonment.