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3 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
4 **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

5  
6 IN RE: **PIXLEY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
Water System No. 5410009

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8  
9 TO: Mr. Randy Masters, Maintenance Superintendent  
Pixley Public Utility District  
10 P.O. Box 535  
Pixley, CA 93256

11 CC: Tulare County Environmental Health Services Department  
12

13  
14 **CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**  
15 **TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION**  
16 **JUNE 2013**

17 **Issued on July 15, 2013**

18  
19 Section 116650, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code  
20 (CHSC), authorizes the issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of the  
21 California Safe Drinking Water Act, or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued  
22 hereunder.

23  
24 **VIOLATION**

25 The Drinking Water Field Operations Branch of the Department of Public Health  
26 (hereinafter 'Department') hereby issues a Citation to Pixley Public Utility District  
27 (hereinafter 'District'), for failure to comply with Section 116555(a)(1) of the CHSC and

1 Section 64426.1(b)(2) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). Specifically, the  
2 District (mailing address: P.O. Box 535, Pixley, CA 93256) failed to comply with the total  
3 coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the month of June 2013.

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5 Section 64426.1(b)(2) specifies that a public water system collecting fewer than 40 samples  
6 per month is in violation of the total coliform MCL when more than one sample collected  
7 during any month is total coliform-positive.

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9 The District is required to collect a minimum of three (3) distribution system bacteriological  
10 samples per month. The bacteriological water analysis results submitted by the District  
11 reported the presence of total coliform bacteria in two (2) of eight (8) samples collected by  
12 the District in June 2013. None of the positive samples showed the presence of fecal  
13 coliform or *E. coli* bacteria.

14  
15 Upon being informed of the presence of total coliform bacteria in one routine sample  
16 collected on June 3, 2013, District staff collected a total of three (3) repeat samples on June  
17 7, 2013. One (1) of the repeat samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. An  
18 additional set of three (3) repeat samples were collected on June 12, 2013. All of these  
19 repeat samples were negative for total coliform bacteria. Due to the above-mentioned total  
20 coliform positive samples, the District failed the total coliform MCL for the month of June  
21 2013. None of the positive samples showed the presence of fecal coliform or *E. coli*  
22 bacteria. All distribution water samples for coliform bacteria collected during June 2013  
23 are summarized in Attachment A.

24  
25 The cause of the failure is unknown since no specific source of contamination has been  
26 identified. The District provides for continuous disinfection of the distribution system and  
27 conducts routine monitoring from all its active wells. The analytical results for the wells

1 that were online in the month of June 2013 showed the presence of total coliform bacteria in  
2 Well 2A; samples from Wells 3A and Well 4 were negative for total coliform bacteria and  
3 *E. coli* bacteria. Follow-up sampling from Well 2A was conducted on June 12, 2013, and  
4 results were negative for both total coliform bacteria and *E. coli* bacteria. All source water  
5 samples for coliform bacteria collected during June 2013 are summarized in Attachment B.

6  
7 The above violation is classified as a non-continuing violation.

8  
9 **ASSOCIATED VIOLATIONS**

10 Additionally, the District has failed to comply with the following Section 64423 of Title 22,  
11 CCR:

12  
13 Section 64423(a)(1) specifies that the minimum number of routine bacteriological water  
14 samples collected by community water systems shall be based on the known population  
15 served or the total number of service connections, whichever results in the greater number  
16 of samples.

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18 The Department did not receive the correct number of bacteriological monitoring results  
19 from the District for the month of June, 2013. Routine monitoring requirements for the  
20 District are a minimum of three (3) bacteriological samples per month. The data received to  
21 date shows that only two (2) routine samples were collected during June, 2013.

22  
23 The above violations are classified as non-continuing violations.

24  
25 **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

26 Section 64426.1(c) requires a public water system to notify the Department and the  
27 consumers of the water system, when a violation of the total coliform MCL occurs.

1 Notification to the Department shall be by the end of the business day on which the  
2 violation has been determined. If the Department is closed, notification shall be within 24  
3 hours of the determination. The Department was notified June 11, 2013 in accordance with  
4 the above-referenced section.

5  
6 A Tier 2 Public Notice for violations of paragraphs 64426.1(b)(2) shall be given pursuant to  
7 Section 64463.4 [lists method, time-frame and delivery] and 64465 [content & format].  
8 The Tier 2 Public Notice shall include the mandatory health effects language from  
9 Appendix 64465-A for a total coliform MCL failure.

10  
11 The District shall either mail or conduct direct delivery of the public notice to all customers  
12 served within the general service area. Section 116450(g) requires that upon receipt of  
13 notification from a public water system, schools must notify school employees, students,  
14 and parents (if the students are minors), residential rental property owners or managers  
15 (including nursing homes and care facilities) must notify their tenants and business property  
16 owners, managers or operators must notify employees of businesses located on the property.  
17 These secondary notification requirements are included in the public notice. The  
18 Department hereby waives public notification by newspaper, posting or delivery to  
19 community organizations.

20  
21 Notification of the public was conducted on June 17, 2013, advising each customer of the  
22 failure of the total coliform MCL during the month of June 2013. A copy of the notice that  
23 was mailed to each customer is provided as Attachment C. Proof of Notification is  
24 provided as Attachment D.

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1 **DIRECTIVES**

2 The District is hereby directed to take the following actions:

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- 1. The District shall collect five (5) routine samples for total coliform analysis during the month of July 2013.
- 2. By **August 15, 2013**, the District shall complete and submit the enclosed "Positive Total Coliform Investigation" form to the Department that describes the incident and all corrective actions taken, and the results of the investigation. The appropriate investigation report is provided as Attachment E.

**CIVIL PENALTIES**

Sections 116650(d) and 116650(e) of the CHSC allow for the assessment of a civil penalty for failure to comply with requirements of the California Safe Drinking Water Act. Failure to comply with any provision of this Citation may result in the Department imposing an administrative penalty of not less than \$100 (one hundred dollars) per day as of the date of violation of any provision of this Citation.

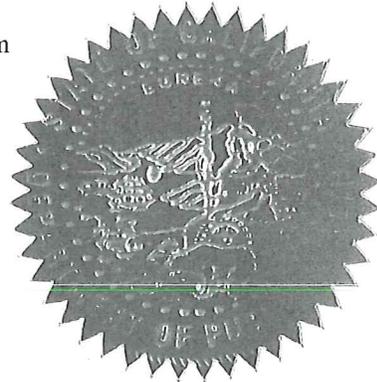
July 15, 2013  
Date

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

TW/SF

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Summary of Distributoin Bacteriological Samples collected in June 2013
- Attachment B: Summary of Source Bacteriological Samples collected in June 2013
- Attachment C: Public Notice
- Attachment D: Proof of Notification Form
- Attachment E: Positive Total Coliform Investigation Form



# Bacteriological Distribution Monitoring Report

**5410009 Pixley Public Utility District**

*Distribution System Freq: 3/M*

<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>T Coli</i>	<i>E Coli</i>	<i>F Coli</i>	<i>HPC</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>CI2</i>	<i>CI2 Avg</i>	<i>Viol. Type</i>	<i>GWR Satisfied?</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6/3/2013	802 Howard	9.2		<1.1		Routine	0.3			Yes	
6/7/2013	660 Howard	<1.1				Repeat	1.0				
6/7/2013	802 Howard	1.1		<1.1		Repeat	1.0		MCL	Yes	Cit 03-12-13C-012 Issue TCR MCL and MR3
6/7/2013	393 Elly	<1.1				Repeat	1.0				
6/12/2013	802 Howard	<1.1				Repeat					
6/12/2013	660 Howard	<1.1				Repeat					
6/12/2013	393 Elm	<1.1				Repeat					
6/24/2013	1403 Court	<1.1				Routine	0.5				MR3

## Violation Key

MCL	Exceeds the maximum contaminant level	MR5	Incorrect number of repeat samples as follow-up to a positive sample
MR1	No monthly sample for the report month	MR6	No source sample
MR2	No quarterly sample for the report month	MR7	No summary report submitted
MR3	Incorrect number of routine samples for the report month	MR8	Other comments and/or info
MR4	Did not collect 5 routine samples for previous month's positive sample	MR9	CI2 not reported

# Source Bacteriological Monitoring Report

**5410009 Pixley Public Utility District**

<i>Sample Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Sample Type</i>	<i>Test Method</i>	<i>T Coli</i>	<i>E Coli</i>	<i>F Coli</i>	<i>HPC</i>	<i>Violation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6/3/2013		Wells: 2A,3A,4	Well	MPN	<1.1					
6/7/2013		Wells: 3A,4	GWR Well	MPN	<1.1					
6/7/2013		Well 2A	GWR Well	MPN	1.1		<1.1			
6/12/2013	8:40	Well 2A	GWR Well	MPN	<1.1					

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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### Pixley Public Utility District's water system Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

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Our water system recently failed a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took six sample(s) to test for the presence of coliform bacteria in June 2013. Two of these samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

#### What happened? What is being done?

Chlorine dosage was increased to obtain a minimum of 1.0 mg/L residual in the distribution system, and repeat samples were collected as required. By increasing the chlorine dosage, repeat samples have verified that the coliform bacteria is absent.

For more information, please contact **Randy Masters** at **(559)757-3878** or at the following mailing address:  
**Pixley Public Utility District P.O. Box 535 Pixley CA. 93256.**

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

#### Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Pixley PUD.

Date distributed: **06/17/2013**



**PROOF OF NOTIFICATION**  
(Return with copy of the Notice)

As required by Section 116450 of the California Health and Safety Code, I notified all users of water supplied by the **Pixley Public Utility District (5410009)** of the failure to meet the **total coliform bacteria MCL** for the month of **June 2013** as directed by the Department. At least one primary distribution method is required: mail, hand-delivery or newspaper publication. A second method is also required in order to reach persons not likely to be reached by a mailing, direct delivery or newspaper publication (renters, nursing home patients, prison inmates, etc.):

Notification was made on 6/17/2013  
(date)

To summarize report delivery used and good-faith efforts used, please check all items below that apply and fill-in where appropriate:

- The notice was distributed by mail delivery to each customer served by the water system.
- The notice was distributed by direct delivery to each customer served by the water system. Specify direct delivery method(s) used: \_\_\_\_\_
- Publication of the notice in a local newspaper or newsletter of general circulation (attach a copy of the published notice, including name of newspaper and date published).
- Posted the notice at the following conspicuous locations served by the water system (if needed, please attach a list of locations). \_\_\_\_\_
- Posted the notice on the Internet at www. \_\_\_\_\_
- Other method used to notify customers. \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCLOSURE:** Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code state that any person who knowingly makes any 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 separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Certified by Name and Title: Jennifer Blevins / Office Manager  
Date: 6/20/2013 Signature: Jennifer Blevins

Due to the Dept. of Health Services within 10 days of notification to the public  
Total Coliform MCL Failure / Enforcement Action No.: In progress

**POSITIVE TOTAL COLIFORM INVESTIGATION**  
**Simple Well with Pressure Tank Systems**

This form is intended to assist public water systems in completing the investigation required by the California Department of Public Health (Section 64426(b) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations) and may be modified to take into account conditions unique to the system.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>PWS Name:</b>	<b>PWSID NUMBER:</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC):</b>	<b>Telephone #</b>
<b>Person that collected TC samples if different than ORC</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	
<b>Certified Laboratory for Microbiological Analyses</b>	
<b>Date Investigation Completed:</b>	
<b>Month(s) of Total Coliform MCL Failure:</b>	

**INVESTIGATION DETAILS**

SOURCE	WELL (name)	WELL (name)	WELL (name)	WELL (name)	COMMENTS
1. Inspect each well head for physical defects and report					
a. Is raw water sample tap upstream from point of disinfection?					
b. Is wellhead vent pipe screened?					
c. Is wellhead seal watertight?					
d. Is well head located in pit or is any piping from the wellhead submerged?					
e. Does the ground surface slope towards well head?					
f. Is there evidence of standing water near the wellhead?					
g. Are there any connections to the raw water piping that could be cross connections? (describe all connections in comments)					
h. Is the wellhead secured to prevent unauthorized access?					
i. To what treatment plant (name) does this well pump?					
j. How often do you take a raw water total coliform (TC) test?					
k. Provide the date and result of the last TC test at this location					

**DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

**SYSTEM RESPONSES**

1. What is the minimum pressure you are maintaining in the distribution system?
2. Did pressure in the distribution system drop to less than 5 psi prior to experiencing the TCR positive finding.

# POSITIVE TOTAL COLIFORM INVESTIGATION

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	SYSTEM RESPONSES
3. Has the distribution system been worked on within the last week? (service taps, hydrant flushing, main breaks, main extensions, etc.) If yes, provide details.	
4. Are there any signs of excavations near your distribution system not under the direct control of your maintenance staff?	
5. Did you inspect your distribution system to check for mainline leaks? Do you or did you have a mainline leak?	
6. If there was a mainline leak, when was it repaired?	
7. On what date was the distribution system last flushed?	
8. Is there a written flushing procedure you can provide for our review?	
9. Do you have an active cross connection control program?	
10. What is name and phone number of your Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator?	
11. Is the review and testing of backflow prevention devices current?	
12. On what date was the last physical survey of the system done to identify cross-connections?	

SAMPLE SITE EVALUATION (Complete for all TC+ or EC+ findings)	Routine Site TC+ or EC+	Upstream Site	Downstream Site	Sample 4 (specify)
1. What is the height of the sample tap above grade? (inches)				
2. Is the sample tap located in an exterior location or is it protected by an enclosure?				
3. Is the sample tap threaded, have a swing arm (kitchen sink) or aerator (sinks)?				
4. Is the sample tap in good condition, free of leaks around the stem or packing?				
5. Can the sample tap be adjusted to the point where a good laminar flow can be achieved without excessive splash?				
6. Is the sample tap and area around the sample tap clean and dry (free of animal droppings, other contaminants or spray irrigation systems)				
7. Is the area around the sample tap free of excessive vegetation or other impediments to sample collection				
8. Describe how the tap was treated in preparation for sample collection (ran water, swabbed with disinfectant, flamed, etc.)				
9. Is this sample tap designated on the sampling plan submitted with this information request?				
10. What were the weather conditions at the time of the positive sample (rainy, windy, sunny).				

# POSITIVE TOTAL COLIFORM INVESTIGATION

Page 3 of 3

GENERAL OPERATIONS:	Response
1. Where there any power outages that affected water system facilities during the 30 days prior to the TC+ or EC + findings?	
2. Where there any main breaks, water outages, or low pressure reported in the service area where TC+ or EC+ samples were located.	
3. Does the system have backup power or elevated storage?	
4. During or soon after bacteriological quality problems, did you receive any complaints of any customers' illness suspected of being waterborne? How many?	
5. What were the symptoms of illness if you received complaints about customers being sick?	

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS

1. Sketch of System showing all sources, treatment locations, storage tanks, microbiological sampling sites and general layout of the distribution system including the location of all hazardous connections such as the wastewater treatment facility.
2. A set of photographs of the well, pressure tanks, and storage tanks in the system may be submitted if they would show that the contamination is directly related and changes have been made since the last inspection by our Department
3. Name, certification level and certificate number of the Operator in Responsible Charge.
4. Copy of the last cross connection survey performed that identifies the location of all unprotected cross connections.

**SUMMARY: BASED ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR INVESTIGATION AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION AT YOUR DISPOSAL, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE POSITIVE TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLES FROM YOUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM?**

**CERTIFICATION: I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE IS ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

