



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH  
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

August 5, 2013  
System No. 1009035

Mr. Duane Urbanek  
Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms)  
3580 S. Newcomb  
Mendota, CA 93640

**Subject: Citation No. 03-23-13C-031**  
**Turbidity Performance Standard Violation – June 2013**

Dear Mr. Urbanek:

This letter is being sent to notify you that the California Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Program (Department) has issued Citation No. 03-23-13C-031 to the Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms) water system (Water System) for exceeding the 0.1 NTU turbidity performance standard for the month of June 2013. The Citation includes the certain directives that the Water System must comply with. Any further failures of the turbidity performance standard, or failure to comply with the citation directions, will result in further enforcement action.

The Department is available to meet with you regarding this citation and any subsequent plans for corrective action. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Philip Dutton or me at (559) 447-3300.

Sincerely,

Betsy S. Lichti, P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer, Fresno District  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

BSL/PD

cc: Stephan Pilibos, Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms), 2141 Tuolumne Street, Suite A, Fresno, CA 93720  
Joe McGuire, Westside Water Conditioning, 45 West G Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IN RE: **PILIBOS BROTHERS RANCH (SIMONIAN FARMS)**  
WATER SYSTEM NO. 1009035

TO: MR. DUANE URBANEK  
PILIBOS BROTHERS RANCH (SIMONIAN FARMS)  
3580 S. NEWCOMB  
MENDOTA, CA 93640

CC: MR. STEPHAN PILIBOS  
PILIBOS BROTHERS RANCH (SIMONIAN FARMS)  
2141 TUOLUMNE STREET, SUITE A  
FRESNO, CA 93720

**CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE  
WITH THE SURFACE WATER TREATMENT RULE**

**JUNE 2013**

**Issued on August 5, 2013**

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

**VIOLATION**

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2 The Drinking Water Field Operations Branch of the Department of Public Health  
3 (hereinafter 'Department') hereby issues a Citation to the Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian  
4 Farms) water system (hereinafter 'Water System') for failure to comply with the alternative  
5 filtration turbidity performance standard, as set forth by the Department utilizing its  
6 authority granted under Section 64653(f) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations  
7 (CCR). Specifically, the Water System (mailing address: 3580 S Newcomb Ave, Mendota,  
8 CA, 93640) failed to comply with the assigned turbidity performance standard for the  
9 month of June 2013.  
10

11  
12 The Water System operates under Domestic Water Supply Permit No. 03-23-09P-027  
13 issued by the Department in April 2009. The Water System is a small community water  
14 system serving a residential population of 25 persons through 15 service connections. The  
15 Water Systems utilizes raw surface water obtained from the California Aqueduct as a  
16 source of supply. The raw surface water is treated by means of an inline filtration plant with  
17 processes that include coagulation, pressure filtration, and disinfection.  
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19  
20 Section 64653(f) specifies that an alternative to conventional filtration treatment, direct  
21 filtration treatment, diatomaceous earth filtration, and/or slow sand filtration may be used  
22 by water system serving fewer than 500 individuals, provided that the water system can  
23 demonstrate to the Department that the alternative technology provides a minimum of 90  
24 percent *Giardia lamblia* cyst removal. The Water System utilizes an inline filtration plant  
25 which meets the definition of an alternative technology as specified above. The treatment  
26 plant serving the water system was classified as inline filtration since there is no  
27

1 opportunity for solids removal through the clarification tank; there is no media present in  
2 the clarification tank and the plant does not operate continuously to enable formation of a  
3 sludge blanket for solids removal. The Department has determined that inline filtration  
4 plants must meet a turbidity performance standard of 0.1 NTU in 95 percent of samples  
5 taken in each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than 1 continuous hour, in  
6 order to be credited with the required 90 percent *Giardia lamblia* cyst removal. This  
7 turbidity performance standard was specified as provision no. 9 of Domestic Water Supply  
8 Permit No. 03-23-09P-027, issued on April 1, 2009.  
9

10  
11 For the month of June 2012, the Water System reported a 95<sup>th</sup> percentile turbidity of all  
12 treated water turbidity readings of 0.20 NTU. During this time, grab samples of the raw  
13 turbidity levels ranged from 1.7 NTU to 2.2 NTU and filter effluent turbidity levels ranged  
14 from 0.05 NTU to 0.20 NTU. The Department became aware of this violation on July 10,  
15 2013, when the hard copy of the Monthly Summary of Monitoring for Surface Water  
16 Regulations was received. During this period, the Water System failed to provide the  
17 required pathogen inactivation, using chlorine disinfection, for a total of nine days; the nine  
18 days do not overlap with the turbidity performance standard violation.  
19

## 20 21 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

22 Public Notification advising each consumer/customer of the failure of the turbidity  
23 performance standard during the month of June 2013 is required. Public notification is  
24 included in Attachment A and is required to be distributed by August 15, 2013. Proof of  
25 Public Notification (Attachment B) must be submitted to the Department within ten (10)  
26  
27

1 days of disseminating Attachment A. The Water System must post the notice and either  
2 mail or hand-deliver the notice to all of its customers.

3  
4 **DIRECTIVES**

5 The Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms) Water System is hereby directed to take the  
6 following actions:

7  
8 1. The Water System shall provide public notification to all customers by posting and  
9 direct-delivery **by August 15, 2013**, informing them that the water did not meet the  
10 turbidity performance standard during the month of June 2013. The public  
11 notification is included in Attachment A.

12  
13  
14 2. The Water System shall provide proof of publication of the notification to the  
15 Department **within 10 days** of distributing the public notification. A copy of this  
16 form is included as Attachment B.

17  
18  
19 3. The Water System shall submit a written summary of the events leading to this  
20 violation and a description of the operational changes made to prevent further  
21 violations.

22  
23 3. All submittals required by this Citation shall be addressed to:

24 Betsy S. Lichti, P.E., Senior Sanitary Engineer  
25 Department of Public Health  
26 Southern California Branch  
27 Drinking Water Field Operations  
265 W. Bullard Avenue, Suite 101  
Fresno, CA 93704

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**CIVIL PENALTIES**

Sections 116650(d) and 116650(e) of the California Health and Safety Code 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.

8/5/13  
Date

Betsy S. Lichti  
Betsy S. Lichti, P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer, Fresno District  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH

BSL/PD



# 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.

## Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms) Water System Did Not Meet Treatment Requirement (Turbidity)

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is 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 your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Regulations require us to meet a 0.1 NTU turbidity performance standards in at least 95% of the samples we collect each month. During the month of June 2013, we failed to meet these standards.

### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- *Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of the water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

### What happened? What was done?

A problem occurred with the treatment system at the water plant. [Describe the reason for high turbidity, corrective actions, and when the system returned or expects to return to compliance].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] \_\_\_\_\_ at [phone number] \_\_\_\_\_ or [mailing address] \_\_\_\_\_.

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 Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms).  
State Water System ID#: 1009035.

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

As required by Section 116450 of the California Health and Safety Code, I notified all users of water supplied by the **Pilibos Brothers Ranch (Simonian Farms) water system** of the failure to meet turbidity performance requirements during June 2013:

Notification was made on \_\_\_\_\_ by  
(date)

hand delivered/mailed and posted written notice.  
(circle all completed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Water System Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**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.

Due to the Department: August 25, 2013  
Turbidity Performance Standard Violation: June 2013  
System Number: 1009035  
Enforcement Action No.: 03-23-13C-031