



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH  
Director & State Health Officer

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

May 28, 2013  
Certified Mail/Return  
Receipt Requested  
7009 1680 0001 3114 5295

City of Red Bluff  
555 Washington Street  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Attention: Bruce Henz, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT: CITY OF RED BLUFF - PWS NO. 5210004 – CITATION NO. 21-13C-003 FOR  
APRIL AND MAY 2013 TOTAL COLIFORM RULE VIOLATIONS**

The City of Red Bluff (City) public water system failed to meet the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Total Coliform Rule (TCR) bacteriological domestic water quality standards in the months of April and May 2013. Consequently, CDPH has issued the enclosed Citation for Noncompliance (Citation) to the City. The Citation includes directives for public notification and for certification of public notification.

The Citation also directs that the City comply with the TCR in the future. Failure to comply with the TCR and the Citation may result in further enforcement action with the possibility of administrative penalties. CDPH appreciates the ongoing efforts of City staff to remediate conditions that may result in coliform positives, but does acknowledge that the City should consider implementing system disinfection as a precautionary measure to prevent bacteriological problems in the future.

Please review the Citation and enclosures. If you wish to propose any changes in the public notification provided herein, or if you have any questions regarding the Citation, please call Gary Schultz at (530) 224-4868, or me at (530) 224-4861.

Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E.  
Valley District Engineer  
DRINKING WATER FIELD  
OPERATIONS BRANCH

Enclosures: Citation  
Public Notification  
Certification of Completion of Public Notification

cc: Tehama County Department of Environmental Health  
Marvin Eckels, City of Red Bluff

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

This form when completed and returned to the State of California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (364 Knollcrest Dr., Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 (phone 530-224-4800)), or faxed to 530-224-4844 serves as certification that public notification was completed.

**City of Red Bluff  
Public Water System No. 5210004**

Public notification for the Total Coliform Rule MCL exceedances for the calendar months of April and May 2013 was completed. **Notification methods 1 and 2 listed below are required.** Please check below to confirm the methods that were utilized to distribute the notification.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ The notice was mailed to consumers. List the date(s) the notice was mailed:  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ The notice was published in a local newspaper. List the date(s) the notice was published and the newspaper:  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ The notice was hand delivered to water customers on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the notice is attached.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ The attached notice was posted in the following conspicuous places:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For this method, provide the date (or dates) that the notice was posted \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note: Attach to this certification a copy of the notice as used for the public notification.**

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 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.

### The City of Red Bluff Public Water System Experienced Levels of Total Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

The City of Red Bluff (City) water system recently violated a State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as City customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what the City is doing to correct this situation.

The City routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The City collected 17 samples for coliform bacteria testing during April 2013. Three (3) of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria (all absent for fecal coliform). The City has collected 20 samples for coliform bacteria testing so far in May 2013. Five (5) of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria with one of the five positive samples also showing the presence of fecal coliform. **However, the presence of fecal coliform bacteria was not confirmed in follow-up testing.** If the fecal coliform positive had been confirmed, the City would have notified you immediately. The drinking water standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may show the presence of total 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, total coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the distribution system (pipes). Whenever total coliform bacteria are detected in any sample, the City does follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present.
- 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. 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 this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

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

The City in cooperation with the CDPH continues to evaluate the water system conditions. The City has also sampled all nine well sources and has taken off-line the well that tested positive for total coliform. The City has also done some water system flushing. Coliform testing is ongoing.

For more information, please contact Mr. Marvin Eckels at (530) 527-4300 or at the City Office.

*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 the City of Red Bluff in compliance with the State of California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations.

State Water System PWS #: 5210004 Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

1 **Citation No. 21-13C-003**

2

3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

4

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

5

6 **Public Water System:** City of Red Bluff

7 **Water System No.:** 5210004

8

9 **To:** City of Red Bluff

10 Attention: Bruce Henz, Public Works Director

11 555 Washington Street

12 Red Bluff, CA 96080

13

14 **Issued:** May 28, 2013

15 VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

16

17 **CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

18 **With Title 22 California Code of Regulations**

19 **Section 64426.1(b)**

20

21 Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) authorizes the  
22 issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of the California Safe  
23 Drinking Water Act (CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with  
24 Section 116270), or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued thereunder.

25

26 The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California  
27 Department of Public Health (Department) hereby issues this Citation for



1 Noncompliance (Citation) to the City of Red Bluff (City) for failure to comply with  
2 Section 64426.1(b), Title 22, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the  
3 months of April and May 2013.

4

5 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

6 Section 116650 of the CHSC states in relevant part:

7

8 (a) If the Department determines that a public water system is in  
9 violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation,  
10 or order issued or adopted thereunder, the Department may issue a  
11 citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served upon  
12 the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service shall  
13 be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the date of  
14 receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is directed  
15 refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of service  
16 shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.

17

18 (b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the  
19 violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory  
20 provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to  
21 have been violated.

22

23 (c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the  
24 condition constituting the violation.

25

26 (d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in  
27 subdivision (e).



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

(e) The Department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.

Section 64426.1(b), Title 22, of the CCR states in relevant part:

(b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

(1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per month, more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total coliform-positive; or

(2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples per month, more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive; or

(3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

(4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive routine sample is total coliform-positive.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The City domestic water system serves approximately 14,025 year-round residents through 4,815 service connections, and as such, is classified as a community water system. The City is, according to Section 64423 of Title 22, required to collect four routine bacteriological samples per week from the distribution system.

In April 2013, the City collected seventeen routine bacteriological samples from the distribution system; three of the routine samples contained total coliform bacteria (but were absent for E. coli). Three repeat samples were collected from the distribution system in April and all were found to be absent of total coliform bacteria. Therefore, for the month of April 2013, the City has had three distribution system samples test positive for total coliform bacteria.

The City, as required by the Groundwater Rule, also collected bacteriological samples from all nine well sources on April 29, 2013. Only one of the nine well samples was found to contain total coliform bacteria (but absent for E. coli). Sample results for Well 4 showed that water produced from Well 4 contained total coliform bacteria. The City has taken this source off-line.

The City has so far for May 2013, collected eight routine bacteriological samples and twelve repeat samples. Sample results showed that two of the routine samples contained total coliform bacteria (but were absent for E. coli). Three of the repeat samples were found to contain total coliform bacteria with one showing the presence of E. coli (2.2 organisms per 100 ml.). Repeat samples taken for the repeat sample with the E. coli positive were found to be absent of total coliform bacteria. For the

1 month of May 2013, the City has had five distribution system samples test positive for  
2 total coliform bacteria.

3

4 In response to the coliform positives, the City has done selective flushing in the  
5 distribution system and will keep Well 4 off-line until it has been disinfected, flushed,  
6 and confirmed to be free of coliform bacteria.

7

8 **DETERMINATIONS**

9 The City has had more than one sample test total coliform-positive for the months of  
10 April and May 2013. Consequently, the Department has determined that the City  
11 exceeded the total coliform MCL and violated Section 64426.1(b)(2), Title 22, of the  
12 CCR for the months of April and May 2013.

13

14 **DIRECTIVES**

15 The District is hereby directed to take the following actions:-

16

17 1. Comply with Section 64426.1, Title 22, of the CCR in future monitoring  
18 periods.

19

20 2. Within 30 days of the issuance of this Citation, notify all persons served by the  
21 City of the MCL violation as required by Section 64463.4 and Section 64465,  
22 Title 22, of the CCR. Notification shall be completed in accordance with each  
23 of the following:

24

25 a. Mail or direct delivery of the notice contained in Attachment 'A' to each  
26 customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking  
27 water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building



1 owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to  
2 which water is delivered by the City.

3  
4 b. Provide the notice contained in Attachment 'A' to customers using one  
5 or more of the following methods to reach persons not likely to be  
6 reached by a public posting:

- 7  
8 i. Publication in a local newspaper,  
9 ii. Posting in conspicuous public places within the service area,  
10 iii. Posting on the Internet, or  
11 iv. Delivery to community organizations.

12  
13 Changes and/or modifications to Attachment 'A' shall be not be made  
14 unless approved by the Department.

15  
16 3. Complete and return Attachment 'B' "Certification of Completion of Public  
17 Notification" form within 10 days of giving public notice. A copy of the notice  
18 used to provide public notification shall be attached to the form.

19  
20 All documents required by this Citation to be submitted to the Department shall be  
21 submitted to the following address:

22  
23 Reese B. Crenshaw, P. E., District Engineer  
24 Valley District 21  
25 Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
26 Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management  
27 Department of Public Health



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 224-4800

Nothing in this Citation relieves the City of its obligation to meet the requirements of Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 (California Safe Drinking Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The Department reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued as amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

**FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, (commencing with section 116270) of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the Department to: issue additional citations with assessment of penalties if the City continues to fail to correct a violation identified in a citation; take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with orders of the Department; and petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with orders of the Department. The Department does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this Citation.

**PARTIES BOUND**

This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the City, its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

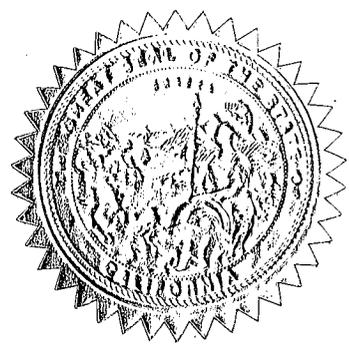
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

**SEVERABILITY**

The directives of this Citation are severable, and the City shall comply with each and every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

*R. Crenshaw*  
Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E., District Engineer  
Valley District 21  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

May 28, 2013  
Date



Attachments:

- 'A' Public Notification Template
- 'B' Certification of Completion