

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Del Oro Water Co., River Island District, Territory 2 Wells No. 1 & 2**  
**have high levels of nitrate**  
**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD**  
**OR PREGNANT WOMEN OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.*  
*Por favor hable con alguien que lo pueda traducir.*

Del Oro Water Company (DOWC) routinely tests for contaminants in the drinking water provided to its customers; this includes Nitrate testing in both Wells 1 and 2.

Current nitrate levels in Well No. 1 (November 13, 2019, 11.0 mg/L) show results above the MCL. Nitrate levels in the water tend to fluctuate, and it is possible that the nitrate level may increase at any time between sampling events. DOWC will be increasing the nitrate monitoring frequency at Well No. 1 to monthly for the next six (6) months to allow DOWC and the Division of Drinking Water to more accurately determine the well's nitrate levels.

Test results for Well No. 2 are above the MCL; however, Well No. 2 has not been used for potable water in DOWC's distribution system since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2010.

DOWC will now be sending public notification to its River Island customers to keep you informed and as a reminder that nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern.

### **What should I do?**

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill, and if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.*
- **PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD NOT CONSUME THE WATER.** *High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women.*
- Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.
- 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?**

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems, storm water run-off, and fertilizers). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can also vary throughout the year. Del Oro has moved forward with Point of Use (POU) filtration devices in Territory 2 homes to address the nitrate and uranium levels. Installations of the filtration devices began November 1, 2019. We currently have 5 remaining POU filtration and anticipate completing the project by January 15, 2020.

*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: Del Oro Water Company, River Island District, Territory 2. Water System No.: 5402048. For more information, please contact: Lilia L. Salazar with Del Oro Water Company at (530) 809-3971 or by mail at Drawer 5172, Chico, CA 95927; or Chad Fischer, Visalia District Engineer with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water at (559) 447-3300.

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