



Lime Saddle District

Customers with account numbers beginning 003

Proposed Treatment Informational Update

Background:

There is a State Regulation [Title 22, Section 64449.2, Paragraph (a)(3)] which requires utilities like Del Oro Water Company to provide consumers a cost estimate to treat the odor problem when it exceeds the maximum contaminant level. **Odor is a drinking water standard which has no health implications.**

Beginning in September 2015, the threshold odor number (TON) began exceeding the State’s Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 3 TON on an annual average basis. Compliance with the MCL is based on the annual average of quarterly results. An annual average of 3.5 TON exceeds the standard. **Most recently however, the annual average calculates to be 1.25 TON which is below the MCL and therefore in compliance. Del Oro is in compliance with the odor standard at this time, but this could change depending on lake water conditions.**

Below are all the results since December 2014 when the odor problem began:

	THRESHOLD ODOR NUMBER (TON) @ 60 C	QUARTERLY AVERAGE	ANNUAL AVERAGE	
12/17/2014	5	5		
2/1/2015	3			
3/10/2015	4	3.5		
4/7/2015	5			
6/16/2015	4	4.5		
9/22/2015	7			
9/29/2015	4	5.5	4.6	Exceeded Standard
12/1/2015	3	3	4.1	
2/9/2016	0	0	3.3	Below Standard (In Compliance)
5/6/2016	0	0	2.1	
8/2/2016	2	2	1.25	

On May 25, 2016, Del Oro included a notice with all Lime Saddle bills asking customers to vote on whether or not to install a proposed treatment solution to the recent historic problem with odor in the treated drinking water from Lake Oroville produced by the Lime Saddle Marina Treatment Plant. Customers were asked to cast their votes for one of the three options below. Only 15.1% of customers submitted a vote. Of the votes received, results were as follows:

- 1) 25.86% – Install the proposed treatment
- 2) 44.83% – Don’t install the proposed treatment
- 3) 29.31% – Schedule a meeting to discuss this issue further so questions can be answered, and postpone the vote until after this meeting.

Although the majority of voting customers voted *not* to install the proposed treatment, at least 50% of customers must respond in order to decide the matter in a vote, according to State Regulation. Because of the inadequate response, Del Oro held an informal public information meeting on **August 9, 2016**, at 6:00 PM at the Table Mountain Masonic Lodge, 5934 Clark Rd, Paradise, CA. A representative of the State Water Board, Reese Crenshaw, was present as well as two representatives from Del Oro. **Del Oro received valuable feedback from Lime Saddle customers at this meeting and we thank all who attended for their input.**

Proposed Treatment Option & Cost:

Del Oro has proposed a treatment option which utilizes GAC (granulated activated charcoal) as filter bed material to supplement the existing filtration system. Reportedly, using this form of treatment, improvements in water quality were realized and consistent at water systems using Clear Lake water. The one-time capital cost for material and installation for the GAC filters and piping is estimated at \$400,000 (plus applicable taxes), with annual operating and maintenance (“O&M”) costs (for the anticipated replacement of the media only) estimated at \$29,000 per year. Based on 387 service connections, the monthly rate increase per service connection for the initial capital cost and on-going O&M costs is \$13.39.

Status as of today:

Del Oro continues to explore additional treatment options; however, at this time, the above GAC option appears to be the most reliable and cost effective option available. Importing water as an alternative to treatment does not appear to be a viable option, as a sufficient supply of acceptable water for importing cannot be reasonably guaranteed during droughts and other water shortage events.

Del Oro will not proceed with the GAC treatment option at this time. Del Oro is currently in compliance with the odor standard. It is hoped that, by utilizing both the existing potassium permanganate treatment and the recently improved dissolved oxygen meter, Del Oro will be able to identify potential odor events sooner and react accordingly, thus preventing or limiting the odor issue. **If the odor level should exceed the standard at a future time, Del Oro will proceed with a new vote following State designated procedures.**

Contact Information

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this issue you can contact the State Engineer, Reese Crenshaw, at 530-224-4861 or at reese.crenshaw@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also contact Del Oro at 530-717-2503 or CommunityRelations@delorowater.com.