

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**Del Oro Water Co., River Island District, T2  
has 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. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

As required by State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW), Del Oro Water Company (DOWC) routinely tests for contaminants in the drinking water provided to their customers. Recently SWRCB-DDW made changes to how Nitrate is reported. In the past Nitrate was reported as Nitrate as NO<sub>3</sub> with a MCL of 45 mg/L. Nitrate is now reported as Nitrate as N with a MCL of 10mg/L.

With this notice, DOWC is reporting the 2nd quarter results for Nitrate as N in the drinking water. Water sample results received May 9, 2016 show nitrate levels of 10.4 milligrams per liter (mg/L), in Well 1 and 17.6 mg/L in Well 2, these results are above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old. Well 2 has not been in use since early 2010, and does not contribute to the drinking water supply for its DOWC's customers.

### **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 vary throughout the year. We will let you know if the amount of nitrate is again below the limit. The River Island District, Territory 2, is investigating water treatment and other options in an effort to improve the water quality and meet California Drinking Water Standards.

For more information, please contact Cathy Fluharty at (530) 809-3971 or by mail at Drawer 5152, Chico, CA 95927.

*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

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