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August 7, 2017

Re: Drinking Water Quality

Dear DSRSD Water Customer:

The water is clean and safe to drink, but we did have two samples last week that were outside the norm. Although this was not an emergency, we wanted you to know.

On Wednesday morning, August 2, DSRSD chemists became aware that two drinking water samples, drawn the previous day in Dublin, tested positive for total coliform and E. coli bacteria. (It takes 24 hours to grow the cultures that test for these bacteria). Water operators flushed the system at the two locations, 5777 Scarlett Court and 5555 Asterwood Drive. Then they resampled the original sites and also took five samples upstream and five samples downstream at both locations. Thursday afternoon, all subsequent samples were clean, passing state requirements.

Total coliform includes bacteria found in water influenced by surface water, in soil, and in human or animal waste. Coliform bacteria are unlikely to cause illness. However, their presence in drinking water indicates that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) could be in the water system. Most pathogens that can contaminate water supplies come from the feces of humans or animals. E. coli (*Escherichia coli*) is the major species in fecal coliform and the best indicator of fecal pollution and the possible presence of pathogens.

In both locations, the chlorine residual in the water was low. After water operators flushed the areas, the chlorine residual returned to normal. Water agencies, including our wholesaler Zone 7 Water Agency and the District, routinely add chlorine to the water supply to disinfect it, to inactivate bacteria and some viruses, and to protect the water from contamination during storage. Chlorine residual in drinking water indicates there is a sufficient amount of chlorine to keep the water clean and safe to drink. The desired amount of chlorine residual is between 0.2 to 2.0 milligrams per liter of water. The chlorine residual in the two original samples was 0.06 milligrams per liter.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. District water operators collect weekly water samples on Tuesdays (23 samples per week totaling 92 samples per month). However, because there are five Tuesdays in August, they will collect 115 samples this month, plus extra samples due to the samples that tested positive for bacteria.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 925-875-2345, or carson@dsrdsd.com.

Sincerely,

Jeff Carson
Operations Manager