

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Soledad Water System Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We collected twenty (20) samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during December 2009. Two (2) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so.

What Happened?

During December 2009, the City of Soledad water system had two (2) out of twenty (20) samples that tested positive for total coliform and negative for E. coli. This constitutes a violation of the total coliform MCL for the City of Soledad water system for the month of December 2009.

The City of Soledad water system did not contact the Monterey District office to notify the Department of the total coliform MCL for the month of December 2009. The City of Soledad did not notify the Department within the 24 hours reporting requirements.

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, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or

E coli, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing show s that this problem has been resolved.**

- 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. General 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.

Corrective Action by the City of Soledad

The City of Soledad's Water Resources Manager conducted an audit of the past policies and procedures of sampling and protocol. After reviewing the audit the City of Soledad updated its Bacteriological Site Sampling Plan. The City developed a new Water Quality Emergency Notification Plan that was submitted to California Department of Public Health Water Program, Monterey District. Updated training procedures on sampling and reporting are currently being conducted to all City Staff responsible for water sampling. A new program for documentation of all training classes for water personnel is being implemented immediately.

For more information, please contact the Water Resources Manager's Office at 831-223-5170, ewaggoner@cityofsoledad.com or write to:

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