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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40, Region 38, Lake Los Angeles, which serves approximately 12,000 people, recently exceeded the drinking water standard for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs). This is not an emergency. However, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what the Region is doing to correct this problem.

The Region routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The test results the Region received on July 19, 2004, from samples taken on July 9, 2004, showed that the system exceeded the standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for TTHMs. The current MCL for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb) based on a running annual average (RAA) from quarterly sampling. The results received on July 19, 2004, showed that the RAA for the third quarter of 2004 was 88.3 ppb, exceeding the MCL of 80 ppb by 8.3 ppb.

- **What should I do?**

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- **What does this mean?**

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

- **What happened? What is being done?**

A large portion of the Region's water supply is surface water purchased from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). AVEK obtains its surface water from the State Water Project via the California Aqueduct. AVEK treats its surface water and uses chlorine to disinfect it prior to supplying it to the Region. Disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water to destroy disease-causing

microorganisms. Unfortunately, some of the chlorine used for disinfection combines with organic matter naturally present in surface water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established the Disinfectant and Disinfection Byproducts (D/DBP) Rule to control DBPs, including TTHMs, levels in drinking water. The Rule recognizes the risk of disease from drinking water that is not disinfected is more immediate than the increased risk of getting cancer over a period of many years from drinking water containing DBPs.

This is the second time the water in the Region has exceeded the TTHM MCL of the DBP Rule. The first time was on May 18, 2004, with the public notification on completed June 16, 2004. At that time, we reported that we had increased water production from the Region's groundwater wells to reduce the water system's TTHM levels. The additional groundwater does not contain the organic matter that reacts with chlorine to create DBPs. Unfortunately, high water demands due to high summer temperatures have required the purchase of additional surface water from AVEK and offset efforts to decrease TTHM levels.

The Region has also been working closely with AVEK on investigating treatment techniques to control the formation of TTHMs in AVEK's treated water. A pilot test of new treatment processes and technologies is currently underway to investigate their impact on the reduction of TTHMs and select the most effective process. For more information, please contact T. J. Kim of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, at (626) 300-3389.

Please share this information with all 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 notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40, Region 38, Lake Los Angeles, in compliance with EPA regulations. State Water System ID No. 1910005, July 30, 2004.

Atención residentes que no hablan Inglés: Para recibir una versión en Español sobre esta notificación, o si tiene preguntas sobre esta notificación, favor de llamar a la oficina de Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40, Region 38, Lake Los Angeles, al teléfono (626) 300-3345.