

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION  
BOIL WATER ORDER

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO: Water System Operator**

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City

**RE:** Bacteriological samples for the month of \_\_\_\_\_

Notice is hereby given to \_\_\_\_\_ water system that the water supply tested positive for Fecal Coliform or E. Coli and is not in compliance with California Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations and the following precautions should be taken:

1. **Boil** all water for drinking, personal hygiene (tooth brushing), cooking, or washing food to be eaten raw.
2. **Water** should be boiled for a minimum of one minute.
3. **Continue** to observe these precautions until notified.
4. **Collect** four samples and repeat sampling until all four samples, taken on the same day, are negative of Coliform Bacteria and have a residual chlorine level below 0.02 ppm. One sample must be taken at the site of the bad sample, two within five connections up and down stream of that site, and the last at the wellhead or collect the four samples according to the Sample-Siting Plan.
5. **Release** of the Boil Water Order will only occur in writing from this department upon receiving the 4 repeat sample results from a California certified laboratory that reports all of the samples to be absent for Total Coliform bacteria with chlorine residuals below 0.02 ppm.
6. **Continue** bacteriological sampling monthly. Collect five routine samples for next month. If all five results are negative, only one routine sample is required in the following month.
7. **Report** all illnesses believed to be associated with any contamination of the present system to the:

San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department  
1868 East Hazelton Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95205-6232  
(209) 468-0343 or (209) 468-3420

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

ADRIENNE ELLSAESSER, REHS  
Lead Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Date:

## DRINKING WATER WARNING [BOIL WATER ORDER]

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**[System Name] water is contaminated  
with [fecal coliform bacteria] [the bacterium *E. coli*]**

### BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Fecal coliform [*E. coli*] bacteria were found in the water supply on [date]. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

#### What should I do?

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

*Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

#### What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

[Describe cause if known and corrective action.]

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

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 notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by [system name] in compliance with the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations as a means of keeping the public informed.