

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

### Westhaven C.S.D. Drinking Water contains levels of Disinfection By-Products, specifically Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes, that exceed California Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, you, as a consumer of the water, have a right to know the cause of the violation, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the problem.

#### What Happened?

- We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in the drinking water. Recently the average levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) and Trihalomethanes (THMs) have exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
- DDW sets standards for the treatment of drinking water that include the requirement to disinfect surface water. However, water treatment disinfectants (in our case, chlorine) can react with naturally-occurring organic matter (NOM) present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). Levels of NOM in our source water become elevated during periods of heavy rainfall.
- DDW has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Certain DBPs, including some Trihalomethanes (THMs) and some Haloacetic Acids (HAAs), have been known to cause cancer, affect the liver and the nervous system, and cause reproductive or developmental effects in laboratory animals. Exposure to certain DBPs may produce similar effects in people. DDW has set standards to limit exposure to HAAs, THMs, and other DBPs.
- **The MCL (maximum level allowed) for HAAs is 60 parts per billion (ppb).**
- **The average of our last four quarterly HAA samples ending in the last quarter of 2015 was 206.3 ppb.**
- **The MCL (maximum level allowed) for THMs is 80 parts per billion.**
- **The average of our last four quarterly THM samples ending in the last quarter of 2015 was 136.8 ppb.**

#### What should I do?

- You do not need to use an alternative water supply or filter your water. However, if you wish to use a filter, make sure it contains activated carbon. A wide variety of carbon filters are readily available.
- This is not an emergency. However, some people who have consumed water containing DBPs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of developing certain cancers.
- You may wish to consult your doctor if you have health issues that could be affected by the consumption of DBPs.

#### What is being done?

We are currently conducting a State-funded study of DBP formation in our water. The study is expected to lead to the construction of upgrades to our water treatment facilities that will result in lowering the levels of DBPs in the finished drinking water to well below the MCL if not eliminating them altogether.

For more information contact WCSD Manager Richard Swisher at (707) 677-0798 or P.O. Box 2015, Trinidad CA 95570 or [rswisher.wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:rswisher.wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com). You may also visit the WCSD office at 446 B 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Westhaven.

*Please share this information with people who may not have received this notice directly. 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 Westhaven Community Services District

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## **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.