

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD      BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924      415 868 1224



*To All Customers of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District:*

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **The Bolinas Community Public Utility District Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) Above Drinking Water Standards**

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

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) notified us on July 2, 2009, that samples collected from our water system on May 26, 2009 and June 2, 2009, show that our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHMs and HAA5s. The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the standard for HAA5s is 0.060 mg/L. The calculated running average of TTHMs for the past four quarters (July 2008 – June 2009) in our water system was 0.145 mg/L and the calculated running average of HAA5s for the past four quarters in our water system was 0.087 mg/L. TTHMs and HAA5s are disinfection byproducts (DBPs). CDPH sets drinking water standards and requires the disinfection of drinking water. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants react with naturally-occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called DBPs. CDPH has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Certain DBPs, including some trihalomethanes and some haloacetic acids, have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Other DBPs have been shown to 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. CDPH has set standards to limit exposure to TTHMs, HAA5s and other DBPs.

Please be aware that this violation of the MCL for TTHMs and HAA5s is not because BCPUD's water quality has deteriorated; rather it is because new, more stringent federal and state standards have been developed for these substances. BCPUD is actively working to comply with the new standards.

#### **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, there are certain potential health effects from exposure to DBPs, as set forth above.

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

We installed a temporary granular activated carbon ("GAC") treatment unit at our water treatment plant in early 2008 and are working on a pilot study to determine whether this technology will successfully lower the DBP levels. We also are investigating other options to lower our DBP levels, including but not limited to aeration of the treated water stored in the district's water storage tanks on Mesa Road. For more information, please contact the CDPH, 50 D Street, Santa Rosa, California 95404; or, Jennifer Blackman, General Manager, BCPUD at the address/telephone listed above.

*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 BCPUD.  
Date distributed: July 13, 2009.

State Water System ID#: 2110005