

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

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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 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) notified us on December 23, 2016 that samples collected from our water system on November 29, 2016 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 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The calculated running annual average of TTHMs for the past four quarters (January 2016 – December 2016) in our water system was 0.0833 mg/L at our Vine Road sample site and 0.0845 mg/L at our downtown Lift Station sample site; the calculated running annual average for HAA5s for the same period was 0.052 mg/L at our Vine Road sample site (which is *not* an exceedance of the MCL) and 0.0654 mg/L at our downtown Lift Station sample site. TTHMs and HAA5s are disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The SWRCB 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. The SWRCB 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. The SWRCB has set standards to limit exposure to TTHMs and 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 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 have received approval from the SWRCB to add inline coagulation prior to filtration as part of our treatment process to lower DBPs below the applicable MCL; we anticipate that the coagulation project will be fully installed in early 2017. We also are making improvements to the quality of our source water and changes to our operational practices to further reduce DBPs. For more information, please contact the SWRCB, 50 D Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; or, Jennifer Blackman, General Manager, BCPUD at the address/telephone listed above.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for ex., 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.
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