

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Bailey Mutual Water Company system disinfection notice

### Scheduled system disinfection with chlorine July 15 to July 19, 2024

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

What was the violation:

Two water samples taken within one month showed coliform bacteria present. No *E. coli* bacteria was detected. Coliform bacteria in general are not dangerous but indicate the potential presence of other microorganisms such as *E. coli* which can cause digestive upset.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.
- *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

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

In general, Bailey Mutual Water Company water is pristine – untreated with chlorine. It is possible and even normal for some bacterial growth to develop in untreated water. The quality of the water has not changed. However, with new guidance from the San Diego Department of Environmental Health, our quarterly testing procedure became much more rigorous beginning in March 2024. Instead of testing at storage tanks, we now test at home service connections rotating between 4 locations around the system to make sure that all 4 distribution lines are being assessed regularly. Our first tests in

March 2024 showed possible coliform bacteria in the water supply on the East line, but repeat tests showed that the water was clean. When we have done confirmation tests, we also test water directly from the well. Note that water from the well has never shown evidence of any kind of bacteria. However, tests taken in early June do show the presence of some coliform bacteria on the west line and in storage tanks. Note that E. coli has never been detected in our water system.

The planned disinfection of the water system will require chlorinating the entire water system with liquid chlorine to ensure that it disinfects every part of the system. The water will be chlorinated at a level that is safe to drink. This work will be conducted under the supervision of a California Certified Drinking Water Operator whom we have hired for this purpose.

Because we have discovered bacterial development in our quarterly water sample, henceforth, Bailey Mutual Operations will sample and test water around the system monthly. The disinfection procedure mentioned above will need to become part of our maintenance routine periodically, whether or not coliform bacteria are discovered in monthly water samples. Additional disinfection procedures will be conducted as needed, most likely twice per year. We will always notify the community before disinfection occurs.

For more information, please contact [Jack Weisgerber](mailto:Jack.Weisgerber@bmwco.org) at 760-315-2172 or PO box 44, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060. Or [Laurie Gerber](mailto:Laurie.Gerber@bmwco.org), 619-200-8344. Also see the NEW BMWCo Website: [bmwco.org](http://bmwco.org) or <https://bmwco.myruralwater.com>

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, other people living in shared housing or rental lodgings**). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

### **Secondary Notification Requirements**

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [per Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by [Bailey Mutual Water Company](http://BaileyMutualWaterCompany.com).

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