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(805) 683-4920

December 10, 1996

Craig and Judy Jennings  
5593 West Camino Cielo  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

# ROMALDO WELL NOTICE

Dear Romaldo Well Member,

Our well failed its last health inspection, again. A copy of the Consumer Notification Letter and Water System Disinfection Procedures is attached.

I met with a County Health Inspector last week to investigate the problem. He indicated a few minor things we should do, such as putting a screen on the vent pipe at the storage tank and on the air check valve on the pipe between the storage tank and the pressure tank. However he thinks there are probably two reasons we did not knock out the bacteria with previous chlorine treatments.

First, there is about 2-3 inches of sediment and sludge that has built up in the bottom of the storage tank. When we chlorinate the storage tank and the well the chlorine in the water kills the bacteria that is in the water, but it probably does not kill all of the bacteria that is living in the layer of sediment. Then when the chlorine residual in the water decreases as new water is pumped into the tank, the bacteria in the sediment contaminates the new water.

The only solution to this problem is to completely drain the storage tank and clean out the sludge. We can probably do this without actually having to send a person into the storage tank. We can drain the tank until it is almost empty and then stir up the sediment in the bottom with a high pressure fire hose to get it into suspension. Then we can pump it out. That way no-one will have to climb down into the tank to shovel out the sludge.

The second problem is that when we chlorinate the storage tank and the well the pressure tank has not been getting adequate chlorination. This is because the tank is under pressure and there are no openings in the pressure tank through which to introduce the chlorine. We have relied on chlorinated water from the storage tank to treat the water in the pressure tank, but the chlorine in the water from the storage tank is already diluted and only gets into the pressure tank as water is used in the system. So the water in the pressure tank never gets a really good shot of chlorine.

I think we can solve this problem by disconnecting the air check valve in the piping between the storage tank and the pressure tank and putting sufficient chlorine into the pipes through the fitting where the air check valve was removed. Then we can replace the air check valve. The next time the pressure pump activates it will push all of the chlorine into the pressure tank.

We will be re-chlorinating the water system at 6:30 P.M. on Friday, December 20, 1996. The well pump (not the pressure pump) will be turned off until 7:30 the following morning.

Your water service should not be interrupted by this procedure because there should be enough water in the storage tank to supply the system until the well pump is turned back on. However, it is possible that usage could exceed the capacity of the storage tank. Should that occur the system will automatically shut down until the well pump is turned back on.

You should notice the smell of chlorine in your water Friday night and Saturday morning (Dec 20-21).

On Saturday afternoon you are encouraged to run water until the smell of chlorine is no longer present.

We will not get around to draining and cleaning out the storage tank until January. When we do, the system will be down for most of the day. I will let you know when we are going to do this. And I will be asking for volunteers to help.

If you need more information call Craig Jennings at 683-4920.

11/25/96

ROMALDO COMMUNITY WATER CO.  
CRAIG JENNINGS  
5593 W. CAMINO CIELO  
SANTA BARBARA CA 93105

**CONSUMER NOTIFICATION LETTER  
BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY STANDARD FAILURE  
TOTAL COLIFORM VIOLATION**

Dear Customer:

The bacteriological quality of the water supply served by the above water system when tested on 11/20/96 did not meet current drinking water standards. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of total coliforms is a possible health concern. Total coliforms are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water, however, generally is a result of a problem with water treatment or the pipes, which distribute the water and indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

DHS has set an enforceable drinking water standard for total coliforms to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard, small water systems with less than two (2) total coliform positive samples per month are not violating the standard. Drinking water which meets this standard is usually not associated with a health risk from disease causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

Upon determination that the coliform standard had been exceeded on 11/20/96, ROMALDO COMMUNITY WATER CO. water system did the following:

- ( ) 1. Investigated possible sources of contamination.
- ( ) 2. Disinfected and flushed the water system.
- ( ) 3. Other action \_\_\_\_\_.

Additional bacteriological samples will be collected as required to verify that elimination of the contamination has been completed.

Consumers are advised that bottled or disinfected water (IS IS NOT) necessary to provide a safe alternative for drinking and culinary purposes.

This notification of the consumers is being done in compliance with the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations as a means of keeping the public informed.

Consumers wishing more information should contact CRAIG JENNINGS at 805-683-4920 .

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(Name and Title of Water Utility Supervisor / Date