



# Press Release

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## **CITY OF CHINO HILLS DETECTS AND CORRECTS COLIFORM BACTERIA IN DRINKING WATER**

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills follows a rigorous schedule to monitor its water supply for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The State of California's strict Safe Drinking Water Regulations are among the strongest in the nation. Water samples are collected weekly at 20 locations then sent to an outside, independent lab for testing. On March 8<sup>th</sup> the lab reported 7 of 100 samples displayed the presence of coliform bacteria. It is considered a violation of the Total Coliform (TC) maximum contaminant level (MCL) if more than 5 of 100 samples indicate the presence of coliform bacteria. The presence of coliform bacteria does not present a public health concern, and is NOT considered an emergency. Coliform bacteria are naturally present and abundant in the environment. Water customers do NOT need to take any action.

The City is required to report this information to the water customers and a notice will be mailed to all water customers starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. That notice is posted on the City's website at [www.chinohills.org/DrinkingWater](http://www.chinohills.org/DrinkingWater).

According to Nadeem Majaj, Director of Public Works, this is the first time in the City's history that the water system has experienced a notice of violation from the State Water Resources Control Board. He stated that the water system was flushed immediately and new samples were taken on March 9<sup>th</sup>. All 87 samples were clear of coliform bacteria indicating that the flushing corrected the conditions that led to the development of the coliform bacteria.

"The system worked as it should," said Mr. Majaj. "The presence of coliform bacteria is an early indicator that there may be a problem with the treatment or distribution system. If not remedied, conditions might result in the development of other harmful bacteria.

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Mark Wiley, the City's Water and Sewer Manager, suspects that a recent three-month shutdown of the City's imported water supply resulted in residual water remaining in the system and becoming stagnant, which provided conditions that lead to the coliform bacteria. When water began flowing through the system, stale water was conveyed to a few locations within the City's water system, causing the failure of the samples. For more information, please contact Mark Wiley at (909) 364-2854.

If harmful bacteria had been discovered, a public health emergency would exist and water customers would be notified immediately of the concern. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly people may be at increased risk when harmful bacteria are present (coliform bacteria is not harmful). These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

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