
State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water

November 17, 2021

Water System No. 5200657

Shawn Lewis, Owner
Norcal Water Works
14142 Norwich Circle
Magalia, CA 95954

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO:
seed4food@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Lewis,

This letter concerns the current and future operations of Norcal Water Works. The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water (Division) has serious concerns regarding Norcal Water Works' current and historic deficiencies and the ongoing and future ability of Norcal Water Works to provide a safe and affordable supply of drinking water to its customers.

As explained below, the Division is taking the first steps towards ordering consolidation of Norcal Water Works with Del Oro Water Company–Larkspur Meadows (Del Oro). The first step in this process is to provide a six-month period for the parties to negotiate a voluntary consolidation, pursuant to Section 116682 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC). This letter serves as official notification that pursuant to CHSC Section 116682(b), Norcal Water Works is to negotiate with Del Oro.

Background

Norcal Water Works is classified as a community public water system with a population of 45 residents, served through 17 service connections. Norcal Water Works provides groundwater to its customers. As documented in the following findings, Norcal Water Works consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

1. Norcal has failed to employ a chief and shift distribution operator that meets the requirements specified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 63770 from September 2019 to the present.
2. Norcal failed to collect monthly routine bacteriological samples from September 2019 through June 2020. Therefore, a boil water notice was issued to Norcal on March 13, 2020 by the Tehama County Department of Environmental Health (Tehama County). The County issued an enforcement action on December 21, 2019, for the missed bacteriological samples in September, October, and

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 2019. On March 13, 2020, Tehama County issued another enforcement action for the missed bacteriological samples for December 2019, and January, February, and March 2020.

3. Norcal failed to perform required monitoring, at required frequencies, for inorganic contaminants (CCR §64432), volatile organic contaminants (CCR§ 64444-§64445.1), synthetic organic contaminants (CCR §64444-§64445.1), nitrate and nitrite (CCR §64432.1), radiological contaminants (CCR §64442), and secondary contaminants (CCR §64449).
4. Norcal failed to submit an electronic annual report for reporting year 2019 and 2020. Norcal also failed to provide reliable contact information in the 2018 report.
5. Norcal has failed to provide a second source of domestic water, or storage, capable of meeting the maximum day demand as required by the Water Works regulations.
6. Norcal failed to distribute the 2019 and 2020 Consumer Confidence Report to consumers and Tehama County by July 1st of each subsequent year.
7. Norcal failed to report a free chlorine residual on the chain of custody for the routine bacteriological sample collected in July 2020.

Six Month Period for Voluntary Consolidation

Prior to issuing an order directing Norcal Water Works to consolidate with Del Oro, CHSC Section 116682, subd. (b)(1) requires the State Water Board to encourage voluntary consolidation. Section 116682, subd. (b)(7)(A) also requires the State Water Board to notify both Norcal Water Works and Del Oro and to establish a deadline of no less than six months, unless a shorter period is justified, to negotiate consolidation.

This letter serves as official notification that pursuant to CHSC Section 116682(b), Norcal Water Works is to negotiate with Del Oro regarding consolidation of its water system. The deadline for completion of this negotiation is May 17, 2022.

The State Water Board requests that the parties report the outcome of such negotiations no later than one week following the deadline. If voluntary consolidation is selected, this reporting shall include the milestones agreed upon to accomplish consolidation and a timeline for completing them for State Water Board approval. Additionally, the reporting shall include a letter signed by the Norcal Water Works owner(s), or its administrator, if applicable, stating the intent to consolidate voluntarily in accordance with the agreed upon milestones and timelines. If a timely voluntary consolidation cannot be negotiated, the State Water Board will begin the public meeting process and may exercise its authority pursuant to CHSC Section 116682(a) to order consolidation.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist Norcal Water Works and Del Oro. Pursuant to CHSC Section

116682, subdivision (b)(7)(B), and in order to assist with the negotiation process, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and/or an administrator for the water system. The State Water Board will also work with both Norcal and Del Oro to develop a financing package that benefits both parties. This assistance will be provided by both the Division and the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance. Please contact Ariel Chavez (Ariel.Chavez@waterboards.ca.gov) with any questions you may have.

[Original signed by Michelle F. Frederick, P.E.. Web accessible version]

Michelle F. Frederick, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Section
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

cc: copies on the following page

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