

**From:** Dan Rose, MD  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter – Affordable, Safe Drinking Water Workshop  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:37:07 PM



As a public water system with sixteen connections, we are one of the smallest in the State. We have 3 concrete tanks, a mile of transite pipe, and two wells. I have been the president and chairman of the board since 1982. One of our members passed the exam and maintains his D1 certification. We are an all volunteer board, and we perform many administrative, maintenance and repair tasks ourselves to keep costs low and response times short. Our annual work day/picnic is always well attended by the members.

We perform coliform sampling monthly. Over the years, we have had occasional presence of coliforms in the water. Replacing the old redwood storage tank and drilling a deeper well has largely eliminated the problem. Nonetheless, when we do get a contaminated result, we perform testing according to our approved site sampling plan. If any of the five sample shows presence of coliforms, we follow the disinfection and follow up sampling procedures required by your department. I agree with the protocol, but it puts significant strain on our volunteer resources. Seemingly simple tasks like getting sample bottles, collecting additional samples, transporting them to the lab 30 minutes away, notifying the consumers....all add up. We have always cooperated with the local office and have never been a "problem water company."

While you can't make coliforms disappear from the earth, you can modify how the State responds to situations like ours. First and foremost, please eliminate the issuance of citations for getting two positive coliform tests in a month. We are already making great efforts to comply using our limited human resources. The additional time demands and stress of dealing with a citation only make a bad situation worse. Reserve citations for water companies that don't cooperate. A citation feels punitive, so reserve it for instances that require punishment. Furthermore, the requirement of publication of an announcement in the local paper is unreasonable. Hardly anyone reads that fine print, and the local town paper is not widely subscribed anyhow. We already notify all of our users with the "One Call Now" automated telephone service. Additional newspaper notification adds nothing material to the safety of the community.

I hope you will consider these suggestions to lower costs for small water suppliers while still maintaining high quality water resources. Thank you.

Daniel Rose, MD  
President, Alexander Valley Acres Mutual Water Company