

---

# Easton Authority JPA

---

Updated on July 23, 2019

**County:** Fresno

**Population:** 1,500

**Challenges:** Gross Alpha & 1,2,3-TCP Drinking Water Violations

**Consolidation date:** June 28, 2019

Washington Union High School and Washington Colony Elementary School are located in Fresno County in the unincorporated community of Easton. The legal owner of the High School and the Elementary School are Washington Unified School District (WUSD) and Washington Colony Elementary School District (WCESD), respectively.

Washington Union High School (WUHS) was issued Compliance Order No. 03\_23\_09O\_005 in 2009 for non-compliance with the dibromochloropropane (DBCP) maximum contaminant level (MCL) in Well 03. Compliance Order No. 03\_23\_13R\_014 was issued in 2013 for non-compliance with the Gross Alpha MCL in Well 01. Washington Union High School installed Point of Entry (POE) Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment in 2015 as a temporary measure to mitigate the violation until a permanent long-term solution was identified. Citation No. 03\_23\_18C\_061 was issued in 2018 for non-compliance with the 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) MCL in Well 01 and Well 02.

WUSD was awarded a Proposition 84 planning project in 2012 to look at drilling a new well, installing treatment, blending of water sources, and consolidation. After the analysis of the costs, and long-term feasibility the recommended project was consolidation with Washington Colony School (WCS). WCS is located approximately 600 feet east of WUHS. WCS had constructed a well in 2000 that produces reliable, potable water meeting all primary drinking water standards.

A Proposition 1 construction funding agreement was executed in 2016 for \$3,015,600. The construction project consisted of drilling a new well at WUHS, installing a pipeline connecting the two schools, and creating a joint-powers agreement (JPA) which would have the authority and responsibility to manage the ongoing operations and maintenance of the newly formed nontransient noncommunity water system. The new well would serve as the primary source and the existing well at WCS would be a secondary source. The JPA board is made up of members from each school district as well as one community member. Washington Union School was returned to compliance in June 2019 when Well 01, Well 02, and Well 03 were physically disconnected from the drinking water system. Well 02 will still be in use solely for irrigation.



Figure 1. New well construction at WUHS

The entire community of Easton is on private wells as there is no large water purveyor in the area. After one year of production data has been collected, the JPA plans to extend service to nearby private homes and businesses that are located along the alignment of the distribution main which was installed to connect both schools.