

Merced River School District

4402 West Oakdale Road * Winton, CA 95388 * (209) 358-5679 * FAX (209) 358-2855
Hopeton Elementary (K-3) Richard Lopez, Superintendent/Principal Washington Elementary (4-8)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Washington School water has high levels of nitrate
**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO
INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR PREGNANT WOMEN
OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

Water sample results received January 9, 2018 showed nitrate levels of 12 mg/l. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 milligrams per liter. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.*
- **PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD NOT CONSUME THE WATER.** *High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women.*
- Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems, storm water run-off, and fertilizers). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We will let you know if the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.

Correction action:

At this time, the District will be working with WestSide to conduct treatment of the water. Once the water nitrate levels have reached a normal range considered to be potable, we will notify you. Additionally, the district will provide water bottles to all students until

For more information, please contact Denzel McDowell at 209-358-5679.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- *SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).*
- *RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.*
- *BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.*

This notice is being sent to you by Washington School.

State Water System ID#: 2400071.

Date distributed: January 10, 2018.

Board of Education: Robert Gamble, Lorrie McDowell, Lloyd Pareira, Scot Sherman, George Soares