



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kathleen Grassi, R.D., M.P.H.
Director
Ron Rowe, R.E.H.S., M.P.A.
Environmental Health Director

May 27, 2016

Kim Nutt, Engineering Technician
City of Merced
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Re: 2916 N. McKee Rd., Merced – Need to connect St. Paul Lutheran Church and School to City of Merced water system due to increasing nitrate contamination
Owner: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2916 N. McKee Rd., Merced, CA 95340
APN: 008-130-067

Dear Ms. Nutt,

The church and school located on the above-referenced parcel are served domestic water from an onsite small public water system. The water source is a single, onsite well. According to records provided by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (regulator of the public water system), from 2007 through 2015 the nitrate levels (as NO₃) increased from about 23 mg/L to about 35 mg/L. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 45 mg/L. Nitrate is an acute contaminant which above the MCL poses a serious health and safety risk to infants and pregnant women.

Although the current nitrate level does not exceed the MCL, the trend is in that direction. Additionally, nitrate levels can vary significantly throughout the year. From a public health perspective, it is very important to prevent exceedance of the nitrate MCL whenever possible. In this case, connection to a safer water supply prior to MCL exceedance is highly advisable and necessary to prevent violation of public water system regulations. It is our understanding a City of Merced water main runs nearby and the City is willing to allow connection on a needed, but non-emergency basis. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water strongly supports connection to the City of Merced water system. Therefore, MCDEH requests that connection of the parcel to the City's water system be allowed in a timely manner.

ATTACHMENT 2

Page 1 of 2

O:\Street\STREET files\M\Mc +\Mc Kee\2916 Connect to Merced City 052716 blc.docx

260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA 95341-6216 (209) 381-1200 (209) 381-1215 (FAX) www.co.merced.ca.us/health

Equal Opportunity Employer

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

A well on a parcel served by community water poses a potential cross-connection threat to the community water supply. Under Merced County ordinance, a significantly contaminated well is a failed well and is required to be destroyed under permit from MCDEH. The property owner is responsible to make sure the well is destroyed. The permit is issued only to the holder of a C-57 (well drilling) license.

This office is willing to assist in any way possible to facilitate the water supply connection and the timing of the well destruction. A copy of this letter is being provided to LAFCo, the owner, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. I can be reached at:

my desk	(209) 381-1095	front desk	(209) 381-1100
fax	(209) 384-1593	e-mail	bcronk@co.merced.ca.us

Sincerely,



Brent Cronk
Environmental Health Specialist III

cc: all by e-mail

Kim Nutt (nuttk@cityofmerced.org)

Bill Nicholson and Kim Lewallen, LAFCo (BNicholson@co.merced.ca.us; and KLewallen@co.merced.ca.us)

Rick Osorio, Church representative (ricko45@sbcglobal.net)

Kevin Lundin, Church water system coordinator (kevinlundin@att.net)

Lourdes Mertens, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, (Lourdes.Mertens@waterboards.ca.gov)