

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### DRINKING WATER WARNING

Hilmar County Water District 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 from Well 7 between May 18, 2023 and June 6, 2023 showed nitrate levels between 12.5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and 19.4 mg/L. Water sample results from Well 6 between May 18, 2023, and June 6, 2023 showed nitrate levels between 7.5 mg/L and 8.4 mg/L. **Wells 6 and 7 are blended prior to being served to the customers of the Hilmar County Water District water system.** Water sample results from the blended point on June 2, 2023, and June 7, 2023 showed nitrate levels of 6.3 mg/L and 10.9 mg/L. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/L. 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.

Water from Well 6 and Well 7 is blended prior to being served to the Hilmar County Water District water system. Recently, the blended point showed sample results over the MCL. The Hilmar County Water District is conducting cycle testing of Well 7 to determine compliance solutions. In addition, the Hilmar County Water District is in preliminary phases of constructing a tank to blend and monitor nitrate and arsenic levels for treatment and compliance.

For more information, please contact Curtis Jorritsma, General Manager at 209-632-3522 or P.O. Box 1060, Hilmar, CA 95324.

Additional contact information: State Water Resources Control Board, Merced District Engineer, (559) 447-3316.

*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 [Hilmar County Water District](#).

State Water System ID#: 2410012

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