

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.

Kinneloa Irrigation District Has Levels of Fluoride Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Water sample results received on April 16, 2024, showed that the Delores Tunnel, one of the two sources currently used to provide drinking water by your community water system, the Kinneloa Irrigation District (District), has a fluoride concentration of 1.9 mg/L. Although this is not above the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 2.0 mg/L; because previous samples were above 2.0 mg/L, and compliance with the MCL shall be determined by a running annual average, the Kinneloa Irrigation District is not in compliance with the MCL for fluoride. The running annual average of the fluoride concentration of this particular source is 2.18 mg/L inclusive of the April 16, 2024 sample results.

What should I do?

- **Children under the age of nine should use an alternative source of water that is low in fluoride.** You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products.
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Rather, *this is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis).*
- *Dental fluorosis may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*
- *Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Although bone disease may develop in anyone exposed to years of drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, dental fluorosis can occur after a relatively short period of exposure (i.e., months) in children under the age of nine.*
- For other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.
- *Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call the State Water Resources Control Board, Residential Water Treatment Device Registration Unit at (916) 449-5600 or visit the State Board's website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>.*

What happened? What is being done?

Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in our source water.

The District previously operated under a variance granted by the State of California from December 1993 through December 2023. That variance directed that higher fluoride containing sources “must be blended” with lower fluoride containing sources to meet guidelines specified by the variance that stated “The fluoride concentration of the water supplied to the consumers of the District shall not exceed 3.0 mg/L.” In accordance with the directive of the State of California, the District conducted fluoride treatment by blending for Thirty (30) Years with 100% success to meet those requirements. The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) in our 2005 operating permit noted that “The District blends the high fluoride tunnel water with the lower fluoride well water, however, there is no formal blending plan.” In advance of that expiration, on July 13, 2023, the District submitted a description of our existing blending process along with a proposal for additional compliance monitoring and requested that DDW accept that as a formal blending plan following expiration of the variance. That proposal was rejected by DDW District 07-Hollywood staff as not meeting their standards for treatment by blending.

Following that rejection, the District temporarily discontinued use of the Delores Tunnel as of December 1, 2023, while pursuing DDW approval for a formal blending plan. On May 1, 2024, the District resumed use of the Delores Tunnel. That decision was made to fulfill the mission of the District “to deliver safe and reliable water in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner to meet our customers essential needs.” Delivering water via the Delores Tunnel directly to the Vosburg Reservoir avoids the need to run pumps at Four (4) separate facilities for a total of sixteen (16) hours per day. Aside from avoiding significant and otherwise unnecessary financial and environmental costs associated with the additional pumping, the use of Delores Tunnel provides a critical and reliable source during the fire hazard season.

On December 11, 2023, the District submitted a Permit Amendment Application for Fluoride Treatment via Blending proposing additional system modifications and control instrumentation. The DDW has responded with various comments and questions on that proposal. The District responded in detail to those questions and comments on April 30, 2024 and is awaiting action by the DDW.

We have no anticipation of when this will be resolved as the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, District 07-Hollywood, is still reviewing our most recent Permit Amendment Application for fluoride treatment by blending.

For more information, please call Tom Majich, General Manager of Kinneloa Irrigation District at (626) 797-6295. 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 the Kinneloa Irrigation District

State Water System ID#: CA1910035. Date distributed: 7/11/2024.