

2010 Annual Water Quality Report



12/1/2010

SAN CARLOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.20

Because the San Carlos Unified School District is considered a Water Provider by the State of Arizona, we are mandated to provide information to the community regarding water testing and any water quality issues that have arisen.

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INTRODUCTION

Because the San Carlos Secondary School is located on property that contains a well and because we provide water to approximately 500 people on our site, the San Carlos Unified School District is considered by the State of Arizona to be a Water Provider. As such, we are required under state law to notify the community we serve about our water testing activities, testing results, and any water quality issues. We are pleased to provide this information to the community via our December district newsletter and our website. This information is also available to all community members upon request. Inquiries may be directed to Michael Humphreys (475-2315 ext. 1954) or to Loretta Stone at the San Carlos Environmental Protection Agency office (475-2218).

WATER TESTING ACTIVITIES 2009/2010

A 2009 Sanitary Survey by the EPA found deficiencies in our water testing. We have since developed an aggressive sampling plan and have worked diligently to eradicate these deficiencies and attain compliance with EPA water testing guidelines by the end of this year.

In September, 2010, we created a Site Sample Plan. This is a required annual plan drafted ahead of testing that details sites to be tested and the contaminants for which each site will be tested. This plan is approved in advance by the EPA.

In September, we tested for DBP's (Disinfectant By-Products). In November, we tested for VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) and in December, we tested for SOC's (Soluble Organic Compounds) and IOC's (Inorganic Compounds). In addition to testing for contaminants, we also tested nine backflows on the property. All were found to be in compliance.

WATER TESTING RESULTS

In July, a water sample we obtained tested positive for coliforms (see sidebar). It is believed that the positive result was caused by inadvertent contamination from a benign source, and therefore not dangerous. In accordance with EPA guidelines, another sample was tested within three days. This sample tested negative. In August, we took three samples to re-test for coliforms. These all tested negative. All tests since July have come back negative for coliforms and we will continue to test as per EPA guidelines.

UPCOMING WATER TESTS AND ACTIVITIES

The San Carlos Unified School District is dedicated to providing safe drinking water for our students. In addition to the steps required by the EPA to remain in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, we are also recording chlorine and water usage on a daily basis so that we remain informed about our water activities and test accordingly.

We have also drilled a new well on the Secondary School property. This well is to be a back-up well and act as a supplement to our existing water system. It is now undergoing testing and will be activated pending Governing Board approval and once contracts have been acquired. It is expected that once the well is put to use, our water testing obligations will increase and we are preparing for that event.

CONCLUSION

The San Carlos Unified School District is taking all necessary steps to become and remain compliant with EPA safe drinking water standards. In our efforts to remain in compliance, we are in contact with EPA offices in San Carlos on a regular basis. We are providing them with documentation of all our activities. Transportation Coordinator Darroll Chapman is currently pursuing a Level 1 Tribal Distribution and Treatment license so that the school district will have someone permanently on-site to deal with water issues if they arise and continue to monitor our water quality.

Coliforms

What are coliforms?

Coliform is a broad term given to different types of common bacteria.

What is the process if the water sample tests positive for coliforms?

According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines, if a water sample comes back positive for coliforms, the water must be re-tested. The water is continually re-tested until samples test negative. If samples continue to test positive, EPA officials will then notify the state of the water issue.