

## **Update on Water Issue at Chino Valley Unified School District December 13, 2013**

On October 28-29, 2013, Chino Valley Unified School District had the California Department of Public Health Certified, Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc., test the drinking water quality at all of its school sites.

There were originally 12 school sites identified as having lead levels that exceed the EPA's action limit and three more schools were added to that list this week after a review of the original findings. The schools are:

- Anna Borba Elementary School (ES) (Chino)
- Butterfield Ranch ES (Chino Hills)
- Cal Aero Academy (Chino)
- Dickson ES (Unincorporated County)
- Marshall ES (Chino)
- Rolling Ridge ES (Chino Hills)
- Walnut Avenue (Chino)
- Magnolia Junior High School (JHS)
- Ramona JHS (Chino)
- Townsend JHS (Chino Hills)
- Woodcrest JHS (Ontario)
- Don Lugo High School (HS) (Chino)
- Buena Vista HS (Chino)
- Chino Valley Adult School (Chino)
- Alternative Education Center (Chino Hills)

Water samples from any source that someone would reasonably ingest or drink water from such as fountains and/or swimming pools including Don Lugo High School's pool and any water source used in food preparation have been delivered to the Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc., for a second round of testing for the 15 schools. Results are expected the week of December 16 – 21.

Below is a summary of actions taken thus far and the District's *anticipated* steps and dates going forward. The situation is fluid and the actions and dates are subject to change.

#### **Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Water testing results for all sites received from testing lab.
- Superintendent Wayne Joseph contacted the site administrators at the 12 affected school sites informing them of the need to cease using the water from drinking fountains and faucets for drinking and food preparation.
- Bottled water was delivered to all 12 school sites for student/staff/kitchen use.
- A letter from the Superintendent's Office informing parents of the situation was provided to administrators at all the affected sites. (Letter is included on Page 4)
- District contacted the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health to report the findings and in turn, the County notified the California Department of Public Health of the findings.
- District began contacting the various local water districts which provide water, informing them of the test results at the 12 school sites.

#### **Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Water sampling at 8 of the affected school sites completed and partially at another.
- 19 pallets (1064 cases / 74,480 bottles) water received from Costco and placed in District warehouse for distribution.

#### **Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Restroom faucets turned back on at all affected sites.
- Remaining sites to have water samples drawn before school the week of 12/9-13.
- District to meet with an industrial hygienist to assess the steps taken thus far and to provide guidance as to effectively remedying any deficiencies.
- District will contact the remaining water districts.
- Water deliveries to all 12 school sites to continue through December 20 and beyond if necessary.

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Water samples to be delivered to testing lab before the end of the day/first thing Wednesday morning. An expedited analysis (72 hour turn around) of the samples will be requested. The analysis will look at the lead and copper content of the water samples along with its relative corrosiveness.
- Mr. Joseph contacted the site administrators at the 3 additional affected school sites informing them of the need to cease using the water from drinking fountains and faucets for drinking and food preparation.
- Bottled water was delivered to the 3 additional school sites for student/staff/kitchen use.
- A letter from the Superintendent's Office informing parents of the situation was provided to administrators at the three sites.

### **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and beyond**

- Once results of the testing analysis are delivered, the District will then be positioned to determine the extent of the situation at each site.
- District will again contact the various water districts to share the results of schools within their specific area of service.
- With the guidance of the retained environmental consultant, Ardent Environmental Group, Inc., the District will establish a plan of action to address the water quality at each of the 15 affected school sites, including possible limited follow up testing in selected areas.
- Test results and action plan will be provided to Superintendent's Office for communication with the Board, parents and greater community.
- Action plan will be enacted, after which all affected school sites will be allowed to return to using regular potable water sources (drinking fountains, faucets in kitchens, etc.)
- District will notify San Bernardino County and California Public Health Departments of test results.
- District, in conjunction with the San Bernardino County and California Public Health Departments will review requirements and standards to test potable water sources across all facilities on a regular basis.

The sampling was initiated after receiving the results from the water testing at Chino HS earlier in the year. The District is being proactive in its efforts to provide a safe learning environment for students and directed a test of water at all schools.

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December 10, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students Attending and Staff Members of Buena Vista High School:

Chino Valley Unified School District Board Policy 7160(a) states:

*“The Board of Education believes that all students should have access to adequate facilities that are safe and support student learning.”*

Accordingly, on October 28-29, 2013, the Chino Valley Unified School District (“District”) proactively had the California Department of Public Health Certified, Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc. test the drinking water quality at all of its school sites, including the Buena Vista High School site. The results of the testing were received December 6, 2013 and after being reviewed in conjunction with professional environmental consultant hired by the District, they indicate that drinking water from certain fixtures at Buena Vista had a presence of lead above the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) “action level” of 15 parts per billion. The EPA defines “action level” as the point at which treatment techniques should be initiated to reduce risk factors for lead.

Immediately upon learning of the water testing results, the District shut the suspect fixtures and drinking fountains off and has provided bottled drinking water for Buena Vista’s students and staff.

The District is now engaged in the process of conducting further water testing with the Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino to test the drinking water throughout the entire school site and an action plan will be put together to immediately address and remedy the issue.

*The Lead Safe Schools Act* (Education Code sections 32240-32245) requires schools to be screened and sampled for lead contamination. Section 32243(a) requires a school to notify parents of the provisions of *The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991* and of any finding that the school has been determined to have had significant risk factors for lead.

*The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 may be found at:*

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=103.&title=&part=5.&chapter=5.&article=](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=103.&title=&part=5.&chapter=5.&article=)

Respectfully,

Wayne M. Joseph,  
Superintendent