

## 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

Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company 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**

Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company (Water Company) has been operating a nitrate blending treatment facility since May 2020 to comply with the nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L (nitrate as N). Wells 01, 02, and 07 are part of the nitrate blending treatment and they pump into a blending tank. Following winter storms of 2022-23, nitrate level in all three wells have increased to the extent that the Water Company is no longer able to comply with the nitrate MCL and meet the water demand at the same time. The Water Company shutdown the nitrate blending facility on June 14, 2023 around 11 am. **Starting Friday, June 16, 2023 (around 11 am), the Water Company is going to place Wells 01, 02, and 07 back in service to meet the system demand, without being able to comply with the nitrate MCL. The three wells would still blend with each other. However, the blended water won't comply with the nitrate MCL.** The following table shows the results of the last nitrate samples that we collected from Wells 01, 02, and 07 and nitrate blending facility.

Sampling Point	Sample Date	Nitrate Result mg/L (nitrate as N)
Well 01	June 1, 2023	10.9 mg/L
Well 02	June 12, 2023	9.45 mg/L
Well 07	June 12, 2023	12.6 mg/L
Nitrate Blending Facility	June 1, 2023	10.2 mg/L
	June 9, 2023	10.05 mg/L
	June 12, 2023	9.9 mg/L

We will continue to monitor nitrate level in Wells 01, 02 and 07 monthly and send out a public notice every month until further notice. **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.

Wells 01, 02 and 07 are part of the nitrate blending facility. Due to rise in nitrate level in all three wells, the Water Company is no longer able to comply with the nitrate MCL by providing blending treatment. To continue meeting the system demand and prevent low pressure and/or water outages, the Water Company needs to use all three wells which means going into the nitrate MCL violation. **The nitrate MCL violation is going to continue until further notice.** If and when, nitrate level in our wells drop and the system demand decreases during the coming winter, it is possible that we may be able to again comply with the nitrate MCL by providing blending treatment. Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company will notify you once the water supplied to you complies with nitrate MCL.

**Due to water shortage, it is critical that all customers continue to conserve water and not use any water for irrigation and outdoor activities (washing cars, etc.) to prevent threatened water outage and low pressure.**

Long term solution to our water supply shortage and high nitrate problem is physical consolidation with the neighboring Frazier Park Public Utilities District (FPPUD). We are working closely with the FPPUD to accomplish that. Exact time frame for consolidation with FPPUD is unknown at this time.

For more information, please contact Pam Jarecki, Office Manager, Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company at (661) 245-1448 or the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water at (661) 335-7315.

*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 Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company.

State Water System ID#: CA1510023 . Date distributed: 06-15-23

# Lake of the Woods Mutual Company

## Updated June 2023 Newsletter

**WE ARE GOING BACK TO NITRATE MCL VIOLATION!!! PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED NITRATE NOTICE!**

Starting Friday, June 16, 2023, Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company (Water Company) will be supplying water to its customers that does not comply with the nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L (nitrate as N). The Water Company can no longer keep up with the demand and the nitrate levels are rising in all wells. Due to increase in nitrate level in its wells, the nitrate blending treatment is no longer able to help comply with the nitrate MCL. The nitrate blending station is offline until 11:00 am on 6-16-2023; around that time, we will be putting all three high nitrate wells (Wells 01, 02 and 07) online that pump into the blending station. Based on the results of the samples collected in June 2023, nitrate level in these wells range from 9.6 mg/L to 13 mg/L and that would put the Water Company in violation of the nitrate MCL.

Our Blending station consists of Wells #1, 2 and 7. Well #7 & 1, have high nitrates (low in fluoride) and need to be blended with Well #2 which has high fluoride (previously low in nitrate but **the nitrate level in Well 02 is also rising now**). We have made some modifications at the blending station which include all wells being shut down if the nitrate level were to go above 8.5 mg/L in the blended water; the nitrate MCL is 10 mg/L. Unfortunately, the nitrate level in all three wells is spiking so high that we cannot provide lower nitrate level water anymore. **We are now going into a nitrate MCL violation. We will continue to monitor nitrate and fluoride level in the blended water and our wells.** The Water Company is doing everything it can to provide water for adequate quantity of water for the community and get back into compliance with the nitrate MCL. We will continue to comply with the fluoride MCL of 2.0 mg/L, with the blending treatment.

Here is some background info.

With the winter storms and snow in the area, we have seen water level in our wells rise but with that has come quality issues. At the Blending Station we lowered the Gallons per minute (GPM) for Well #7 (high nitrate well) to match the levels of Well #2 (low nitrate well) which means less water produced for the community. We have requested our electrician to put in a gallons per minute (GPM) control for Well #1 as well, so we can use that well too. Nitrate level in Well #1 has also gone over the nitrate MCL. Currently Well #1 runs higher GPMs than Well #2 and can not blend enough to lower the nitrate level in the blended water. This part for Well #1 needs to be ordered and is not going to be available until August 2023. So, we have not used that well. Well #4 must be pumped to waste because of high Iron and manganese, until this clears, we cannot use this well either. We currently have only ONE well (Well #6) with good quality.

Since we are now in a violation of the nitrate MCL, we will be running all three wells at the blending station to continue to provide water to our customers and will do all of the sampling required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water to get us back into compliance. Our hope is that once the nitrate level in our wells stops rising, we will see a decrease in nitrate level in the blended water.

We will keep you posted via, reverse phone calls (Call the office to Update your phone number), messages on Facebook, our website, office and the local newspaper.

It will take more than one good winter to recover our well levels and provide water that meets all applicable MCLs.

We are **requesting** that everyone stop using water softeners through the summer. With the kids

home from school we use more water. **Nitrate Violation** means that we will be providing water with high nitrates: 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

# Lake of the Woods Mutual Company

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.

## **ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE WATERING – See Fines below!**

Still in effect since MARCH 29, 2014, to PRESENT Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company customers will observe **NO OUTSIDE WATERING BY SPRINKLER OR HOSE. POOLS OR JACUZZIS OF ANY SIZE ARE PROHIBITED!** We know this seems crazy with all the rain and snow we have been seeing but the rain/snow must percolate through 400' of earth to recharge the aquifer, groundwater can take years to recover.

## **ENFORCEMENT NOTICE**

### LAKE OF THE WOODS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY CUSTOMER

Still in effect since MARCH 29, 2014 to PRESENT Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company customers will observe **NO OUTSIDE WATERING BY SPRINKLER OR HOSE. POOLS OR JACUZZIS OF ANY SIZE ARE PROHIBITED!** We apologize for any inconvenience, but please understand that this is necessary in order to provide a reliable water service to your home.

This conservation measure will be enforced.

1<sup>st</sup> warning \_\_\_\_\_ written and /or Verbal warning\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> warning \_\_\_\_\_ will be a fine of ~~\$50.00~~ **\$150.00** \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> warning \_\_\_\_\_ will be a fine of ~~\$75.00~~ **\$175.00** \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> warning \_\_\_\_\_ will be a fine of ~~\$100.00~~ **\$200.00** \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> warning \_\_\_\_\_ will be a fine of ~~\$150~~ **\$250.00** and/ or termination of water service  
for 15 days.

**Since we must go into nitrate violation all of these fines will go up by \$100 EACH! Please conserve our water.**