



NEWS RELEASE August 12, 2014

HARMLESS ODOR AND TASTE IN WATER

The City of Santa Maria received notification from Central Coast Water Authority that a small amount of non-harmful algae compounds recently entered the State Water Project's water supply. The City was blending its water supply with 20 percent State water and 80 percent groundwater, but has since reduced State water to approximately 16 percent.

These algae compounds, identified as Methyl Isoborneol and Geosmin, impart an earthy or musty odor and taste to water. These compounds do not affect the water quality. People can have various levels of sensitivity to the taste and odor imparted by this algae. This temporary situation is not harmful, and is not expected to last longer than one week as the impacted State water completely flows through our water system.

The City will continue to test and evaluate the compounds in the water supply, and may continue reducing State water as needed to reduce the impact to the City's water system. If you are experiencing an earthy or musty odor or taste in your water, consider chilling and/or adding lemon or lime to your water.

Questions may be directed to the Utilities Department Water Resources Division at (805) 925-0951 ext. 7411.

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