



Gail Newel, M.D., M.P.H., FACOG  
HEALTH OFFICER

Jim Ridingsword  
DIRECTOR

# SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

6/21/17

Dear Food Facility Owner/Operator,

On June 21, 2017, the City of San Juan Bautista issued a warning to not drink the water from the city water system. This warning is the result of high levels of nitrates in the water which are considered harmful to human health if consumed, especially for pregnant women and infants.

By order of the San Benito County Health Officer, Dr. Gail Newel, the San Benito County Department of Environmental Health is issuing this notice to all food facilities that are serviced by the City of San Juan Bautista Water Department to cease using the water for all food preparation, cooking and/or consumption until this problem is corrected (California Retail Food Codes 113869\* and 114189\*\*).

As a temporary measure, you may continue your business operation by either using only bottled water from an approved source or installing a California-Registered water treatment device for nitrate reduction (see attached list) installed by an approved licensed installer for any food preparation, cooking and/or consumption. **Do not boil water** as this will only concentrate the existing nitrate in the water. The Department of Environmental Health reserves the right to approve either option and determine which method is best for that facility.

All ice making units and beverage dispensing units (soft drinks, coffee/tea, hot chocolate, espresso, water fountains, etc.) that are directly plumbed to the City of San Juan Bautista water system will not be allowed for use in any food facility during this time unless an approved California-Registered water treatment device for nitrate reduction is installed by an approved licensed installer. Installation of such devices shall be approved prior to installation by the Department of Environmental Health.

Please note, the current water supply from the City of San Juan Bautista Water Department is safe for ware washing, hand washing, bathing, and toilet flushing until further notice.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the San Benito County Department of Environmental Health at: 831-636-4035.

Regards,

Dr. Gail Newel, M.D., M.P.H., FACOG  
San Benito County Health Officer

Darryl Wong, R.E.H.S.  
San Benito County Department of Environmental Health

\***113869.** "Potable water" means water that complies with the standards for transient non-community water systems pursuant to the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 116270) of Part 12, to the extent permitted by federal law.

\*\***114189.** The enforcement agency may monitor and enforce the potable drinking water standards in the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Chapter 4 commencing with Section 116275) for purposes of enforcing this part and compliance with any requirements with regard to potable water, as defined in Section 113869.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
439 Fourth Street  
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831-637-5367

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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
351 Tres Pinos Rd., Suite C-1  
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**HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
439 Fourth Street  
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**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
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