

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Public Health Alert Continues on Alta Water System

A public health alert for water users in Alta and portions of Dutch Flat is expected to end Saturday or Sunday, officials of the Placer County Water Agency reported Friday afternoon (June 7).

Early Friday morning, PCWA advised water users supplied through the Alta Water Treatment Plant to boil any water used for drinking, cooking and oral hygiene.

Don Reighley, the agency's director of technical services, said the alert affected about 300 customers in Alta and portions of Dutch Flat. Customers of the Dutch Flat Community Water District were not affected by the incident.

A malfunction at the Alta Water Treatment Plant before 1 a.m. Friday led to a situation in which turbidity levels in water supplies exceeded state standards. In normal operations, plant operations staff would be immediately notified but the electronic alert system also malfunctioned, said Reighley.

Problems in the plant and electronic alert system have been corrected, a storage tank at the site is being refilled and PCWA crews will be flushing lines on the system Saturday, Reighley said. Cause of the incident is still being investigated.

Water samples are being tested and if tests show good results, the system will be back in normal operation on Saturday, perhaps Sunday, he said.

Customers are being advised to continue to boil consumptive water until the agency lifts the alert.

Alta and Dutch Flat are small communities located off Interstate 80 northeast of Colfax. The turbid waters were confined to the immediate Alta-Dutch Flat system.

Such alerts are rare on the PCWA water system. The agency's last incident was more than six years ago at the Foothill Treatment Plant in Newcastle.

For more information, customers may contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850.

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