



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico/County of Butte

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Alternative Site Water Sampling Results Show No Contamination

CHICO, CA – (July 16, 2024) – The City of Chico received preliminary results of the water sampling that took place Friday, July 12, 2024 from the water spigot at the Alternate Site located at 1350 Eaton Road. Results came back that the water supply is “absent” of any coliform bacteria including fecal and E.coli. Water from the spigot is safe to drink provided the spigot is used as it is designed to fill water bottles by placing them directly under the spigot without contact and allowing it to fill.

“Individuals are responsible for maintaining good hand and personal hygiene and following instructions to ensure safe water collection to prevent the spread of illness. We urge individuals accessing water at this location to follow the attached *Steps for Collecting Safe Drinking Water*,” explained Dr. David Canton, Health Officer for Butte County Public Health. This information has been posted near the water spigot at the Alternative Site.

In addition, the City of Chico’s Outreach and Engagement staff will continue to notify residents assessed to be at the Alternate Site that placing unauthorized hoses or other apparatuses on the spigot has the potential to introduce different forms of coliform bacteria. The City contracted with a third-party State certified lab to take the sample and analyze the results. The final results, which will be available by the end of the week will only provide additional numeric information backing the preliminary results, and not change the finding of “absent”.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

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Steps for Collecting Safe Drinking Water

Collecting safe drinking water is everyone's responsibility. Individuals must take personal responsibility and maintain proper hygiene practices to have safe water and prevent the spread of illness. **This applies to all people, but especially to persons experiencing homelessness, individuals who are camping, and those attending an outdoor festival or event.**

To make sure drinking water is safe, individuals should always use designated water sources appropriately, properly dispose of all waste, including human waste, and avoid cross-contaminating personal items and water spigots.

Steps to Ensure Safe Drinking Water:

- Wash hands before accessing the designated water source
- Make sure there is an air gap when filling containers with water (space between the spigot and container)
- Do not attach hoses or other items to the water source as this can result in cross-contamination
- Clean water storage containers with soap and rinse with clean, safe water
- If possible, sanitize water containers using a mixture of 1 teaspoon of unscented household chlorine bleach in one quart of water
 - Air dry or rinse again with clean, safe water
- Water sources, such as spigots, can also be cleaned and sanitized in the same way