

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small amount of water over a larger body of water. The water is splashing and creating ripples. The background is a clear blue sky.

Little Bear Water Company

2012

Consumer Confidence Report

**This report contains important information about your drinking water
Translate it or speak with someone who understands it.**

**Esta informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

June 12, 2013

Commentary

Water is essential for life; we can survive for weeks without food, but only a few days without water. Despite that 79% of the earth is water, we don't have plentiful supply. This is because 97% of all available water on earth is salty and not suitable for human use. Of the remaining 3% of fresh water, more than two-thirds is locked-up in glaciers and ice caps. This means that only 1% of all water is accessible and usable. Because water is a renewable resource that goes through the "water cycle" one would think that this would meet our needs. However, the deterioration of water quality from industrial and agricultural pollution has rendered most of this fresh water un-suitable for human consumption without costly treatment.



This situation related to water availability is getting worse due to over exploitation of ground water and exacerbated by contamination. High nitrate and arsenic concentrations found in many community's water supplies have turned the life sustaining resources to life threatening because of the health problems and disease associated with the consumption of contaminated water. This is happening today in the State of California. There are things that we as individuals and as a community can do to ensure that our children and grandchildren have safe drinking water in the future. These are things that we can control, like the air we breathe; water is something we often take for granted. The old era of seemingly unlimited fresh and safe water is ending with a new era which exposes a sobering truth of critical shortage of safe drinking water. What we do today as a community, will determine the future of our drinking water.

Richard Hiwa, General Manager, Little Bear Water Company

JANUARY 2013

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2012 Consumer Confidence Report

Last year, as in the years past, your tap water met all EPA and Water System vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again, we are proud to report that the system had no violation during the 2012 calendar year. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality monitoring and testing. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Water System Name: Little Bear Water Company

Contact Person: Richard Hiwa

Telephone: (831) 385-3524

Email: pine@littlebearwater.com

Web Site: littlebearwater.com

Report Date: June 12 2013

About This Report:

Federal and State laws require that all water systems that serve domestic drinking water provide their customers with an annual report that discloses whether or not the system met all drinking water quality standards. **This report is not the result of punitive action, nor is it indicative of any violations of treatment practices.** It is strictly a mandated public information service legislated to keep you informed each year of the facts about your drinking water.

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents that are required by Federal and State regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period from **January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.**



About Little Bear Water Company:

Little Bear Water Company operates under a "Water Supply Permit" issued by the State of California, Department of Public Health (DPH). Little Bear is a private public utility which operates under regulations and tariffs issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

FEBRUARY 2013

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The district drinking water supplies comes from ground water extracted primarily for wells located in the deep gravel strata adjacent to the Salinas Valley River. The utility has three wells and to meet district water demands, the utility operates one active well and has one stand-by well which has a combine source production of 1,750 gallons per minute or 2,520,000 gallons per day

To ensure proper disinfection properties and water quality, the utility production is restricted to about 800 gallons per minute. At this pumping level, source production is 1,152,000 gallons per day. Should the need arise due to unusually high water demands, the utility has the ability and the source capacity to meet those increased demands.

The district has six pressure zones and has established with the approval of the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Monterey District eight

monitoring sampling sites for bacteriological testing. The district is further broken down into two major areas for rate purposes – the first is the lower with 553 connections and the second is the upper with 152 connections. The system has fourteen storage reservoirs with a combine storage capacity of 1,209,000 gallons and eight booster pumping stations with about 25 miles of distribution mains.



Drinking Water Assessment:

The Department of Public Health, Division of Water and Environmental Management have developed a program to

assess the vulnerability of drinking water sources to contamination. This program which is mandated by Federal and State law is called the Drinking Water Sources Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program. The program has two primary elements: **assessment** and **protection**. The assessment element consists of defining protection areas around water sources and conducting an inventory of possible contamination activities. The protection element consists of managing activities around the water source to prevent contamination and planning for contingencies.

Little Bear's assessment has been filed with the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Monterey District. A copy of the complete assessment is available at CDPH District Office, 1 Lower Ragsdale, Building 1, Suite 1, Monterey, California 93940 or Little Bear Water Company, 51210 Pine Canyon Road, King City, California 93930.

MARCH 2013

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Is The Water Safe To Drink???

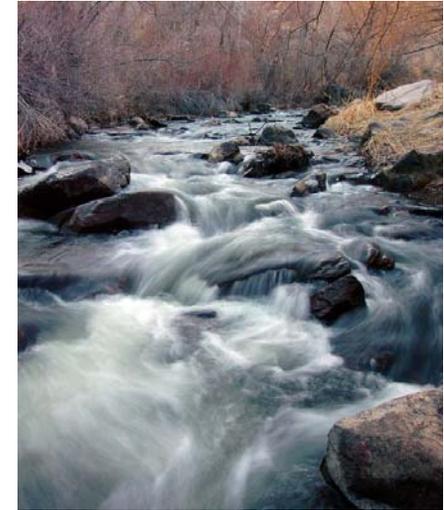
Yes – Little Bear’s drinking water standards are of the highest priority. Test results are documented in this report and the utility consistently meets or exceeds the standards mandated by EPA, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act and all other federal guidelines. Information on monitoring and testing and allowable levels of contaminants is available by contacting this office at: 385-3524

Educational Information:

- **Drinking Water**, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminations does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling

the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

- **Some people** may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. **Immuno-compromised person, such as person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, person who has undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.** These people should seek advice about water from their health care providers. USEPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**



- **The sources** of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

APRIL 2013

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Contaminants That May Be Present In Source Water Include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water run-off, domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, industrial, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water run-off and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial

processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water run-off, agricultural application and septic systems.

- **Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Regulatory Agency:

The Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Monterey District is the regulatory agency for public water systems operating in the Monterey County. The district is responsible for compliance, monitoring, technical assistance, inspection and the enforcement of drinking water quality and compliance with federal and state laws and regulations

Testing Laboratory:

This report provides the results of drinking water testing done through-out 2012 by the Monterey County Health Department Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory at 1270 Natividad Road, Salinas which is a state approved and certified laboratory. Test results are transmitted electronically each month to the Monterey District and copies are mailed to this office. Test results are on file and customers wishing to view these documents may do so by contacting this office at: 385-3524.



MAY 2013

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Health Effects of Drinking Water Contaminants:

Chemicals in drinking water which are toxic may cause either acute or chronic health effects. An acute effect usually follows a large dose of chemical and occurs almost immediately. Example of acute health effects are nausea, lung irritation, skin rash, vomiting, dizziness and even death. The level of chemicals found in drinking water, however, is seldom high enough to cause acute health effects.



They are more likely to cause chronic health effects, effects that occur after exposure to small amounts of a chemical over a long period of time. Examples of chronic health effects include cancer, birth defects, organ damage, disorders of the nervous system and damage to the immune system. The possible health effects of a contaminant in drinking water differ widely, depending on whether a person consumes the water over a long period of time, briefly or intermittently.

Public Information Program:

As part of the utility public information program, the following information is provided to educate consumers on what to do in case of a water outage or periods of low pressure:

CONSUMER ALERT DURING WATER OUTAGES OR PERIODS OF LOW PRESSURE

1. If you are experiencing water outage or low pressure, immediately

discontinue any non-essential usage. This includes all outdoor irrigation and car washing. Minimizing usage will reduce the potential for the water system to lose pressure or completely run of water. Please notify your water system of the outage or low pressure.

2. If the water looks cloudy or dirty, you should not drink it. Upon return of normal water service, you should flush the hot and cold water lines until the water appears clear and the water quality returns to normal.
3. If you are concerned about the water quality or are uncertain of its safety, you may add eight drops of household bleach to one gallon of water and let it sit for 30 minutes or alternatively, if you are able, water can be boiled for one minute at a rolling boil to ensure its safety.

JUNE 2013

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- 4. Use of home treatment devices does not guarantee the water supply is safe after low pressure situations.
- 5. Do not be alarmed, if you experience higher than normal chlorine concentrations in your water supply since the California Department of Public Health is advising public water utilities to increase chlorine residual in areas subject to low pressure or outages.
- 6. The California Department of Public Health has also advised public water system to increase bacteriological water quality monitoring of the distribution system in areas subject to low pressure. The utility may be collecting samples in your area to confirm that the water remains safe. You will be advised if the

sampling reveals a water quality problem.

- 7. Your water system is committed to make certain that an adequate quantity of clean, wholesome and potable water is delivered to you. We recommend that you discuss the information in this notice with members of your family to ensure that all family members are prepared should water outages or low pressure should occur.

**SHOULD WATER OUTAGES
OR LOW PRESSURE OCCUR
PLEASE CONTACT THIS
OFFICE AT
385-3524.**

Monitoring Requirements:

The Department of Public Health allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants usually do

not change frequently. Some of the results in this report though representative are more than one year old. Requirements for reporting purposes is that if the level is not detectable or are below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) it is not reportable.



JULY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
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Notes:

About The Attached Tables:

If you have reviewed our Annual Consumer Confidence Report in the past, the following attached tables may look familiar. It lists the monitoring contaminants along with the “maximum contaminant level” and the result levels found in the water source. This report show, concentration both “parts per million (mg/L)” and “parts per billion (ug/L.” Also you will see for most of the constituents listed in the tables, the major source of contaminants and its health effects.

Terms Used In This Report:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and

appearance of drinking water.

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.



- **Public Health Goal (PHG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

- **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS) – MCLs and MRDLs** for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfection is necessary for control or microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

AUGUST 2013

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Public Awareness Information

Little Bear in its effort to keep you the using consumer aware of potential drinking water quality issues, has decided to provide the following information:

Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service line and components associated with home plumbing.



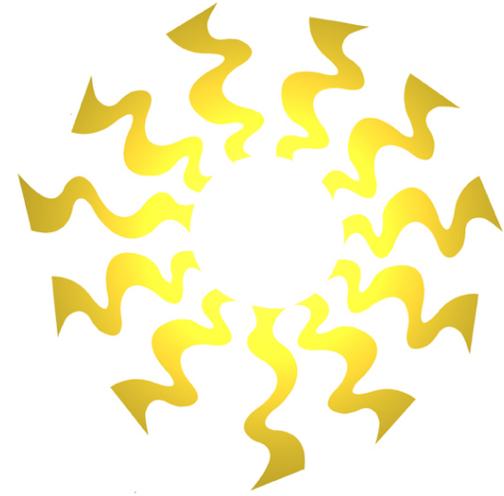
Little Bear is responsible for providing safe potable drinking water but it cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your household water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps that you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Radon - A Growing Concern

The EPA has adopted regulations to protect people from exposure to radon. The regulation provide States flexibility in how to limit the public's exposure to radon by focusing their efforts on the greater public health risk from radon - from indoor air - while

also reducing the risk from radon in drinking water.



What is radon? Radon is a gas that has no color, odor or taste and comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in the ground. You can be exposed to radon by two main sources: (1) radon in the air in your home and (2) radon in drinking water. Most of the radon in indoor air comes from soil underneath the home. As the uranium breaks down, radon gas forms and seeps into the house. Radon gas can also dissolve and accumulate in water

SEPTEMBER 2013

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from underground sources, such as wells. When water that contain radon is used in the home for showing, washing dishes and cooking, radon gas escapes from the water and goes into the air. It is similar to carbonated soda drinks where carbon dioxide is dissolved in the soda and is released when you open the bottle. Some radon also stays in the water.

Breathing radon in indoor air can cause lung cancer. Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe it. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and increase your chances of developing lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Drinking water containing radon also presents a risk of developing internal organ cancers, primarily stomach cancer. Not all drinking water contains radon, EPA map of radon zones indicate that our local area have predicted average indoor radon screening level between 2 and 4 pCi/L.



Radon Information Required:

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the US. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering,

washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will be in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your indoor air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the National Safe Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-Radon) or this office.

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
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September 2013

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Notes:

Appendix A-1: Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or ALs

Key:

AL – Regulatory Action Level

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level

MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

PHG – Public Health Goals

TT – Treatment Technique

MFL – million fibers per liter

N/A – Not Applicable

pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

mrem/year – millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed the body)

ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt – parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

ppq – parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

N/D – Not detectable at testing limits

NOVEMBER 2013

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Appendix A-1: Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or Als

Key

AL = Regulatory Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

MRDL = Maximum Residential Disinfectant Level

PHG = Public Health Goal

TT= Treatment Technique

MFL = million fibers per liter

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

n/a = not applicable

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

ppq= parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter

Contaminant (CCR units)	Traditional MCL in mg/L	To convert for CCR multiply by	MCL in CCR units	PHG (MCLG) in CCR units	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Health Effects Language
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule)		MCL: System that collect ≥40 samples/month: more than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive; System that collect <40 sample/month: no more than 1 positive monthly sample		(O)	Naturally present in the environment	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.
Fecal coliform and E. coli (Total Coliform Rule)		MCL: a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive		(O)	Human and animal fecal waste	Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

DECEMBER 2013

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Contaminant (CCR units)	Traditional MCL in mg/L	To convert for CCR multiply by	MCL in CCR units	PHG (MCLG) in CCR units	Major Sources in Drinking Water	Health Effects Language
E. coli (Ground Water Rule)	O		O	(O)	Human and animal fecal waste	Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Fecal Indicators (enterococci or coliphage) (Ground Water Rule)	TT		TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste	Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Turbidity	TT		TT	n/a	Soil run-off	Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
Giardia lamblia Viruses Heterotrophic plate count bacteria Legionella Cryptosporidium	Surface water treatment=		TT	HPC= n/a; Others = (O)	Naturally present in the environment	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Contaminant (CCR units)	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCL in CCR units	PHG (MCLG) in CCR units	Major Source in Drinking Water	Health Effects Language
Turbidity						
Turbidity (NTU)						Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.
Well Number # 1	n/a	NTU	5	n/a		
Well Number # 2	0.20	NTU	5	n/a		
Well Number # 3	0.05	NTU	5	n/a	Soil run-off	
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors						
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes (ppb))						Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL, over many years may experience liver, kidney or central nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Site D-1	1.8	mg/L	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Site D-2	3.7	mg/L	80	n/a		
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)						Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Site D-1	ND	mg/L	60	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Site D-2	ND	mg/L	60	n/a		
Chlorine (ppm) Yearly Average	0.62	mg/L	{MRDL = 4.0 as CL2)	MRDLG 4 (as CL2)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

Little Bear is required to monitor disinfection residual throughout its distribution system and to generate quarterly report to the Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Monterey District the running average each quarter of the year. The limitation as directed by law, is that the maximum residual level shall not exceed 4.0 mg/L and shall not be less than 0.2 mg/L at any time. From time to time, Little Bear will be raising or lowering the disinfection level but at no time will the residual levels exceed the maximum or the minimum residual levels required by law. This action by Little Bear is to enhance and improve drinking water quality throughout the distribution system.



Little Bear Water Company

51201 Pine Cyn. Rd. #125

King City, CA 93930

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Permit #7

San Luis Obispo, CA