



# County of Santa Cruz

## Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY – Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>



## State Small Water System (SSWS) Guidance Document

### WHAT QUALIFIES AS A SSWS?

*Source: California Health and Safety Code, Section 116275 (n)*

- “State small water system” means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five (5), but not more than fourteen (14), service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of twenty-five (25) individuals daily for more than sixty (60) days out of the year.

### SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS FOR A SSWS:

*Source: California Regulations Related to Drinking Water, Chapter 14, Article 3*

- 1. Bacteria Monitoring:** the SSWS shall collect a minimum of **one routine sample from the distribution system quarterly**. This sample should be analyzed for the presence of Total Coliforms and E. coli.
  - a. In the event of a Total Coliform-positive sample, the SWSS must collect a repeat sample from the same location within 48 hours.
  - b. If the repeat sample is also Total Coliform-positive, the SWSS must notify Santa Cruz County staff within 48 hours and take corrective actions as directed to eliminate the cause of the positive samples.
  - c. If a SSWS is Total Coliform-positive more than once in the previous 24 months, Santa Cruz County may require the SSWS to sample bacteria monthly.
  - d. Bacteria sampling results must be reported to the County by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. While not required, it is highly recommended to mark bacteria samples as “regulatory” on the laboratory Chain of Custody (COC), which directs the laboratory to report on your behalf.
- 2. Source Water Chemical Monitoring:** At the time of installation, **each water source** must be sampled for the following chemicals: iron, manganese, chlorides, total dissolved solids, and the inorganic chemicals list on page 3. While not required, it is recommended to periodically test for these chemicals to see if levels have changed over time.
  - a. While not required, Santa Cruz County recommends annual testing for Nitrate (as Nitrogen). This chemical can be acutely toxic to sensitive groups and levels can vary over time due to outside factors like failed septic systems or agricultural practices.

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### **SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS FOR A SSWS...Continued:**

Source: Santa Cruz County Code, Section 7.71.130

- 3. Additional Water Quality Monitoring:** The County may require sampling for additional constituents (e.g. agricultural chemicals, radiological activity) or more frequent water quality sampling in situations where there is reason to believe a public health risk exists.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR A SSWS**

Source: Santa Cruz County Code, Section 7.71.130

- 1. Production Reporting:** the SSWS must have a metering device on each source that supplies the system. The source meter(s) must be read **monthly**. The monthly recordings must be reported to the County by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Source: California Regulations Related to Drinking Water, Chapter 14, Article 3

- 2. Customer Notification:** the SSWS shall provide the following notice to its consumers:

*“The domestic water supply for this area is provided by a state small water system. State regulatory requirements for operation of a state small water system are less extensive than requirements for larger public water systems. If you have questions concerning your water supply, you should contact [insert (1) name of water system, (2) name of responsible person, and (3) telephone number] or contact the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division at 831-454-2386.”*

This notice shall be provided by direct delivery on an annual basis or by continuous posting at a central location within the area served by the state small water system. A copy of this notice must be provided to the County at least once per year.

- 3. Water Quality Emergency Notification Plan (WQENP):** while not required, Santa Cruz recommends the SSWS maintain an up-to-date plan on how to notify customers in the event of a water quality emergency, such as an E. coli detection. This form would be provided to the County and can be found on the county website here: [Drinking Water Document Library \(scceh.org\)](#)

### **ENFORCEMENT**

- 1. Enforcement:** If a SSWS is in violation of these requirements, they may be subject to enforcement from the County including a notice of violation, a deadline for correction, and a reinspection fee that may be charged if the deadline is not met.



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*List of inorganic chemicals that must be tested for at least once.*

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level, mg/L</i>
Aluminum	1
Antimony	0.006
Arsenic	0.010
Asbestos*	7 MFL
Barium	1
Beryllium	0.004
Cadmium	0.005
Chromium	0.05
Cyanide	0.15
Fluoride	2.0
Mercury	0.002
Nickel	0.1
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	10
Nitrate+Nitrite (sum as nitrogen)	10
Perchlorate	0.006
Selenium	0.05
Thallium	0.002

\*Required only if water system uses asbestos-cement pipes.