



CITY OF BISHOP

377 West Line Street - Bishop, California 93514
Post Office Box 1236 - Bishop, California 93515
760-873-8458 publicworks@ca-bishop.us
www.ca-bishop.us

Public Works News Release

Bacteria Contamination of Bishop Creek

The City of Bishop is concerned about tests that indicate high levels of bacteria in some parts of the Bishop Creek surface water system. The city looks forward to working with Inyo County Environmental Health, the Lahontan Region Water Control Board, and land managers to address this issue and to ensure public safety.

It is important for City of Bishop water customers to know the city's drinking water is safe from this contamination. The bacteria are found in surface water in the Bishop area, not underground where the city gets its drinking water. In addition, the city's drinking water is sampled monthly and shows no sign of contamination of any sort.

It may be the high levels of bacteria found in some of the waters of the Bishop Creek system of creeks and ditches are not a change from historic levels. The current high level may have existed since settlers and stock first joined the Native Americans residing in the area. Residents and visitors may have lived with these levels for a long time.

The Inyo County Environmental Health website includes a link to more information about the bacterial contamination of some waters in the Bishop Creek water system:

<http://www.inyocounty.us/EnvironmentalHealth/index.html>

Currently there are studies underway to determine the source of the contamination. The first results from these studies are expected in the next month or so. Once these results are available, steps can be taken to address the source of the contamination. In the mean time, residents and visitors to the Bishop area should be aware that high bacteria levels exist in parts of the surface waters in the Bishop area and should act accordingly.

For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works at publicworks@ca-bishop.us or 760-873-8458.