



NEWS Release

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YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

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MJC West Campus Water Update

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MODESTO, CA – The process to restore the MJC West Campus water system was spelled out late yesterday by the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources. On September 30 and October 7, samplings from routine water tests exceeded state bacteriological standards (Coliform was detected), which prompted action by the Yosemite Community College District to disinfect the entire water system and post warnings and notices prohibiting the use of water for drinking and hand washing at the West Campus until the problem is resolved.

“Tests are conducted monthly on the campus, and this was the first time in the last ten years, this type of bacteria was found,” said Maria Baker, Director of Facilities and Planning. The actions taken by the District to correct the problem include shutting down the contaminated well, going through the process to disinfect the well, and hooking up to City of Modesto water to flush the entire water system. The disinfection process took place the weekend of October 12.

Repeat sampling and water testing will resume today and tomorrow to ensure water quality. However, the latest requirement by the Department of Environmental Resources is to add equipment to the water distribution infrastructure that further prevents outside sources from contaminating the water system. Only after this equipment is installed and water results are clear from multiple testing will the District be allowed to pull the emergency public notices. If the results are not clear, then the process will have to be repeated. Both existing wells at West Campus have been shut down and the campus will remain on the City of Modesto water system permanently.

In the meantime, while water is available for sale on campus, the ASMJC is providing bottled water for students on the West Campus. Bottled water has also been provided to staff and sanitized hand wipes and non-detergent disinfectant cleaner dispensers have been placed in all restrooms. All activities are safe to continue as scheduled on the West Campus, while the District works closely with the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources to address the concern and remedy the problem.

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