



Sandra Shewry
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 110

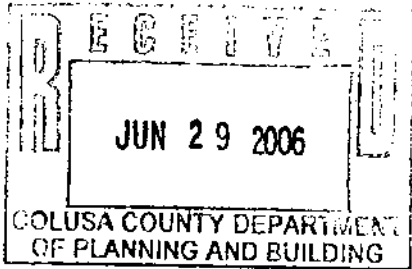
Redding, CA 96002

(530) 224-4800 FAX (530) 224-3270

Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor



June 29, 2006

County of Colusa
c/o Christy K. Scofield, Chairman
546 Jay Street
Colusa, CA 95932

Attention: Colusa County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Public Water System No. 0600012 - Colusa County Service Area No. 1 (Century Ranch) – Compliance Order 01-21-06(O)06001

Please find enclosed Compliance Order 01-21-06(O)06001 which requires the County of Colusa to comply with specific directives regarding the Colusa County Service Area No. 1 (Century Ranch) public water system.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please contact me at 530-224-4867.

Richard L. Hinrichs, P.E.
Valley District Engineer
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Enclosure

- cc: Bob Hultquist, P.E.; Chief - Northern California Field Operations Branch
- Carl Lischeske, P.E.; Chief - Northern California Section
- California Department of Real Estate
- Colusa County Department of Planning and Building
- Colusa County Department of Environmental Health

State of California, Department of Health Services
Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

In Re: County of Colusa

546 Jay Street

Colusa, CA 95932

To: Colusa County Board of Supervisors,

c/o Christy K. Scofield, Chairman

COMPLIANCE ORDER - WATER SYSTEM NO. 0610012 (CENTURY RANCH)

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The California Health and Safety Code (CH&SC), Section 116655, authorizes the issuance of an order directing compliance with requirements of Chapter 4 of Part 12 of Division 104 of CH&SC (California Safe Drinking Water Act), whenever the Department determines that any person or entity has violated or is violating the California Safe Drinking Water Act or any permit, regulation, or standard issued or adopted thereunder.

CH&SC, Section 116655 expressly provides that such order may direct compliance, and may also direct "That appropriate preventive action be taken in the case of a threatened violation", CH&SC, Section 116655(a)(3) including "That no additional service connection be made to the system", CH&SC, Section 116655(b)(4).



1 The Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental
2 Management (Department), hereby issues this Compliance Order (Order) to the County
3 of Colusa (Colusa County), (mailing address, 546 Jay Street, Colusa, CA, 95932),
4 directing Colusa County to provide a reliable and adequate supply of pure, wholesome,
5 healthful, and potable water in accordance with Section 116555 (a) (3) of the California
6 Health and Safety Code (CH&SC); and imposing a service connection moratorium on the
7 number of developed lots in the Century Ranch subdivision and a service connection
8 moratorium on the number of undeveloped lots in the Century Ranch subdivision.
9

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11 HISTORY

12
13 The Century Ranch Subdivision, developed in the mid-1960's, is located in northwest
14 Colusa County adjacent to the East Park Reservoir. The subdivision reportedly consists
15 of 1,036 lots ranging in size from about one-third acre to slightly more than one acre.
16

17 Groundwater supplies in this portion of Colusa County are very limited. Wells drilled in
18 this area typically encounter hard rock formations without significant water storage or
19 availability. Certain wells at Century Ranch are placed in, or near, the creek bed of Little
20 Stony Creek, and collect underflow from the creek.
21

22 From the outset, water source capacity has been a critical problem for the Century Ranch
23 subdivision. Water shortages during peak summer and early fall demand periods have
24 been an annual concern, and have necessitated severe water restrictions and water
25 conservation mandates in dry years (e.g., a ban on all outdoor water use during these
26 critical months). Despite these concerns, the already critical source capacity situation
27



1 worsened through the early 1990's as Century Ranch Water Company (Company)
2 continued to add new service connections. In response to the Company's noncompliance
3 with CH&SC, Section 116555 (renumbered from CH&SC, Section 4017) by its failure to
4 provide a reliable and adequate supply of potable drinking water, on August 23, 1994, the
5 Department issued Compliance Order No. 01-02-94(O)-06001. Among other
6 requirements, this Order imposed a service connection moratorium on the Century Ranch
7 Water Company and its successors and assignees.
8

9
10 In 1996, Colusa County acquired ownership of the Century Ranch water system from the
11 Century Ranch Water Company, and designated it County Service Area No. 1 (CSA #1).
12 Colusa County has taken steps to try to solve the critical water shortage problems faced
13 by this public water system. However, such actions have been unsuccessful.
14

15 In 1998, with funding from the State's Safe Drinking Water Bond Law program, certain
16 improvements were made to the Century Ranch water system. These improvements
17 included a new 250,000-gallon bolted steel tank and the construction of Well No. 7. The
18 Department is informed by Colusa County that Well No. 7 is equipped with a 50-gallon
19 per minute pump, but like other wells at Century Ranch, its ability to provide adequate
20 water during the late summer and early fall months is very limited and has added no
21 significant, documented source capacity to the water system
22

23 On January 16, 2001, the Department issued Citation No. 01-21-01(C)-06001 to Colusa
24 County for supplying inadequately treated surface water to Service Area No. 1 from Little
25 Stony Creek during the months of July 2000 and August 2000. The surface water was
26 treated only with chlorination in violation of State and federal surface water treatment
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1 regulations. The Department understands that Colusa County's decision to use the
2 surface water was necessitated by the imminent threat of water outage.

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In the summer months of 2001, with funding assistance from the Department's
Emergency Clean Water Grant program, Colusa County added an 80-gallon per minute
bag and cartridge filtration system and made disinfection improvements to allow the use
of surface water, collected as underflow, from Little Stony Creek. While the use of this
filtered and disinfected surface water has provided an additional approved source for the
Century Ranch water system, the ability to capture underflow decreases significantly in
late summer and early fall. In very dry years, including 2001 after the filtration facilities
became operational, the underflow reportedly has decreased to the point that no
significant quantities of water can be taken from Little Stony Creek. During drought
condition years, both the underflow in Little Stony Creek and the groundwater supplies
are known to approach failure simultaneously. Thus, while the operation of the surface
water treatment facilities does allow reduced usage of well sources, its net effect on the
overall source capacity is insufficient to ensure an adequate, reliable water supply. The
total source capacity for this water system is inadequate and all reasonable steps must be
taken to mitigate the effects of this water system's failure to provide an adequate and
reliable supply of safe drinking water by reducing existing water demand and by
eliminating any increase in demand.

The Century Ranch subdivision consists of developed lots with permanent structures and
water service connections, undeveloped lots with no water service connections, and
undeveloped lots with water service connections to accommodate temporary use primarily
with parked trailers. Water demand varies significantly amongst these three types of lots,

1 from zero usage for the undeveloped lots without service connections, to an average daily
2 demand during the peak month of 305 gallons per active service connection for
3 undeveloped lots with water service connections, to 440 gallons per active service
4 connection for the developed lots.

5
6 The Department is informed that the Colusa County Board of Supervisors is considering a
7 proposal to receive and process at least one building permit application for a lot in the
8 Century Ranch subdivision that is presently undeveloped (i.e., no permanent structure).
9 The Departments 1994 Compliance Order No. 01-02-94 directed a total water service
10 moratorium for this public water system.
11

12
13 On June 23, 2006, Department staff went to the Colusa County Department of Planning
14 and Building, where records for CSA #1 are kept, and reviewed the billing records for this
15 water system. For calendar year 2005, CSA #1 records show that Colusa County was
16 serving and billing 99 service connections to developed lots and 62 service connections to
17 undeveloped lots (Many owners of undeveloped lots park travel trailers on their property
18 for recreational purposes, and use water from the Century Ranch system to supply water
19 to these trailers.) A summary of the data collected is shown in graphical form on Exhibit 1
20 and in tabular form on Exhibit 2. The Department determined from its review of the
21 records that average water usage for active (non-zero usage) service connections to
22 developed lots is significantly higher than average water usage for active service
23 connections to undeveloped lots. Thus, allowing housing construction on any of the
24 undeveloped lots, including the 62 that currently have water service connections in CSA
25 #1 will make the already critical water supply situation worse. Any increase or potential
26 increase in demand on this public water system will aggravate existing noncompliance
27



1 and/or creates the threat of additional noncompliance with the California Safe Drinking
2 Water Act.

3
4 FINDINGS OF FACT
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6 The Department's makes the following findings: -
7

- 8
- 9 1. The Century Ranch water system, owned and operated by Colusa County,
10 does not provide an adequate and reliable supply of water as required by
11 Section 116555 (a) (3) of the CH&SC.
12
 - 13 2. The source capacity available to the Century Ranch water system is neither
14 reliable nor adequate and does not meet the minimal requirements of the
15 California Waterworks Standards (California Code of Regulations, Section
16 64562(a)).
17
 - 18 3. Developed lots in the Century Ranch subdivision, on average, use significantly
19 more water than undeveloped lots.
20
 - 21 4. Any development of currently undeveloped lots will increase the water demand
22 on the water system.
23
 - 24 5. The addition of any water service connection to lots not currently having water
25 service will increase the water demand on the water system.
26
27



1 6. Any increase in water demands will increase the frequency of water outages
2 and water shortages in the Century Ranch water system.
3

4 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
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6 Due to failure to provide an adequate water supply to the Century Ranch water system,
7 Colusa County continues to violate Section 116555(a)(3) of the CH&SC. Despite efforts
8 by Colusa County to provide additional source capacity, the system's source capacity is
9 inadequate to reliably provide pure wholesome and potable drinking water supplies to
10 meet current demand.
11

12
13 The Department has authority under Sections 116655(a)(3) and 116655(b)(4) of the
14 CH&SC to direct Colusa County to take steps necessary to prevent increasing water
15 outages and shortages at the Century Ranch water system until such time as Colusa
16 County is able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department, that the public water
17 system has adequate and reliable source capacity.
18

19 ORDER AND DIRECTIVES
20

21 1. The Department hereby imposes a service and service connection moratorium
22 on developed lots in the Century Ranch subdivision (CSA #1). Effective
23 immediately, upon receipt of this Order, at no time shall Colusa County provide
24 water service to more than ninety nine (99) service connections to developed
25 lots in the Century Ranch subdivision (CSA #1), or to such number of
26 developed lots as exist as of the date of this Order, whichever number is less.
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2. The Department hereby imposes a service and service connection moratorium on undeveloped lots in the Century Ranch subdivision (CSA #1). Effective immediately, upon receipt of this Order, at no time shall Colusa County provide water service to more than sixty two (62) service connections to undeveloped lots in the Century Ranch subdivision (CSA #1), or to such number of undeveloped lots as have water service connection as of the date of this Order, whichever number is less.

3. If Colusa County receives information that the number of service connections serving developed lots exceeds ninety nine (99), or the number of service connections serving undeveloped lots exceeds sixty two (62), Colusa County shall inform the Department verbally within no more than 24 hours and in writing within no more than five days after receiving such information.

4. If at any time, the owner of any undeveloped lot receiving water service as of the date of this Order declines further water service or otherwise notifies Colusa County that it no longer wishes to receive water service, Colusa County shall cause the water service connection(s) to such lot(s) to be disconnected and Colusa County shall not subsequently provide water service to any such lot(s).

Submittals required by this Order shall be sent to:

Richard L. Hinrichs, P.E.

Valley District Engineer



1 Department of Health Services
2 Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
3 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 110
4 Redding, CA 96002
5 Telephone (530) 224-4867
6

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8 The State of California shall not be liable for any injuries or damages to persons or
9 property resulting from acts or omissions by Colusa County, its employees, agents, or
10 contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the State of
11 California be held as a part to any contract entered into by Colusa County, its employees,
12 agents, or contractors in carrying out the activities pursuant to this Order.

13
14 By issuance of this Order, the Department does not waive any further enforcement
15 actions.

16
17 CIVIL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT
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19 The Department may enforce this Order by any lawful means including but not limited to
20 issuance of citation(s) pursuant to CH&SC Section 116650 with fine(s) of \$200 per day
21 per violation for each day that any violation of this Order shall continue.
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23 PARTIES BOUND
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25 This Order shall apply to and be binding upon Colusa County, its governing body, officers,
26 directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees
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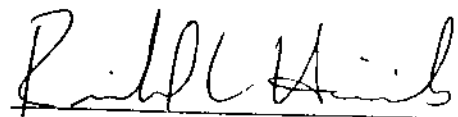
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SEVERABILITY

The requirements of this Order are severable, and Colusa County shall comply with each and every provision thereof, notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

6/29/06

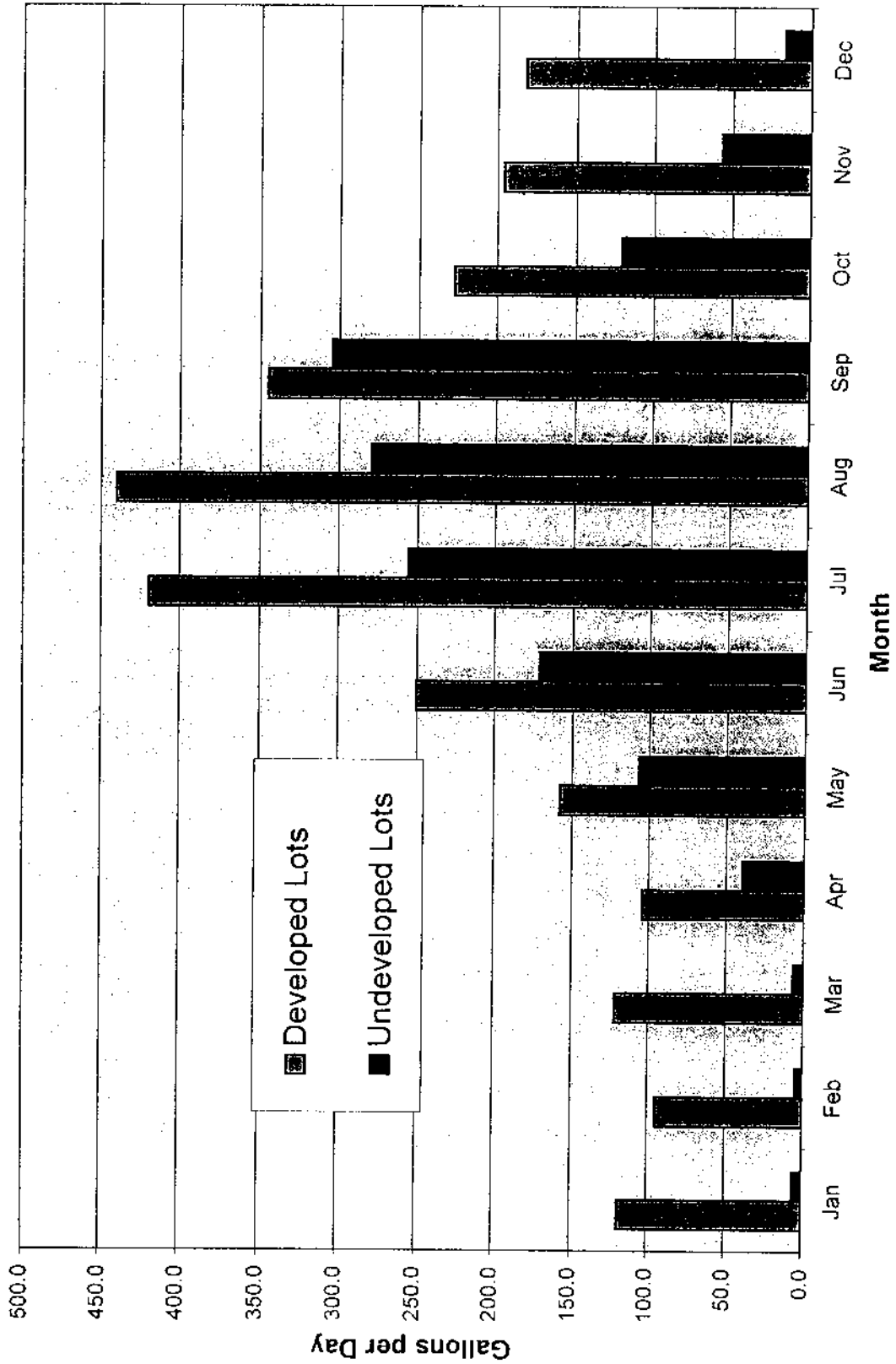
Date



Richard Hinrichs, P.E.
Valley District Engineer
Department of Health Services
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

cc: Bob Hultquist, P.E.; Chief - Northern California Field Operations Branch
Carl Lischeske, P.E.; Chief - Northern California Section
California Department of Real Estate
Colusa County Department of Planning and Building
Colusa County Department of Environmental Health

2005 Century Ranch Average Water Usage, per Active Service Connection



Summary of 2005 Century Ranch Water Records
 (Based Upon Metered Usage in Gallons)

Usage Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Developed Lots	313,022	236,110	346,468	280,797	459,895	690,813	1,221,986	1,241,046	972,281	634,538	522,640	497,269
No. with Zero Usage	14	10	7	9	5	7	5	8	5	9	10	11
No. with Non-Zero Usage	85	89	92	90	94	92	94	91	94	90	89	88
Usage/day/connection*	119	95	121	104	158	250	419	440	345	227	196	182
Undeveloped Lots	1,948	1,112	1,900	14,220	69,440	107,840	206,240	225,170	219,510	86,230	27,250	5,880
No. with Zero Usage	52	54	53	50	41	41	36	36	38	39	46	51
No. with Non-Zero Usage	10	8	9	12	21	21	26	26	24	23	16	11
Usage/day/connection*	6	5	7	40	107	171	256	279	305	121	57	17

*For connections with non-zero usage