

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**EPA SAYS NO NEW NOTICES NEEDED REGARDING VALLEJO LAKES WATER SYSTEM**

VALLEJO – The United States Environmental Protection Agency has told the City of Vallejo Water Department that no new notices are needed regarding a water system that provides service to over 2,800 customers in the Green Valley area near Fairfield.

Known as the Vallejo Lakes System, a treatment plant constructed in 1998 at a cost of \$7 million was determined to be out of compliance with federal regulations regarding the average level of trihalomethanes for four consecutive quarters ending in 2004. As a result, the City of Vallejo issued an EPA-mandated advisory to residents that prolonged use of the water could cause health problems.

The City is spending \$820,000 to purchase equipment and chemicals to bring the system up to federal regulations by the end of December 2005. Notices will continue to be sent until the four-quarter average of trihalomethanes drops to safe levels, which is currently 80 parts per billion.

The City was aware of the non-compliance issue, and held two meetings with Lakes System customers in October and November of 2004. In December 2004 the Vallejo City Council approved the project upgrading the system. Notices were sent to Vallejo Lakes System customers in January 2005. Since then questions have arisen regarding the appropriateness of the letters in spelling out the exact health concerns to system users. At issue was the potential risk to pregnant women who drink the water.

In response to those questions, the City has been in contact with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which has officially advised the City that there is no need to re-issue new warnings to Lakes System users. However, the City will be issuing health warnings on a quarterly basis, as required by law, until the plant is back in full compliance.

“As long as we are in violation, which will be until we get the new system online in December 2005, we will have to issue these notices quarterly,” said Joe Lennen, Laboratory Chemist for the City of Vallejo. “The next one that goes out in April will have some minor changes, but will basically state the same thing as the last advisory.”

Vallejo Lakes System customers who wish to contact the USEPA should call Jon Merkle at (415) 972-3550.