



For Immediate Release

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Contact: General Manager
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Waterline Break in Solana Beach Causes Discolored Water

Some customers of the Santa Fe Irrigation District (District) in Solana Beach may have experienced yellow or brownish water Tuesday afternoon and into the early evening as a result of a private waterline break on Via de la Valle late Tuesday morning. The four inch private waterline was hit by a contractor working in the area on private property. District operations staff responded and isolated the damaged line at approximately 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, to facilitate repairs by the property owner.

The break caused a surge of water through the District's pipes in that area and created a disturbance that caused the yellow/brownish tinge in the water. Water distribution systems typically contain some sediment that may be dislodged under high flow conditions. There are no health risks associated with this sediment, but it can cause discoloration of the water. This condition will generally dissipate within a day or two.

Affected areas are in the southwest portion of the District's service area, generally south of Lomas Santa Fe Drive to Via de la Valle and westerly from I-5 to the coast. Customers in the proximity of the intersection of Via de la Valle and Stevens Avenue experienced the most noticeable colored water conditions.

In response to this situation, District operations staff flushed key areas of the system and have been monitoring and testing the water to make sure there are no health risks. "The water is absolutely safe, although it may not be aesthetically pleasing," said General Manager Michael Bardin, "and we will continue to monitor the system closely until this condition dissipates." This is a temporary situation that will clear out as more water is used and it disperses throughout the system.

In the meantime, there are a few things you can do if you notice a color in your water. Until the water clears:

- ◆ Avoid letting water sit in sinks or tubs (it could cause some staining)
- ◆ Avoid doing white loads of laundry
- ◆ Call the District at 858-756-2424 if the problem persists for more than eight hours

If you have questions, please contact us at 858-756-2424 or visit our website at www.sfidwater.org

Background: *The Santa Fe Irrigation District was formed in 1923 under the California Irrigation District Act. The District provides water and related services to residential, commercial and agricultural customers in the San Diego County communities of Rancho Santa Fe, Solana Beach and Fairbanks Ranch. The District provides service to about 22,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area. The District supplies over 4.5 billion gallons (or 14,000 acre feet) of water per year to its customers, utilizing a blend of local water from Lake Hodges and imported water purchased through the San Diego County Water Authority. The District administers and operates the jointly owned R.E. Badger Filtration Plant, a 40 million gallon per day water treatment plant. The District has historical rights to local water supplies from Lake Hodges and the San Dieguito Reservoir.*

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