

El Margarita, Wildewood, Country Village North, Franklin Elementary School Water Systems

County: Sutter

Population: 995

Challenges: Drinking water standard violations for arsenic, bacteria and nitrate

Four public water systems in Sutter County faced consistent high levels of arsenic, nitrate, perchlorate and bacteria – making serving safe drinking water to their consumers a difficult challenge. To address these problems, the four systems were consolidated into Yuba City’s public water system, thus providing a safe supply of drinking water.

The consolidation project, which included the El Margarita and Wildewood mutual water companies, Franklin Elementary School and Village North Mobile Home Park included installing nearly 27,000 feet of waterline, the destruction of two groundwater wells, and two more turned into irrigation wells. The project was primarily funded through Proposition 84 grants, with Yuba City picking up other costs not eligible under grant financing.

The Country Village North Mobile Home Park water system served approximately 26 customers through 18 service connections from one well. The park was under a compliance order for violating the total coliform rule and had water that regularly exceeded the arsenic detection limit for the purposes of reporting.

El Margarita Mutual Water Company served approximately 246 customers through 82 service connections and one well that exceeded the drinking water standard for nitrate. Along with the nitrate violation, the water systems well also exceeded the drinking water standard for perchlorate.

One of Franklin Elementary School’s two groundwater wells served approximately 468 students, faculty and staff and regularly exceeded the drinking water standard for arsenic, and the Wildewood Mutual Water Company served approximately 255 customers through 85 service connections and one well that regularly exceeded the standard for arsenic.



Photo 1 Construction takes place to connect the communities to Yuba City.