



**State Water Resources Control Board**  
Division of Drinking Water

July 7, 2016

Ken Mann, Senior Manager  
Golden Queen Mining Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1030  
Mojave, CA 93502

**RE: SOLEDAD MOUNTAIN PROJECT WATER SYSTEM (WATER SYSTEM NO. 1503664)  
COMPLIANCE ORDER FOR VIOLATION OF ARSENIC MCL**

Enclosed is Compliance Order No. 03-19-16R-004 that the State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter State Board), Division of Drinking Water is issuing to Golden Queen Mining Company, Inc. for a violation of the California Safe Drinking Water Act. The Soledad Mountain Project Water System (hereinafter Water System) of the Golden Queen Mining Company has been serving water to consumers that fails the primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic of 0.010 milligrams-per-liter. As discussed in the compliance order, the Water System shall develop and implement a plan to resolve the arsenic MCL violation and ensure that water served to consumers meets all drinking water standards.

Please note that on or before July 22, 2016, the Water System is required to submit a written response to the State Board indicating its agreement to comply with the directives of the compliance order and with the Corrective Action Plan addressed in the said compliance order. **On or before August 5, 2016, the Water System is required to present the Corrective Action Plan required under Directive No. 6 of the compliance order, to the State Board in person at the State Board of Drinking Water's office located at 4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120, Bakersfield, California 93309. The deadline to achieve compliance with the arsenic MCL is December 31, 2016.** Until the State Board determines that the Water System is in compliance with the arsenic MCL, you must continue to provide quarterly public notification for arsenic. After providing quarterly public notification, a copy of the public notice along with a completed Certification of Public Notification form (Attachment D of the compliance order) should be submitted to the State Board's Bakersfield office. Failure to comply with deadlines and directives specified in the compliance order will result in further enforcement action by the State Board.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (661) 335-7318 or Carl Carlucci, Supervising Sanitary Engineer at (559) 447-3132.

Sincerely,

Jaswinder S. Dhaliwal, P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer, Tehachapi District  
Southern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Enclosure: Compliance Order No. 03-19-16R-004

CC: Kern County Environmental Health Services Department (w/out enclosure)  
sKOO'kum h2o monitoring, inc. (via email)  
Kris Wilcox, P.E., Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc. (via email)

1 CALIFORNIA  
2 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
3 DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
4

5  
6 TO: Soledad Mountain Project Water System (System No. 1503664)  
7

8 ATTN: Ken Mann, Manager  
9 Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd.  
10 P.O. Box 1030  
11 Mojave, CA 93502

12 **COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. 03-19-16R-004**

13 **FOR**

14 **VIOLATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 1166555 (a)(1)**

15 **AND THE PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD FOR ARSENIC**

16 **Issued: July 7, 2016**  
17

18 The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "State Board"), acting by and  
19 through its Division of Drinking Water and the Deputy Director for the Division  
20 (hereinafter "Deputy Director"), hereby issues this compliance order (hereinafter  
21 "Order") pursuant to Section 116655 of the California Health and Safety Code  
22 (hereinafter "CHSC") to Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd. for violation of CHSC  
23 section 116555(a)(1) and Title 22, California Code of Regulations (hereinafter "CCR"),  
24 Section 64431.  
25  
26  
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2 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

3 **CHSC, Section 116555(a)(1) states in relevant part:**

4 (a) Any person who owns a public water system shall ensure that the system does all  
5 of the following:

6 (1) Complies with primary and secondary drinking water standards.

7 **CHSC, Section 116655 states in relevant part:**

8 (a) Whenever the State Board determines that any person has violated or is violating  
9 this chapter, or any permit, regulation, or standard issued or adopted pursuant to this  
10 chapter, the director may issue an order doing any of the following:

11 (1) Directing compliance forthwith.

12 (2) Directing compliance in accordance with a time schedule set by the State Board.

13 (3) Directing that appropriate preventive action be taken in the case of a threatened  
14 violation.

15 (b) An order issued pursuant to this section may include, but shall not be limited to,  
16 any or all of the following requirements:

17 (1) That the existing plant, works, or system be repaired, altered, or added to.

18 (2) That purification or treatment works be installed.

19 (3) That the source of the water supply be changed.

20 (4) That no additional service connection be made to the system.

21 (5) That the water supply, the plant, or the system be monitored.

22 (6) That a report on the condition and operation of the plant, works, system, or water  
23 supply be submitted to the State Board.

24 **Title 22, CCR, Section 64431 (hereinafter “Section 64431”), states in relevant  
25 part:**

26 Public water systems shall comply with the primary MCLs in table 64431-A as  
27 specified in this article.

**Table 64431-A**  
**Maximum Contaminant Levels**  
**Inorganic Chemicals**

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level, mg/L</i>
Aluminum	1.
Antimony	0.006
<b>Arsenic</b>	<b>0.010</b>
Asbestos	7 MFL*
Barium	1.
Beryllium	0.004
Cadmium	0.005
Chromium	0.05
Cyanide	0.15
Fluoride	2.0
Hexavalent chromium	0.010
Mercury	0.002
Nickel	0.1
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	45.
Nitrate+Nitrite (sum as nitrogen)	10.
Nitrite (as nitrogen)	1.
Perchlorate	0.006
Selenium	0.05
Thallium	0.002

\* MFL=million fibers per liter; MCL for fibers exceeding 10 um in length.

Title 22, CCR Section 64432 (hereinafter "Section 64432") provides in relevant part:

**Section 64432**

...

(g) If the level of any inorganic chemical, except for nitrate, nitrite, nitrate plus nitrite, or perchlorate, exceeds the MCL, the water supplier shall do one of the following:

(1) Inform the State Board within 48 hours and monitor quarterly beginning in the next quarter after the exceedance occurred; or

(2) Inform the State Board within seven days from the receipt of the analysis and, as confirmation, collect one additional sample within 14 days from receipt of the analysis. If the average of the two samples collected exceeds the MCL, this information shall be reported to the State Board within 48 hours and the water supplier shall monitor quarterly beginning in the next quarter after the exceedance occurred.

1 (h) If the concentration of an inorganic chemical exceeds ten times the MCL, within 48  
2 hours of receipt of the result the water supplier shall notify the State Board and  
3 resample as confirmation. The water supplier shall notify the State Board of the  
4 result(s) of the confirmation sample(s) within 24 hours of receipt of the confirmation

5 (1) If the average concentration of the original and confirmation sample(s) is less than  
6 or equal to ten times the MCL, the water supplier shall monitor quarterly beginning in  
7 the quarter following the quarter in which the exceedance occurred.

8 (2) If the average concentration of the original and confirmation sample(s) exceeds ten  
9 times the MCL, the water supplier shall, if directed by the State Board;

10 (A) Immediately discontinue use of the contaminated water source; and

11 (B) Not return the source to service without written approval from the State Board.

12 (i) Compliance with the MCLs shall be determined by a running annual average; if any  
13 one sample would cause the annual average to exceed the MCL, the system is  
14 immediately in violation. If a system takes more than one sample in a quarter, the  
15 average of all the results for that quarter shall be used when calculating the running  
16 annual average. If a system fails to complete four consecutive quarters of monitoring,  
17 the running annual average shall be based on an average of the available data.

## 18 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

19 The State Board is informed by Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd. and believes  
20 that the Soledad Mountain Project Water System (hereinafter "Water System") is a  
21 nontransient noncommunity water system located in Kern County that supplies water  
22 for domestic purposes to approximately 51 individuals through approximately 4 service  
23 connections. A Domestic Water Supply Permit has not yet been issued to the Water  
24 System. The State Board was forwarded a letter by the Kern County Public Health  
25 Services Department's Environmental Health Division that they received from the  
26 Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd., which requested early occupancy of the  
27 Workshop Warehouse and Assay Laboratory Building. A copy of the letter is provided

1 in **Attachment A**. The State Board responded via letter dated April 2, 2015 (copy  
2 provided in **Attachment B**). The State Board did not oppose the early occupancy  
3 request due to the fact that at the time, the facilities were not going to be occupied by  
4 25 or more persons for 60 days out of the year, and the facilities did not have water  
5 service connections yet. During a site inspection on April 22, 2016, by the State  
6 Board staff, it was revealed that the Water System was already serving more than 25  
7 people for 60 days or more out of the year but failed to notify the State Board. In an  
8 email response dated June 27, 2016, from Joe Balas of the Water System, it was  
9 reported that the Water System has had a population of 25 or more since June 2015,  
10 and construction of the Water System was completed in January 2016.  
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14 The Water System utilizes two groundwater wells (Well PW-1 and Well PW-4) as its  
15 source of domestic water. Title 22, CCR, Division 4, Chapter 15, Article 4, establishes  
16 primary drinking water standards and monitoring and reporting requirements for  
17 inorganic constituents. Community and nontransient noncommunity water systems  
18 must comply with the maximum contaminant level for arsenic of 0.010 mg/L, as  
19 established in Title 22 CCR Section 64431.  
20

21  
22 A sample collected from the Water System on May 3, 2016, showed an arsenic  
23 concentration of 0.057 mg/L in Well PW-1 (PS Code 1503664-001). Therefore, in  
24 accordance with Section 64431 (g), the Water System is required to begin quarterly  
25 arsenic monitoring of Well PW-1, unless it chose to submit an additional sample,  
26 which it did not do. Section 64431 (i) provides that compliance with the arsenic MCL  
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1 is based on a “running annual average” (RAA) of the quarterly monitoring samples,  
2 computed each quarter. Further, Section 64431 (i) states: “if any one sample would  
3 cause the annual average to exceed the MCL, the system is immediately in violation.”  
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5  
6 Although four quarterly samples are not available yet, assuming a best case scenario  
7 where the future arsenic results are “non-detect”, the RAA value for Well PW-1 would  
8 be 0.014 mg/L, which exceeds the arsenic MCL of 0.010 mg/L.  
9

10 The Water System originally proposed to install point-of-entry (POE) arsenic removal  
11 treatment facilities to mitigate the arsenic contamination problem. After learning that  
12 point-of-use (POU) treatment would only be required to be provided at the breakroom  
13 sinks, and not all water fixtures, Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd. decided to  
14 pursue POU treatment instead of POE treatment. Due to high arsenic in the well water,  
15 the Water System is currently working on a proposal to conduct a treatment pilot study  
16 for installing POU treatment.  
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19 **DETERMINATIONS**

20 Based on the above Statement of Facts, the State Board has determined that the  
21 Water System has violated CHSC, Section 116555 and Section 64431 in that the  
22 water produced by Well PW-1 during the second quarter of 2016, exceeded the  
23 arsenic MCL.  
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1 **DIRECTIVES**

2 Water System is hereby directed to take the following actions:

- 3 1. On or before December 31, 2016, comply with Title 22, CCR, Section 64431 and  
4 remain in compliance.  
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- 7 2. On or before July 22, 2016, submit a written response to the State Board indicating  
8 its agreement to comply with the directives of this Order and with the Corrective  
9 Action Plan addressed herein.  
10
- 11 3. Commencing on the date of service of this Order, provide quarterly public  
12 notification in accordance with **Attachment C**, hereto, of Water System's failure to  
13 meet the arsenic MCL during any calendar quarter that the four-quarter running  
14 annual average exceeds the MCL.  
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- 16
- 17 4. Commencing on the date of service of this Order, submit proof of each public  
18 notification conducted in compliance with Directive No. 3, herein above, within 10  
19 days following each such notification, using the form provided as **Attachment D**,  
20 hereto.  
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- 23
- 24 5. Commencing on the date of service of this Order collect quarterly samples for  
25 arsenic from Well PW-1, as required by Section 64432(g), and ensure that the  
26 analytical results are reported to the State Board electronically by the analyzing  
27

1 laboratory no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the month in which the analysis was  
2 completed.

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5 6. Prepare for State Board approval a Corrective Action Plan identifying  
6 improvements to the water system designed to correct the water quality problem  
7 (violation of the arsenic MCL) and ensure that the Water System delivers water to  
8 consumers that meets primary drinking water standards. The plan shall include a  
9 time schedule for completion of each of the phases of the project such as arsenic  
10 treatment pilot study, design, construction, and startup, and a date as of which the  
11 Water System will be in compliance with the arsenic MCL, which date shall be no  
12 later than December 31, 2016.  
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16 7. On or before August 5, 2016, present the Corrective Action Plan required under  
17 Directive No. 6, above, to the State Board in person at the State Board's office  
18 located at 4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120, Bakersfield, California 93309.  
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22 8. Timely perform the State Board approved Corrective Action Plan and each and  
23 every element of said plan according to the time schedule set forth therein.  
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1 9. On or before October 1, 2016, and every three months thereafter, submit a report  
2 to the State Board in the form provided as **Attachment E**, hereto, showing actions  
3 taken during the previous calendar three months to comply with the Corrective  
4 Action Plan.

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8 10. Not later than ten (10) days following the date of compliance with the arsenic MCL,  
9 demonstrate to the State Board that the water delivered by Water System complies  
10 with the arsenic MCL.

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13 11. Notify the State Board in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the deadline for  
14 performance of any Directive set forth herein if Water System anticipates it will not  
15 timely meet such performance deadline.

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18 All submittals required by this Order shall be addressed to:

19  
20 Jaswinder S. Dhaliwal, Senior Sanitary Engineer  
21 State Water Resources Control Board  
22 Division of Drinking Water, Tehachapi District  
23 4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120  
Bakersfield, California 93309

24 As used in this Order, the date of issuance shall be the date of this Order; and the  
25 date of service shall be the date of service of this Order, personal or by certified mail,  
26 on the Water System.  
27

1 The State Board reserves the right to make such modifications to this Order and/or to  
2 issue such further order(s) as it may deem necessary to protect public health and  
3 safety. Such modifications may be issued as amendments to this Order and shall be  
4 deemed effective upon issuance.  
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8 Nothing in this Order relieves Water System of its obligation to meet the requirements  
9 of the California SDWA, or any regulation, standard, permit or order issued  
10 thereunder.  
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13 **PARTIES BOUND**

14 This Order shall apply to and be binding upon Water System, its owners,  
15 shareholders, officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and  
16 assignees.  
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20 **SEVERABILITY**

21 The Directives of this Order are severable, and Water System shall comply with each  
22 and every provision hereof, notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.  
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1 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

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3 The California SDWA authorizes the State Board to: issue a citation with assessment  
4 of administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation  
5 of the requirements of the California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard,  
6 citation, or order issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to  
7 correct a violation identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA  
8 also authorizes the State Board to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has  
9 been issued to a public water system if the public water system has violated  
10 applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the State Board;  
11 and to petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a  
12 public water system that has failed to comply with an order of the State Board. The  
13 State Board does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this Order.  
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17 **CIVIL PENALTIES**

18 Section 116650, subsections (d) and (e) of the CHSC allow for the assessment of a  
19 civil penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.  
20 Failure to comply with any provision of this Compliance Order may result in the State  
21 Board imposing a penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)  
22 per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for each day that a violation  
23 continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.  
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Carl L. Carlucci, P.E., Chief  
Central California Section  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Drinking Water

7-7-2016  
Date



Certified Mail No. 7014 3490 0001 7868 8118

Attachments

- Attachment A: Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd. Letter to Kern County
- Attachment B: State Water Resources Control Board Letter dated April 2, 2015
- Attachment C: Public Notification Template for Arsenic MCL Violation
- Attachment D: Certification of Completion of Public Notification Template
- Attachment E: Quarterly Progress Report Template

cc: Kern County Environmental Health Services Department  
skOO'kum h2o, monitoring, Inc., Sampler (via email)  
Dee Jaspar & Associates, Inc. (via email)

**Attachment A**

**Letter from Golden Queen Mining Company**

**to**

**Kern County Public Health Services Department, Env. Health Division**



**Public Health Services Department  
Environmental Health Division  
2700 M Street, Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Attention: Ms Nina Brennan**

**Re: Soledad Mountain Project – Early Occupancy**

### **Introduction**

Golden Queen Mining Co., LLC. (the “Company”) is developing a gold and silver, open pit, heap leach operation on its Soledad Mountain property, located south of Mojave in Kern County in southern California. The Soledad Mountain Project (the “Project”) will use conventional open pit mining methods and the cyanide heap leach and Merrill-Crowe processes to recover gold and silver from crushed, agglomerated ore.

In order to support these operations, a range of infrastructure is required. A water supply and distribution system has been designed and the information has been submitted for review and approval to State of California and Kern County agencies. A site power supply and distribution system has been designed and permits have been issued by Kern County agencies and construction is well under way. The Workshop-Warehouse building has been constructed, the Assay Laboratory building is currently under construction and the Merrill-Crowe plant building construction will start in early March. Below is a brief description of each of these projects:

### **Workshop-Warehouse**

This building consists of a large work area for performing maintenance on the mobile mining equipment, a warehouse for housing spare parts for the operation, offices for the mining and maintenance personnel, restrooms and a break room.

Building construction started in January 2014 and was completed in June 2014.

### **Assay Laboratory**

This building has three primary work areas for a range of analyses and test work required for a mining operation, one office, restrooms and a break room.

Building construction started in October 2014 and will be completed in March 2015.

### **Merrill-Crowe Plant Building**

This building will house the equipment necessary to extract and recover gold and silver, two offices, restrooms and a break room.

Building construction will start in March 2015 and is estimated to be completed in September 2015.

### **Water Supply System**

The Company engaged Dee Jaspar & Associates, Inc. of Bakersfield to design the water supply and distribution system that will provide process water, fire water and potable water for the Project. Water will be pumped from well(s) located north of the site to a storage tank facility. From the storage tank facility water will be distributed throughout the site for various uses.

The potable water system will be equipped with passive arsenic removal systems at the point of entry into each of the three buildings.

Completion of the water supply and distribution system is expected in July 2015.

### **Power Supply and Distribution System**

The Company designed and has received the necessary approvals and permits for the Power Supply and Distribution System that will provide electrical power to the various facilities. Additionally, the Company has applied for service with Southern California Edison. Construction is currently underway and is estimated to be completed by June 2015.

### **Turn-Key Projects**

The Company has entered into numerous turn-key contracts for the construction of all the site facilities. This approach allows the Company to maintain a low staffing level through the Project's construction phase, only having to provide project management and oversight of the contractors. Each contractor is required to provide adequate facilities for employees at their cost. The contractors will not use the Company's facilities.

## Early Occupancy

Although the Workshop-Warehouse has been completed and the Assay Laboratory will be completed soon, final sign off by the Kern County Building Department cannot take place until water and power are provided to these buildings. For the time being, until water and power are provided, the Company is requesting early occupancy of the Workshop-Warehouse and Assay Laboratory buildings.

Temporary power can be provided via portable power generators, and drinking water, emergency eye wash stations, and portable chemical toilets can also be provided until completion of the water supply and distribution system. The Company believes that a permit is not required initially as the number of Company employees on site will be less than twenty-five. Ultimately the Company will have approximately one hundred and sixty-five permanent employees but will not reach that level until the end of 2015. The staffing schedule for the remainder of 2015 is shown in the table below:

### 2015 Project Staffing Schedule

February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
5	15	17	17	20	20	23	55	75	100	150

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (661) 221-1620 or [jbalas@goldenqueen.com](mailto:jbalas@goldenqueen.com) if you require additional information.

Respectfully,



Joe Balas  
Manager – Plant Operations  
Golden Queen Mining Company, LLC

Cc: H. Lutz Klingmann, CEO, Golden Queen Mining Company, LLC

**Attachment B**

**State Board Letter dated April 2, 2015 Temporary Approval**



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**State Water Resources Control Board**  
Division of Drinking Water

April 2, 2015

Joe Balas, Manager – Plant Operations  
Golden Queen Mining Company, LLC  
P.O. Box 1030  
Mojave, CA 93501

**RE: SOLEDAD MOUNTAIN PROJECT – EARLY OCCUPANCY (System No. 1503664)**

Dear Mr. Balas:

The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter Division) was recently forwarded a letter by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Department and Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc. In the letter, Golden Queen Mining Company, LLC, is requesting early occupancy of the Workshop-Warehouse and Assay Laboratory Buildings using bottled water for drinking and portable restrooms. Currently, these buildings do not have water service connections, and the facilities are not going to be occupied by 25 or more individuals for 60 days or more out of the year. In accordance with the stipulations of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC), Section 116275, the water system serving these facilities does not meet the definition of a public water system. As such, the Division does not oppose your early occupancy request.

It is important to mention that Golden Queen Mining Company has submitted a domestic water supply permit application to the Division to operate the Soledad Mountain Project Water System (hereinafter Water System) which would ultimately provide domestic water service to various facilities that are being built by the Company. As part of the permitting process, arsenic removal treatment facilities are currently being designed and built to remove arsenic from the Water System's well. None of these facilities should have any domestic water (to be used for human consumption) from the well until written approval from the Division is obtained. If at any time, Soledad Mountain Project Water System meets the definition of a public water system, and operates without first obtaining a domestic water supply permit from the Division, Golden Queen Mining Company, LLC would be considered in violation of CHSC Section 116525, and subject to enforcement action by the Division.

If you have any questions concerning the issues discussed in this letter, please contact Osiel Jaime at (661) 335-7347.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaswinder S. Dhaliwal".

Jaswinder S. Dhaliwal, P.E.  
Senior Sanitary Engineer  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

cc: Kern County Environmental Health Services Department  
Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120, Bakersfield, CA 93309 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

**Attachment C**

**Public Notification Template for Arsenic MCL Violation**

## Instructions for Tier 2 Arsenic MCL Notice Template

### Template Attached

Since exceeding the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) is a Tier 2 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation [California Code of Regulations Title 22, Chapter 15, Section 64463.4(b)]. **Each water system required to give public notice must submit the notice to the Department for approval prior to distribution or posting, unless otherwise directed by the Department [64463(b)].**

### Notification Methods

You must use the methods summarized in the table below to deliver the notice to consumers. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

<i>If You Are a...</i>	<i>You Must Notify Consumers by...</i>	<i>...and By One or More of the Following Methods to Reach Persons Not Likely to be Reached by the Previous Method...</i>
Community Water System [64463.4(c)(1)]	Mail or direct delivery <sup>(a)</sup>	Publication in a local newspaper
		Posting in public places served by the water system or on the Internet <sup>(b)</sup>
		Delivery to community organizations
Non-Community Water System [64463.4(c)(2)]	Posting in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system <sup>(b)</sup>	Publication in a local newspaper or newsletter distributed to customers
		Email message to employees or students
		Posting on the Internet or intranet <sup>(b)</sup>
		Direct delivery to each customer

(a) Notice must be distributed to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the water system.

(b) Notice must be posted in place for as long as the violation or occurrence continues, but in no case less than seven days.

The notice attached is appropriate for the methods described above. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects and notification language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory [64465].

### Multilingual Requirement

Spanish. Each public notice must contain information in Spanish regarding (1) the importance of the notice or (2) contain a telephone number or address where Spanish-speaking residents may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the public notice or assistance in Spanish.

*Non-English Speaking Groups Other than Spanish-Speaking.* For each group that exceeds 1,000 residents or 10% of the residents in the community served, whichever is less, the public notice must (1) contain information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the notice or (2) contain a telephone number or address where such residents may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the notice or assistance in the appropriate language.

### **Population Served**

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system -- you may need to list the areas you serve.

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with chemical or radiological violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- “We are working with [local/state agency] to evaluate the water supply and researching options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove arsenic or connecting to [system]’s water supply.”
- “We have stopped using the contaminated well. We have increased pumping from other wells, and we are investigating drilling a new well.”
- “We will increase the frequency at which we test the water for arsenic.”
- “We have since taken samples at this location and had them tested. They show that we meet the standards.”

### **After Issuing the Notice**

Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to the Department within ten days after you issue the notice [64469(d)]. You should also issue a follow-up notice in addition to meeting any repeat notice requirements the Department sets.

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

It is a good idea to issue a “problem corrected” notice when the violation is resolved.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### Soledad Mountain Project Water System Has Levels of Arsenic Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Based on the samples collected from \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_ Quarter \_\_\_\_\_) to \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_ Quarter \_\_\_\_\_), water produced by Well PW-1 contained an average of \_\_\_\_\_ milligrams per liter. Well PW-1 produced water that is above the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.010 mg/L. This standard is based upon the running annual average of the most recent quarterly arsenic monitoring.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk to getting cancer.*
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

#### What happened? What is being done?

Golden Queen Mining Company, Inc. is working with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water to resolve the high arsenic problem. We anticipate achieving compliance with the arsenic MCL by December 31, 2016

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Golden Queen Mining Company, Inc.

State Water System ID#: 1503664. Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment D**

**Certification of Completion of Public Notification Template**

## Certification of Completion of Public Notification

**(Include a Copy of Public Notice with the Certification of Completion of Public Notification)**

This form, when completed and returned to the Division of Drinking Water – Tehachapi District (4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120, Bakersfield, CA 93309 or fax to 661-335-7316), serves as certification that public notification to water users was completed as required by Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Sections 64463-64465.

**Public Water System Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Soledad Mountain Project Water System \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Water System No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ 1503664 \_\_\_\_\_

Public notification for arsenic MCL violation for the (            ) Quarter of \_\_\_\_\_

was performed by the following method(s) (check and complete those that apply):

- The notice was mailed to users on: \_\_\_\_\_  
A copy of the notice is attached.
  
- The notice was hand delivered to water customers on: \_\_\_\_\_  
A copy of the notice is attached.
  
- The notice was published in the local newspaper on: \_\_\_\_\_  
A copy of the newspaper notice is attached.
  
- The notice was posted at conspicuous places on: \_\_\_\_\_  
A copy of the notice is attached.  
A list of locations the notice was posted is attached.
  
- The notice was delivered to community organizations on: \_\_\_\_\_  
A copy of the notice is attached.  
A list of community organizations the notice was delivered to is attached.

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Disclosure:** Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code state that any person who knowingly makes any false statement on any report or document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the attached order may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for separate violation each day that the violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Due to the Division of Drinking Water within 10 days of issuance of notice to customers

Enforcement Action No. 03-19-16R-004

**Attachment E**

**Quarterly Progress Report Template**

# Quarterly Progress Report

Water System: <b>Soledad Mountain Project Water System</b>	Water System No.: <b>1503664</b>
Compliance Order No.: <b>03-19-16R-004</b>	Violation: <b>Arsenic MCL</b>
Calendar Quarter:	Date Prepared:

This form should be prepared and signed by Water System personnel with appropriate authority to implement the directives of the Compliance Order and the Corrective Action Plan. Please attach additional sheets as necessary. The quarterly progress report must be submitted by the 10th day of each subsequent quarter, to the Division of Drinking Water, Tehachapi District Office.

## Summary of Compliance Plan:

## Tasks completed in the reporting quarter:

## Tasks remaining to complete:

Anticipate compliance date:

Name

Signature

Title

Date