

BEFORE THE STATE OF OREGON  
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
CENTER FOR HEALTH PROTECTION

In the Matter of

Oasis Café public water system, PWS  
OR4193644

Respondent

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

To: Thomas Ryder  
James and Rowena Lang  
Tammy Lyons  
PO Box 186  
Juntura, OR 97911

Thomas Ryder and James and Rowena Lang own, and Tammy Lyons operates, the Oasis Cafe water system (hereinafter “Water System”) located at 5838 US Highway 20 in Juntura, Oregon. The Water System is a transient non-community public water system serving approximately 50 people and is subject to regulation under Oregon Revised Statutes 448.115 to 448.290 and Oregon Administrative Rules 333-061-0005 to 333-061-0272.

Thomas Ryder, James and Rowena Lang and Tammy Lyons (hereinafter “Water Supplier”) are therefore a water supplier as defined in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 448.115(12) and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-061-0020, and as a water supplier, have specific responsibilities that are identified in OAR 333-061-0025.

Pursuant to its authority established in ORS 431A.010 and ORS 448.255, the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Center for Health Protection, Drinking Water Services (DWS) has investigated the operation of the Water System.

DWS found, during its investigation, that Water Supplier did not consistently report sample results for nitrate or coliform bacteria and previously did not investigate the source of coliform bacteria present in other water quality samples. Water Supplier is therefore unable to assure its water users that the water is sufficiently free from contaminants such that individuals will not be exposed to disease or harmful physiological effects (ORS 448.115(8)). This represents a potential public health hazard.

This Notice of Violation and Administrative Order (Order) is being issued to Water Supplier for the specific violations of the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act (ORS 448.115 to ORS 448.290) and rules found during DWS' investigation as described below.

#### DESCRIPTION OF RULE VIOLATIONS

1. OAR 333-061-0025(1) requires water suppliers to routinely collect and submit water samples for laboratory analyses at the frequencies prescribed by OAR 333-061-0036. OAR 333-061-0036(2)(c) requires sampling for nitrate at public water systems at least once every year, but Water Supplier did not report sample results to DWS as required. Additionally, OAR 333-061-0036(6)(b)(C) requires sampling for coliform bacteria at public water systems at least once every month, but Water Supplier did not report sample results to DWS as required. This constitutes a violation of OAR 333-061-0025(1) if samples were in fact not collected.
2. OAR 333-061-0036(2)(c) requires water suppliers to monitor for nitrate at least once every year at public water systems. Additionally, OAR 333-061-0040(1)(b)(A) requires water suppliers to report monitoring required by OAR 333-061-0036 to DWS within 10 days of the end of the required monitoring period. Water Supplier has not reported nitrate monitoring for the Water System since reporting a sample collected on November 19, 2020. This constitutes a violation of OAR 333-061-0036(2)(c), or a violation of OAR 333-061-0040(1)(b)(A) if monitoring was conducted but not reported.
3. OAR 333-061-0036(6)(b)(C) requires, in part, water suppliers to monitor for coliform bacteria at least once every month at transient non-community public water systems. Additionally, OAR 333-061-0040(1)(b)(A) requires water suppliers to report

monitoring required by OAR 333-061-0036 to DWS within 10 days of the end of the required monitoring period. Water Supplier has not reported coliform monitoring for the Water System since reporting a sample collected on March 29, 2021. This constitutes a violation of OAR 333-061-0036(6), or a violation of OAR 333-061-0040(1)(b)(A) if monitoring was conducted but not reported.

4. OAR 333-061-0078(2)(a) requires, in part, water suppliers to conduct a coliform investigation if every required repeat sample is not collected following a total-coliform positive sample. A total coliform-positive sample was reported to DWS on March 31, 2021 but the required repeat samples were not reported to DWS as required. The failure to report repeat samples triggered the requirement for a coliform investigation but Water Supplier did not submit an investigation report for review and approval. This constitutes a violation of OAR 333-061-0078(2) if the investigation was not completed.

#### ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE

Water Supplier is required to conduct the remedial actions described below which, if taken within the time specified in this Order, will effect compliance with the rule(s) violated (ORS 448.255(3)).

1. Water Supplier must monitor for nitrate according to OAR 333-061-0036(2)(c) at the Water System and report the monitoring results to DWS no later than April 10, 2022.
2. Water Supplier must monitor for coliform bacteria at the Water System according to all the applicable provisions of OAR 333-061-0036(6).
  - Routine monitoring for coliform bacteria must immediately be conducted for the month of February 2022 and the results reported to DWS no later than March 10, 2022.
  - Additionally, all routine, repeat and source water monitoring for coliform bacteria must be conducted according to the applicable provisions of OAR 333-061-0036(6) for at least six consecutive months, from February through July 2022, inclusive.
  - All monitoring must be reported to DWS within 10 days of the end of the month or the applicable monitoring period according to OAR 333-061-0040(1)(b)(A).

## GENERAL PROVISIONS AND CIVIL PENALTIES

This Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act (ORS 448.115 to 448.290) and Oregon Administrative Rules OAR 333-061-0005 to 333-061-0272, which remain in full force and effect.

This Order does not relieve Water Supplier of any responsibilities or liabilities established pursuant to any applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation.

Issuance of this Order is not an election by DWS to forgo any civil actions authorized under the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements in this Order by the specified due date may result in additional enforcement action, which could include assessment of civil penalties in the amount of \$50 per day per violation (OAR 333-061-0090). Civil penalties may be assessed beginning the day following the date of service of this Order and accruing through the date when DWS issues a Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty. For example, if DWS issues a Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty on April 11, 2022 for failure to report nitrate and coliform bacteria monitoring according to this Order, the proposed civil penalty could be as much as \$4,000.

Pursuant to ORS 448.990(2), violations of a rule of the Oregon Health Authority may be a crime in Oregon and punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.

## NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

You are entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act (Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 183). If you want a hearing you must file a written request for hearing with DWS within 10 days from the date this Order was mailed. **The request for hearing must be sent to: David Emme, Manager; Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services; PO Box 14450; Portland, OR 97293.**

If you request a hearing, DWS will notify you of the time and place at which the hearing will be held. You may enlist representation by legal counsel. Per ORS 413.041, a party that is not a natural person may be represented by an attorney or by any officer or authorized agent or employee of the party. Parties are ordinarily represented by counsel. DWS will be represented by an Assistant Attorney General. Prior to the hearing date, DWS will provide you with information on the procedures, right of representation and other rights of parties relating to the conduct of the hearing. An administrative law judge

from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be assigned to preside over the hearing, as required by ORS 183.635.

If you do not make a timely request for a hearing, the Notice of Violation and Administrative Order will become final and effective 11 days after the date this Order was mailed. If the Order becomes final in this manner, you will have the right to appeal the order to the Oregon Court of Appeals pursuant to ORS 183.482. To appeal you must file a petition for judicial review with the Court of Appeals within 71 days from the day this order was mailed. If you do not file a petition for judicial review within the 71-day time period, you will lose your right to appeal.

If you do not request a hearing and DWS subsequently issues a Notice Imposing a Civil Penalty, you will have waived any right to contest the violations.

If you withdraw a request for hearing, or notify DWS or the administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, DWS may issue a final order by default. If the Order becomes final in this manner, you will have the right to appeal the Order to the Oregon Court of Appeals pursuant to ORS 183.482. To appeal you must file a petition for judicial review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the day this Order was mailed. If you do not file a petition for judicial review within the 60-day time period, you will lose your right to appeal.

#### **Notice to Active Duty Servicemembers**

Active-duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service members Civil Relief Act and may contact the Oregon State Bar at 1 (800) 452-8260 or the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 for more information. The internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Locator website is <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

DWS has designated its complete file on the Water System as the record in this case for purposes of proving a prima facie case upon default.

If you need to receive the information in this Order in an alternate format, or if you have any questions about the requirements in this Order, please contact Brad Daniels at 503-735-5438.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2022.



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David Emme, Manager  
Drinking Water Services  
Oregon Health Authority

cc: Craig Geddes, Malheur County Environmental Health  
Bill Goss, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services  
Amy Word, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services

DATE of Service: February 16, 2022



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Signature

Brad K Daniels  
Printed Name

By certified mail and first-class mail