

## **WELL WATER SAFETY NOTIFICATION**

Recent routine testing required by the California Department of Public Health of certain public water system wells, regulated by the California Department of Public Health, in the Yuba City and Sutter County area, revealed the presence of perchlorate in the water. In follow-up testing of residential domestic wells by the state in the adjacent area, it was discovered that many of the wells tested contained a high level perchlorate and nitrate.

If the level of perchlorate in the water tests exceeded maximum allowable contaminant level, the users of those water systems were notified of the contamination and of the potential health risks associated with that contamination. High levels of perchlorate consumed in drinking water may interfere with iodine uptake by the body, which can lead to low levels of thyroid hormone.

Exposure to high levels of nitrite or nitrate is known to cause certain health conditions. The most serious of these health conditions most commonly affects infants. It is acute acquired methemoglobinemia, commonly known as blue baby syndrome. Maternal exposure to nitrites or nitrates may also result in risk of serious complications of pregnancy.

Nitrates and naturally-occurring arsenic are commonly present in the ground water in Sutter County. It is strongly recommended that owners of residences served by private wells have the well water tested periodically by a qualified laboratory. Costs for private well testing are the responsibility of the property owner. More information and a list of laboratories that do well water testing will also be available on the Sutter County website at [www.suttercounty.org](http://www.suttercounty.org).