

Letter From General Manager Frank Costner

October 2021

Dear Valued Konocti County Water District Customer,

Some of you may be aware that we have brown water in our distribution system. Not all customers have been affected. We understand from water quality testing that the discoloration is a result of increased concentrations of manganese. The state of California is in a prolonged drought. The lake is at its lowest level since 1977. When the weather is hot and the lake is this low the manganese is more prevalent in the lake water.

First, we want you to know that while this water is discolored, it meets all state and federal drinking water requirements and is routinely tested. The California Water Boards is aware of the issue, and we have been in constant contact with them though out the entire time we have had the brown water. Lake County Environmental health is also aware of this issue.

The water treatment plant is designed to reduce pathogens to ensure it is safe, but it is not designed to reduce manganese. When the weather becomes cooler, and it starts to rain, we hope the manganese levels will decline and the discolored water will not be in our distribution system. We are doing everything we can to reduce the amount of manganese in the treated water. When there is more water in the lake we will be flushing the waterlines to remove the manganese that's left in the lines.

The last few years have been very challenging for everyone. Between Covid, fires and now the drought it's been one thing after another. I just want everyone to know we are committed to producing safe drinking water. The water quality in the lake is very bad. Some may be aware of the increased amounts of cyanobacteria in the lake. We test the drinking water for cyanobacteria toxins and the treatment plant is very effective in removing it. We are working overtime and testing the water to make sure it is safe to drink.

Konocti Water has undertaken a major plant improvement project. We received a \$10.6 million dollar grant to construct a new lake intake pipeline, raw water pumphouse and wet well, chemical room, raw water line from the lake to the treatment plant, filter, new storage tank and a pumping station to pump the water from the plant to the storage tanks. The project also will replace the computer system that controls the treatment plant. The Board of Directors and Staff have worked very hard getting the grant money and to get the project to the construction phase. The project will take another 1 ½ years to be completed. The raw water intake will be 1000 feet further out into the lake. When the project is completed the treatment plant will be more resistant to some of the issues related to the droughts.

Konocti Water applied for and received another grant for \$657,000 from the California Emergency Drought program. We will be replacing the media in our filter and installing a booster pump at the lakeshore so we can continue pumping water from the low lake; and install an emergency intertie with Lower Lake Water. We expect to start the construction phase in November.

I want to thank you for your patience while we work through this very challenging time.