



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX – PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

May 28, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Scott Lawson  
Oasis Mobile Home Park  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation  
88740 Avenue 70  
Thermal, CA 92274

Subject: Emergency Administrative Order under Section 1431 SDWA  
U.S. EPA Docket No. PWS-AO-2019-6008  
Oasis Mobile Home Park Public Water System (090605129)

Dear Mr. Lawson:

As you know, on August 27, 2019, U.S. EPA Region 9 (“EPA”) issued the above-referenced Order to Oasis Mobile Home Park (“Oasis”) under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (“SDWA”), 42 U.S.C. § 300i, to address a potential imminent and substantial endangerment to human health from elevated levels of arsenic above the federal SDWA standard in Oasis’ public water system (“the System”). The Order required Oasis to develop and submit to EPA for approval a Work Plan to bring the System into compliance with SDWA’s maximum contaminant level (“MCL”) for arsenic of 10 parts per billion (“ppb”), measured as a running annual average (“RAA”). The Order also required that you address immediate risk to the community by providing an alternative source of water to the residents at no charge to them, “at least one gallon of potable water per day, per person,” pursuant to Paragraph 21.

Specifically, the Order stated in Paragraph 20: “Respondents shall provide an alternative source of water (e.g., bottled water) to customers no later than August 28, 2019, by 12:00 pm, that meets all applicable SDWA requirements at 40 C.F.R. Part 141. Respondents shall provide alternative source of water to its customers at no direct cost to customers until at least such time as Respondents’ System comes into compliance with the arsenic MCL RAA or EPA notifies Respondents in writing that they may discontinue supplying alternative source of water to the System’s customers.”

As a result of the System’s recent compliance with the arsenic MCL RAA, Oasis may discontinue supplying alternative water to its customers as of **May 29, 2020**. It is our understanding that Oasis has paid Coachella Valley Water District for water tender service through May 31, 2020. EPA has prepared the attached fact sheet in English and Spanish to notify Oasis residents that it is safe to use tap water for household needs (i.e., drinking, bathing, showering, hand washing, teeth brushing, food preparation, and dishwashing). EPA will send these fact sheets to Oasis for distribution so they can be placed in the Oasis residents’ individual mailboxes and posted throughout the community. EPA will also disseminate the fact sheets through a press release, local and state environmental agencies, and local community organizations. Please do not hesitate to raise any questions or comments regarding this effort. We would like to ensure a smooth transition, particularly when the weather is getting hotter and people need quick and easy access to drinking water.

While EPA has determined that it is appropriate at this time to lift the alternative water requirements pursuant to paragraph 20, nothing herein relieves Oasis of its obligations to comply with the remaining provisions of the Order. Specifically, Oasis must continue to comply with the Work Plan required by Paragraphs 26 through 28 of the Order and approved by EPA on November 14, 2019. Oasis must also continue to comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) requirements in Paragraph 29 of the Order. Moreover, EPA retains its discretion to reinstate the alternative water requirements, if warranted. In regard to the remaining compliance obligations of the Order, Oasis must continue to work on the following Work Plan tasks and timetables:

- 1) Task 8- “Collect arsenic samples once per week at the appropriately labeled entry point to the distribution system, immediately after filtration.” Given that the System is in compliance with the arsenic MCL, EPA is modifying Paragraph 24 of the Order to require **monthly** monitoring, instead of weekly arsenic monitoring. Please continue to collect the samples and provide timely reports.
- 2) Task 18- “Develop and follow an operations and maintenance plan.” Oasis has made progress on this task, including the development and submittal of several SOPs and the employment of a full-time certified operator who is available 7-days a week. As discussed on May 21, 2020, EPA received a revised SOP for conducting filter backwashes. This SOP must be updated to include written instructions and step-by-step guidelines to make it possible for any other operator to be able to follow the SOP, should the current operator be unavailable. EPA has provided Oasis specific guidance and asked for an updated version of the SOP by **May 29, 2020**.

Lastly, while neither the Order, nor the Work Plan require regular conference calls, EPA believes it would be useful to continue monthly calls with Oasis to ensure that all applicable SDWA requirements are met. These calls have been extremely useful and have resulted in improved compliance.

If you or anyone on your staff have technical questions, please contact Everett Pringle at (415) 972-3548 or via email to [pringle.everett@epa.gov](mailto:pringle.everett@epa.gov). Legal questions should be directed to Marcela von Vacano in our Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3905, or via e-mail to [vonvacano.marcela@epa.gov](mailto:vonvacano.marcela@epa.gov).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Miller, Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Enclosure: EPA May 2020 Fact Sheet – Oasis Mobile Home Park Drinking Water Update

cc: The Honorable Thomas Tortez, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation



# Oasis Mobile Home Park Drinking Water Update

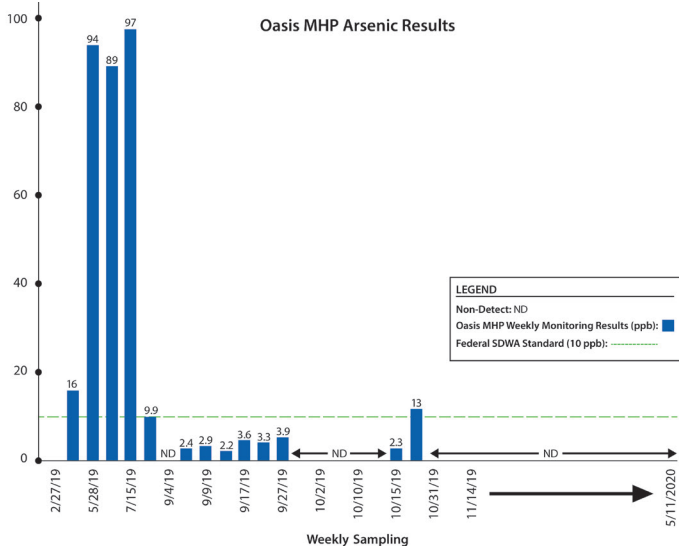
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • May 2020

## What Happened?

On August 27, 2019, EPA issued the Oasis Mobile Home Park (Oasis MHP) an Emergency Administrative Order for violating the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Oasis MHP was in violation because it served water that did not meet the federal standard for arsenic, exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb). The order required Oasis MHP to provide alternate water to residents at no additional cost while it fixed its water system. **Since the water system now meets the federal arsenic standards, EPA is lifting this alternative water requirement.**

## What is Arsenic?

Arsenic is a naturally-occurring element found across the United States. Consuming water with levels of arsenic that exceed the Safe Drinking Water Act standard, over many years, may cause skin damage, circulatory system problems and/or an increased risk of cancer. (See the websites at the end of this fact sheet for more information on arsenic.)

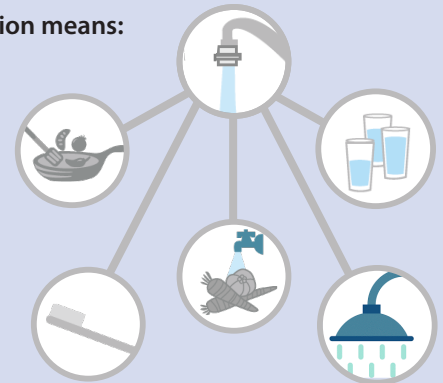


## Is Oasis MHP Water Safe to Use?

Oasis MHP's water system is currently in compliance with the arsenic standard and its water can now be used for human consumption. EPA continues to meet regularly with Oasis MHP to ensure they consistently and reliably meet all Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

### Human consumption means:

1. Drinking
2. Bathing
3. Showering
4. Hand washing
5. Teeth-brushing
6. Food preparation
7. Dishwashing



## What if my water looks or smells different?

**Changes in color and odor do not necessarily indicate a human health risk.** EPA's drinking water regulations set non-mandatory standards for 15 contaminants to manage for taste, color and odor, but the regulations do not give EPA the authority to enforce these standards. For any water emergencies, call Oasis emergency line 24/7 at: (760) 399-0442.

## What's Next?

Oasis MHP must continue to monitor its water system and provide regular updates to EPA to make sure it meets all the remaining terms and conditions of the Emergency Administrative Order and Safe Drinking Water Act.



### Under the Emergency Order, Oasis MHP has completed the following activities:

- ✓ Provided customers an alternative source of drinking water.
- ✓ Completed weekly sampling of the arsenic treatment system.
- ✓ Hired a full time certified operator that is on-site 7 days a week.
- ✓ Repaired its arsenic treatment system to consistently and reliably meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- ✓ Implemented Standard Operating Procedures to prevent further issues and ensure long-term operation and maintenance of the system that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

## For More Information Contact:

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Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791  
Arsenic in drinking water: [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic)  
Arsenic health effects: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf)



# Oasis Mobile Home Park Información Sobre su Agua Potable

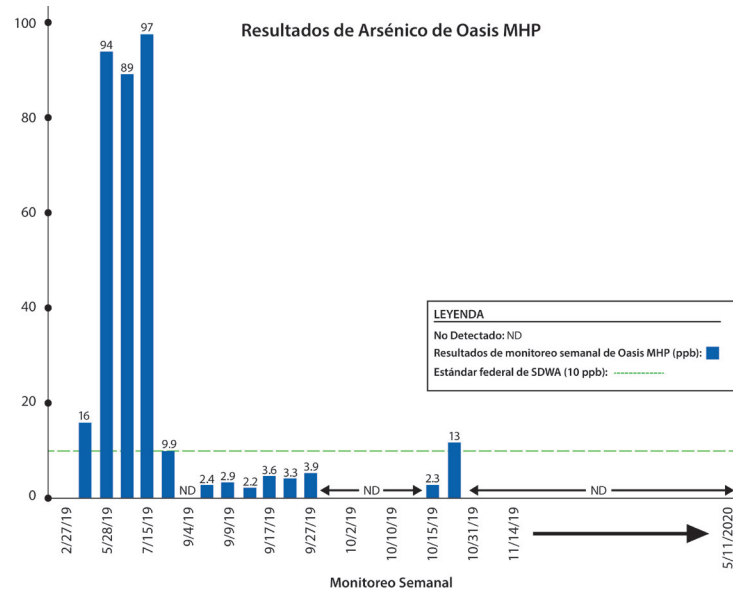
Agencia de Protección Ambiental de EE.UU. • Región 9 • San Francisco, CA • mayo de 2020

## ¿Qué sucedió?

El 27 de agosto de 2019, la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de EE.UU. (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) emitió una Orden de Emergencia para el sistema público de agua del Oasis Mobile Home Park (Oasis MHP) por violar las regulaciones federales de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura (SDWA, por sus siglas en inglés). Oasis MHP estaba en violación porque sirvió agua que no cumplía con los estándares federales del arsénico al no cumplir con el nivel máximo de contaminante de arsénico (MCL, por sus siglas en inglés) de 10 partes por billón (ppb). La orden requirió que Oasis MHP proporcione una fuente alternativa de agua potable a los residentes sin costo adicional mientras reparaba su sistema de agua. **Ya que el sistema de agua ahora cumple con los estándares federales de arsénico, la EPA está levantando el requisito de agua alternativa.**

## ¿Qué es el arsénico?

El arsénico es un elemento natural que se encuentra en muchas partes de Estados Unidos. Consumir agua con niveles de arsénico en exceso del estándar de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura durante muchos años puede causar daños en la piel, problemas del sistema circulatorio, y/o un mayor riesgo de cáncer. (Consulte los sitios web al final de esta hoja informativa para obtener más información sobre el arsénico).



## ¿Es Seguro Usar el Agua de Oasis MHP?

El sistema de agua de Oasis MHP cumple actualmente con el estándar de arsénico y su agua ahora se pueden usar para consumo humano. La EPA continúa reuniéndose regularmente con Oasis MHP para garantizar que cumplan de manera consistente y confiable todas las regulaciones de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura.

### El consumo humano significa:

1. Beber
2. Bañarse
3. Ducharse
4. Lavarse las manos
5. Cepillarse los dientes
6. Preparación de comida
7. Lavavajillas



## ¿Qué pasa si mi agua se ve o huele diferente?

**Los cambios de color y olor no necesariamente indican un riesgo para la salud humana.** Las regulaciones de la EPA sobre el agua potable establecen estándares no obligatorios para 15 contaminantes para controlar el sabor, el color y el olor, pero las regulaciones no otorgan a la EPA la autoridad para hacer cumplir estas normas. Para cualquier emergencia de agua, llame a la línea de emergencia de Oasis las 24/7 al: (760) 399 – 0442.

## ¿Cuáles son los siguientes pasos?

Oasis MHP debe continuar monitoreando su sistema de agua y proporcionará actualizaciones periódicas a la EPA para asegurarse de que cumplan con los términos y condiciones restantes de la Orden de Emergencia y las regulaciones federales de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura.



### Bajo la Orden de Emergencia, Oasis MHP ha completado las siguientes actividades.

- ✓ Proporcionado a los clientes una fuente alternativa de agua potable.
- ✓ Tomado muestras semanales del sistema de tratamiento de arsénico.
- ✓ Contratado a un operador certificado a tiempo completo que está en el sitio 7 días a la semana
- ✓ Reparado su sistema de tratamiento de arsénico para cumplir de manera consistente y confiable con la Ley de Agua Potable Segura.
- ✓ Implementado procedimientos operativos estándar para evitar problemas adicionales y garantizar la operación y mantenimiento a largo plazo del sistema que cumpla con los estándares de la Ley de Agua Potable Segura.

## Para Mas Información:

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Línea directa de agua potable segura: (800) 426 – 4791  
Arsénico en el agua potable (en inglés):  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic)  
Efectos de salud de arsénico (en español):  
[https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/es/toxfaqs/es\\_tfacts2.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/es/toxfaqs/es_tfacts2.pdf)