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For more information, contact Jeanene Fowler at (602) 506-6611 / Pager: (602) 420-7874

Maricopa County Gives The Okay to Begin Flushing Water System

(Phoenix)- Maricopa County Environmental Services Department gave the approval to the City of Peoria this morning to begin advising residents on the Rose Valley Water system how to flush out their systems and begin using City of Peoria water.

Early this morning, the County received additional testing results from the State Lab that confirmed the City of Peoria water now flowing through Rose Valley Water Company's pipes was clear of any bacteria and the chlorine residuals were high. According to research from the Centers for Disease Control, a chlorine level of .5 would kill the *Naegleria fowleri* organism. This week, chlorine residuals in the water system tested between .71-3.5.

Upon hearing the approval from the County, the City of Peoria immediately began delivering fliers door to door advising residents how the process of flushing will take place this evening. The process will begin at 6 p.m. tonight with all homes expected to be up and running with water by midnight. It is very important that residents follow the process set up by the City to prevent any pressure problems.

As residents flush out their systems, water may at first, come out brown or milky. As the water continues to run, it should come out clean. The water may also smell or taste differently because it is now coming from a surface water system and holds a high chlorine residual.

The school, restaurant and churches will be visited this morning by County sanitarians and after a thorough inspection should be online with the water system by late this afternoon.

Residents who would like more information about the flushing process can call the City of Peoria's hotline at 623-773-7777 or may speak directly with a City of Peoria operator at 623-773-8080.