



# Maricopa County

## News Release

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### County Issues Rose Valley Water Letter of Outstanding Violations

PHOENIX (March 17, 2003) – Maricopa County Environmental Services Director, Al Brown has issued a letter to Rose Valley Water today alleging 130 violations of Maricopa County's Environmental Health Code dating from February, 2000 through January, 2003. The company has been given 30 days to respond to these violations.

Many of the alleged violations against Rose Valley Water deal with problems stemming from self-monitoring and reporting.

"Monitoring and reporting are the cornerstones of the Safe Drinking Water Act," said Al Brown, director of Maricopa County Environmental Services Department. "These issues are taken very seriously by our department because when a water system fails to monitor or report, the likelihood that a problem goes undetected and unaddressed rises to an unacceptable level."

Rose Valley Water was taken offline November 3, 2002 in response to the possibility that the organism, *Naegleria fowleri* was in its system. At that time, residents were switched over to City of Peoria water.

Rose Valley was allowed to go back online January 24, 2003 after entering into a compliance agreement with the County, disinfecting its tanks and installing an automatic chlorination system.

"I want to stress to residents that since this system went back online, we have kept very close track of it," Brown said.

In addition to increased sampling by the system, the County has been doing its own total coliform, chlorine and pressure testing. "Residents are receiving a safe product from Rose Valley Water," confirmed Brown.

Over the last few months, the County has conducted an investigation of all of the public water system wells in the County. With 80 percent already chlorinating their systems, the County tested all wells (chlorinated and unchlorinated) for total coliform. As of today, 97 percent of those wells have been tested for total coliform with 7 percent coming back positive. Upon retest, less than 3 percent came back positive and those wells were required to begin immediate chlorination.

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“Again, chlorination is our best defense against any water-borne disease and with the pool season right around the corner, it is important that residents properly chlorinate pools, spas and Jacuzzis,” said Brown.

To report any problems with a water system such as pressure drop, odor or cloudiness, residents may call Maricopa County’s Environmental Services Complaint Line at 602-506-6616 or log on to [www.maricopa.gov/envsvc](http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc).

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