



August 28, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

Hillview Water Company, Inc. is honored and privileged to serve the citizens of Oakhurst and its surrounding communities through operating, maintaining, and improving their public water delivery. In keeping with the fulfillment of its duties to its customers, Hillview maintains and controls a fire suppression system for the protection of the community pursuant to the regulations and requirements of the California Public Utilities Commission. We take the safety of this system very seriously.

Hillview is exclusively responsible to maintain fire hydrants within its distribution system in a state of readiness to aid in fire suppression. To assist Hillview's exclusive control over its fire suppression system, and to maintain the integrity of the system, state and federal law prohibit anyone from tampering or interfering with the system or any of its components including meters, pipelines, and hydrants. Tampering with any element of Hillview's public water system is punishable by a \$1,000,000 fine and 20-year imprisonment under federal law (42 U.S. Code §300i-1), and by a \$30,000 fine and 5-year imprisonment under state law (Cal. Health and Safety Code §116750; see also Cal. Pen. Code §498(b)3, and Cal. Fire Code, Title 24, Cal. Code of Regulations, Part 9). Tampering with this potable water system is dangerous to our customers and is likely to cause harm to persons connected to the system. With this knowledge of the danger tampering poses to a public water system, harmful intention will be presumed.

It has come to our attention that a few of our customers may have violated these laws from time to time by tampering with fire hydrants. Hillview considers any such conduct to be a threat to the integrity of its water system and a danger to the community.

Hillview cannot and will not tolerate any kind of interference with its water delivery system, especially with its fire suppression devices. Hillview will report any such violation of state and federal law to the police for arrest and prosecution of the perpetrator to the fullest extent. We respectfully request all of our customers to promptly report any tampering or interference with Hillview's hydrants or other components of its water system to us and to law enforcement personnel. Your assistance in helping us maintain a safe emergency response water system, and a safer community, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ralph Fairfield
Compliance and Resource Officer