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NEWS BRIEF: Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services Issues Urgent Health Hazard Alert Regarding Wastewater Spills at Arbuckle Public Utility District (PUD) Site

The Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in coordination with the County Public Health Officer, is issuing a public health advisory regarding ongoing wastewater spills at the Arbuckle Public Utility District (PUD) Wastewater Treatment Facility. Colusa County has recently been made aware of a series of unreported wastewater discharges that have occurred between September 2023 and September 2024, totaling more than 92,000 gallons. These discharges originated from the Arbuckle PUD's percolation/evaporation ponds and have impacted agricultural land and potentially local groundwater sources both north and east of the ponds.

Dr. Julian Delgado, Colusa County Public Health Officer, has designated the affected spill locations as health hazards due to concerns for groundwater contamination and secondary contamination to surrounding orchards within the spill areas. These significant spills have been occurring since September 2023; however, it is important to note that Colusa County Public Health was not made aware of these ongoing spills until May 14, 2025, despite the prolonged nature of the issue.

"We understand the serious nature of these spills and the concern they raise for our residents," stated Elizabeth Kelly, Director of Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services. "DHHS is committed to working and collaborating with relevant agencies to address this issue as quickly as possible and mitigate any further risks to public health and our environment."

DHHS continues to work with the State and local agencies including Environmental Health to report out any known additional health hazards. The County is committed to transparently communicating important updates and decisions to its residents, ensuring the public remains informed about efforts to maintain environmental health and safety.

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