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NEWS BRIEF: Clarifying Statement from Colusa County Administrative Officer Wendy Tyler Regarding Public Notification of Wastewater Spills at Arbuckle Public Utility District

In response to the recent [public statement](#) issued by the Arbuckle Public Utility District (APUD), Colusa County Administrative Officer Wendy Tyler has issued the following clarification regarding the County's communication concerning wastewater spills at the APUD Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Public Health Officer recently issued a health hazard alert in response to a series of wastewater discharges from the Arbuckle PUD site, which occurred between September 2023 and September 2024 and were not brought to the attention of Public Health until May 14, 2025. The initial County news release stated that Public Health had not been notified of these spills until that time. However, some community members and APUD representatives have interpreted this to mean that the County as a whole was unaware of the situation. That interpretation is not accurate.

While Colusa County's Environmental Health Division was notified of the spills as they occurred, the information was not subsequently shared with the County's Public Health Officer, resulting in an internal communication breakdown. Ms. Tyler acknowledges this lapse and emphasizes that it highlights the need for improved information flow and coordination within County departments.

"We recognize the importance of transparency, accountability, and timely communication—particularly in matters that may affect public health," said Tyler. "While Environmental Health was made aware of the spills, the failure to notify Public Health in a timely manner prevented a coordinated public health response. That is unacceptable and must be addressed."

In 2024, Supervisor Merced Corona, Supervisor Kent Boes, and Ms. Wendy Tyler met with representatives of APUD to discuss potential infrastructure funding opportunities. At the time, they were unaware of any issues or concerns regarding inter-departmental communication.

Ms. Tyler is now working directly with Environmental Health leadership and the Public Health Officer to ensure that critical environmental and public health information is shared promptly and appropriately across departments. She has also reaffirmed the County's commitment to acting as a proactive and collaborative partner with all local districts and stakeholders.

"We are committed to resolving this issue and ensuring it does not happen again," Tyler stated. "The County is taking steps to strengthen internal protocols, improve interdepartmental coordination, and reinforce our shared responsibility to safeguard public health and environmental integrity in Colusa County."

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