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For Immediate Release

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – The Butte County Public Health Department has released a public notice of surface water and potential groundwater contamination in Honey Run Creek, Town of Paradise, as required by the Safe Drinking Water and Enforcement Act of 1986 (Prop 65).

An investigation by the Town of Paradise and the Environmental Health Division of the Butte County Public Health Department confirmed the presence of elevated levels of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes in the water of the storm drain system that conveys the Honey Run 5 Drainage Basin. Benzene and toluene exceeded the California Maximum Contaminant Level's for drinking water. The preliminary investigation indicates that the contamination originates in the vicinity of Bille Road and Skyway and chemical analysis indicates that the contamination is due to a release of a petroleum based hazardous substance.

After review of the analytical data, the Health Department has determined that due to the benzene concentration, the water in Honey Run Creek south of Bille Road and Skyway may present a health hazard to humans or pets who may come into contact or drink the water. Residents in the affected area can reduce potential exposure of these chemicals by:

- Avoiding drinking the water in the creek
- Keep small children from playing in the creek
- Keep pets away from the creek

The source of the contamination remains unknown at this time, but an active investigation is underway in conjunction with the State, County, and Town of Paradise authorities. There currently is no indication of a threat to the public drinking water supply for the Town of Paradise.

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For further information, contact Vance Severin, Deputy Director of
Environmental Health

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Butte County Public Health Department

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual, community and environmental health.