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(209) 772-2650

2011 Consumer Confidence Report
Valley Springs Public Utility District

We're pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is groundwater provided by Well #4 and a new Well #6 which was put into use July 22nd 2011. Several improvements were made in 2011 including:

- Completion of Well #6 and related facilities
- Completion of modifications to Well #4
- Addition of a 200,000 gal storage tank (Tank C)
- Modifications to Tanks A and B for automation of system
- SCADA system for remote control and monitoring of all District wells, tanks, and pumps

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our office at (209) 772-2650.

Espanol – (Spanish): Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbiological contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that can be naturally-occurring or be a result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WATER QUALITY DATA

Valley Springs Public Utility District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected above the DLR during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The table does not include contaminants that were not detected by laboratory testing. Unless otherwise indicated, the data contained in this report are for the monitoring period of January 1 to December 31st, 2011. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the results in this report, though representative, may be more than a year old.

A source water assessment was conducted for Well #4 of the Valley Springs Public Utilities District Water System in February 2002. No contaminants have been detected in the water supply above the MCL, however the source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities:

Grazing (>5 large animals or equivalent per acre)
Wells – Water Supply (other wells nearby)

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:
Department of Health Services,
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
31 E. Channel Street, Room 270
Stockton, California 9520

You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:
Joseph O. Spano, P.E., District Engineer,
(209) 948-7696

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

DLR: Detection Limit for purposes of Reporting. The DLR is set by state regulation for each reportable analyte.

Table 1 – Sampling Results Showing The Detection Of Coliform Bacteria					
Microbiological Contaminants	**Highest No. of detections**	**No. of months in violation**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Typical source of Bacteria**
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a mo.) none	None	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform or *E. coli*	(In the yr) none	None	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform of *E.coli*	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Total Coliform: Water systems are required to meet a strict standard for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If the standard is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public. Valley Springs PUD is pleased to inform you, no coliform bacteria was detected in any of the monthly distribution system samples.

Table 2 – Sampling Results Showing The Detection Of Lead And Copper Sample Date 8/04/2011						
Lead and Copper	**No. of samples collected**	**90th percentile level detected**	**No. Sites exceeding AL**	**AL**	**MCLG**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Lead (ppb)	10	ND	None	15	2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	10	0.55	None	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Table 3 – Sampling Results For Sodium and Hardness						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Dates**	**Ave Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**PHG**	**MCL**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Sodium (ppm)	3/17/10 5/24/11	24	11 - 38	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	3/17/10 5/24/11	163	156 - 170	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water

Table 4 - Detection Of Contaminants With A Primary Drinking Water Standard							
Inorganic Contaminants Sample Dates: 3/17/10 & 5/24/2011							
Chemical or Constituent	**units**	**Violation Y/N**	**Ave Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**PHG**	**MCL**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Barium	ppb	N	122	120 - 123	2000	1000	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	N	0.11	ND – 0.17	1	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as NO3) (sampled 5/24/11 & 6/30/11)	ppm	N	10	10 - 11	45	45	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts, Treated Water Sampled: 07/19/2011							
Total trihalomethanes (ppb)		N	0.59	NA	NA	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table 5 – Detection Of Contaminants With A Secondary Drinking Water Standard Sample Dates: 3/17/10 & 5/24/2011							
Chemical or Constituent	**units**	**Violation Y/N**	**Ave Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**PHG**	**MCL**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Chloride	ppm	N	17	11.8 - 22	NA	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sea water influence
Conductivity (sampled 5/24/11 & 6/30/11)	Micro mhos per cm	N	456	452 - 460	NA	1600	Substances that form ions when in water; sea water influence
Odor – Threshold	units	N	1.0	1.0 – 1.0	NA	3	Naturally-occurring organic compounds
Sulfate	ppm	N	18.8	17.7 - 20	NA	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	N	292	286 - 299	NA	1000	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	units	N	0.25	0.12 – 0.38	NA	5	Soil runoff
Zinc	ppb	N	51	ND - 77	NA		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

***Note**: There are no PHGs or MCLGs for constituents with secondary drinking water standards because these are not health-based levels, but set on the basis of aesthetics.*

Table 6 - Detection Of Unregulated Contaminants							
Chemical or Constituent	**units**	**Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**PHG**	**Action Level**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Boron (Sampled 2/05/08)	ppb	N	140	NA	NA	1000	Some men who drink water containing boron in excess of the action level over many years may experience reproductive effects, based on studies in dogs.

Lead - If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Valley Springs PUD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Valley Springs PUD is pleased to inform you, there were no violations to report in tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Report prepared 4/18/2012 by Sierra Foothill Laboratory, Inc., using *CCR Guidance for Water Suppliers* available at, http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/CCR.aspx, employing due diligence with instructions given. Data contained in this report are based on the analytical results generated by Sierra Foothill Laboratory and its subcontract laboratories.