

2011 Consumer Confidence Report

Cobb Area County Water District 2011 Consumer Confidence Report July 1, 2012



We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2011.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Cobb Area County Water District Drinking Water Source Information:

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name & Location of Source(s): **Well 01** ~ Along Grouse Road
Well 02 ~ Along Hwy 175
Boggs Spring ~ Gifford Springs Road
Schwartz Spring ~ High Road
Well 03 (back-up) ~ Emerford Road

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information:

Assessments of the drinking water sources for Cobb Area County Water District were conducted in February 2003. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the presence of historic gas stations, waste water treatment plants, known contaminant plumes, herbicide use areas, freeways/highways and managed forests. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the California Department of Health Services, 50 D Street, Room 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

General Drinking Water Source Information

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the state Department of Public 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.

Stay Connected!

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Information

Join us at 7 p.m. on the 2nd
Wednesday of Every Month

Location:

Cobb Area County Water District
District Offices
16595 Hwy 175, Cobb

Want to Contact Us?

General Manager: Mr. Robert Stark

Phone: (707) 928-5262

Email: Mail@CobbAreaWater.com

Source Water Protection Tips for Consumers

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- ◆ *Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides; they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source*
- ◆ *Pick up after your pets*
- ◆ *If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources*
- ◆ *Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center*

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.

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).

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the

use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs 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.

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 that a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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)

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected 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 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 data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

**Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.*

TABLE 1—SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detections	# of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	(0)	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria and <i>E. Coli</i>	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2—SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)**	37	<5.0	2**	15	2	Internal Corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)**	37	1.2	4**	1.3	0.3	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 Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2011	5.6	4.7 -6.3	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2011	55.5	21-100	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (PCi/L)	2006	0.42	0.07 - 0.96	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2011	0.85	<1.0 - 2.3	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes](ppb) -Bromodichloromethane -Chloroform (Trichloromethane) -Dibromochloromethane	2011 2011 2011 2011	2.85 0.95 1.4 0.52	<0.5 - 7.1 <0.5-2.3 <0.5-3.5 <0.5-1.3	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2011	0.63	0.5 - 0.9	[MRDL=4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[MRDLG=4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2006	0.03	ND - 0.06	5	(0)	Decay of natural and manmade deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2011	2.66	ND-6.7	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2011	0.05	ND - 0.2	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	2011	2.45	1.9 - 2.9	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2011	1.5	< 3 - 3	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor Threshold (units)	2011	0.25	< 1 - 1	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (uMho)	2011	135	70 -180	1,600	-	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2011	0.81	0.68 - 1	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2011	113	72 - 140	1000	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	2011	0.61	0.38 - 0.77	5	-	Soil Runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2011	30	ND-120	5.0	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes



ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Important Information Regarding Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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. Cobb Area County Water District 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>.

SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR CONTAMINANTS EXCEEDING AN MCL, AL OR VIOLATION OF ANY MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Information on Lead & Copper Samples that Exceeded the AL:

Lead and copper samples were collected from monitoring sites throughout our distribution system in 2011. Of the 37 samples collected, 2 were above the AL for lead and 4 samples exceeded the AL for copper. The 90th percentile level detected for both lead and copper was below the AL.

Cobb Area County Water District has been working with the State Department of Public Health to identify the best treatment method to control the elevated levels of lead and copper throughout our distribution system. We have submitted a corrosion control plan to the State Department of Public Health and we will initiate additional lead and copper monitoring following the installation of corrosion control treatment. Annual lead and copper monitoring is scheduled for 2012.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Federal Monitoring Requirement: Cobb Area County Water District was subject to the Federal Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-product Rule which required an initial distribution system evaluation in 2007. CACWD has not yet completed this evaluation. We are scheduled to conduct distribution system monitoring for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids in 2012.



UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY AT COBB

Sodium: *The most recent measurement for sodium at Cobb was 5.6 ppm, and although there is no drinking water standard for sodium this measurement is unlikely to lead to adverse health effects.*

Hardness: Hard water is found in over 85% of the United States' water supplies. Water hardness is commonly referred to on a hardness scale ranging from soft to slightly hard, moderately hard and hard to very hard. Soft water can be corrosive to water pipes, while water that is too hard can cause visible discoloration or scales to form on plumbing and cooking fixtures.

WATER HARDNESS CLASSIFICATIONS	
Soft	< 17.1 ppm
Slightly Hard	17.1 to 60 ppm
—————>	Cobb @ 55.5 ppm
Moderately Hard	60 ~ 120 ppm
Hard	120 to 180 ppm
Very Hard	180 + ppm
Cobb's water is considered slightly hard at a measurement of 55.5 ppm.	

FOR SYSTEMS PROVIDING GROUND WATER AS A SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

SPECIAL NOTICE OF FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLE

**TABLE 7—SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR POSITIVE
GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLES**

Microbiological Contaminants	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
E. coli	1**	12/5/2011	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste

SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLES, UNCORRECTED SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES, OR VIOLATION OF A GROUND WATER TT

** Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

A sample collected from one of our water sources, Boggs Spring, on December 5, 2011 indicated the presence of E. coli bacteria. The presence of this fecal indicator is most likely due to runoff early in the rain season. CACWD addressed this contamination by draining, cleaning and thoroughly disinfecting the collection tank. This procedure was followed by close monitoring of the free chlorine residuals coming out of the storage tank and ongoing disinfection treatment of our water source. Cobb Area County Water District did not exceed the MCL for total coliform bacteria in our 2011 distribution samples.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

One part per million (ppm) is approximately:

- ◆ 1 second in 11.5 days!
- ◆ Half an aspirin dissolved in a bath-tub of water!

One part per billion (ppb) is approximately:

- ◆ One minute in two thousand years!
- ◆ One aspirin dissolved in an Olympic-sized swimming pool!



COBB AREA COUNTY

WATER DISTRICT

2011