

# WATER QUALITY REPORT



This report provides information regarding the quality of water for the City of Santa Maria during 2011. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Your health, safety, and environment are our number one priority.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA



**Utilities Department**  
(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270

2065 E. Main Street • Santa Maria, CA 93454  
TDD 800-735-2929 (English) • 800-855-3000 (Spanish)  
[www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us](http://www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us)

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

**WATER SUPPLY:** The City of Santa Maria is committed to producing the highest quality drinking water from our two sources of supply: City water wells located in the Santa Maria Airport area, and State Water treated at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant by the Central Coast Water Authority and delivered to the City of Santa Maria via the Coastal Branch Aqueduct. In 2011, the City received about 91 percent of its water from the State Water Project.

**WATER QUALITY:** The City of Santa Maria routinely checks water quality—from the source right to your home. Please see the other side of this sheet, which summarizes test results dating from 2003 through 2011, and shows that the **City of Santa Maria met all State and Federal drinking water standards in 2011.**

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as people undergoing chemotherapy, people 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. 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:** A drinking water source assessment for the City of Santa Maria was completed in January 2003. The City's water sources were considered most vulnerable to the following activities: runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tanks, and sewage, and erosion of natural deposits. You may request a summary of the assessment at the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department, 2065 E. Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454, or by contacting the City of Santa Maria at (805) 925-0951 extension 7270.

**WATER SYSTEM SECURITY:** Multiple levels of safety are implemented to protect the City of Santa Maria's drinking water system. These measures are part of our ongoing operation, and ensure the safe treatment and delivery of water. Rest assured that a system is in place to protect your drinking water.

**CONTAMINANTS:** 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 storm water 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

**Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**ABOUT 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. The City of Santa Maria is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 20 seconds to two 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, 1-800-426-4791, or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**ABOUT NITRATE:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of an infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**COMMENTS?** Your comments are important to us and may be heard at any regular meeting of the Santa Maria City Council, which meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 110 E. Cook Street, Santa Maria. For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call the Water Resources Manager or the Regulatory Compliance Coordinator at (805) 925-0951 extension 7270. ■

## 2011 WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

### PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	PURCHASED STATE PROJECT WATER		LOCAL GROUNDWATER (f)		MAJOR SOURCES
				RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	
Turbidity (a)	NTU		TT = 0.3	0.04-0.09	100% < 0.3	NA	NA	Soil runoff
Aluminum (b)	ppb	1000	600	ND-130	70	ND	ND	Residue from water treatment; erosion of natural deposits

### DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MONITORING

Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Average = 2.2 (Range = 0.5-2.9)			Measure of the disinfection of the water
Total Coliform Bacteria (c)	NA	see note (c)	(0)	Average = 0.78% (Range = 0-2.3%)			Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride (treated water) (d)	ppm	2	1	Average = 0.92 (Range = 0.75-1.25)			Erosion of natural deposits; additive to promote strong teeth
Total Trihalomethanes (e)	ppb	80	NA	Average = 37 (Range = 24-65)			Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (e)	ppb	60	NA	Average = 12.8 (Range = 7.9-16.9)			Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	ppm	45	45	Average = 5 (Range = 2-18)			Leaching from fertilizers; erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards

Chloride	ppm	500	NA	Average = 22 (Range = 19-25)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Odor Threshold	Units	3	NA	Average = 2 (Range = 1-2)			Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NA	Average = 348 (Range = 230-590)			Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	Average = 29 (Range = 27-30)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	NA	Average = 155 (Range = 140-170)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	Average = <0.1 (Range= 0-<0.1)			Soil runoff

### ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS (Unregulated)

Alkalinity (Total) as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 62 (Range = 48-92)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Boron	ppb	NL = 1000	NA	NA	NA	150-200	177	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 24 (Range = 14-50)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Hardness (Total) as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 60 (Range = 51-68)			Leaching from natural deposits	
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 6.1 (Range = 5.0-7.1)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
pH	pH units	NA	NA	Average = 7.3 (Range = 7.0-7.6)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 1.3 (Range = 1.2-1.4)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 27 (Range = 26-28)			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Vanadium	ppb	NL = 50	NA	NA	NA	3.8-4.2	4.0	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; combustion of fossil fuels

### LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING PROGRAM - SAMPLING OCCURRED IN JULY 2010

Parameter	Units	Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	MAJOR SOURCES
Copper	ppm	30	NA	0	1.3	0.3	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	30	NA	0	15	0.2	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits

### ABBREVIATIONS, DEFINITIONS, AND NOTES

#### Notes:

- (a) Turbidity (NTU) measures the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of State Water filtration. The performance standard is less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements taken every 15 minutes and not to exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. Turbidity as delivered is listed in the Secondary Standards.
- (b) Aluminum also has a Secondary MCL of 200 ppb.
- (c) Total coliform MCL: No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be Total Coliform positive.
- (d) Fluoride is added to the water to help prevent cavities. Target fluoride levels are set by California Department of Public Health.
- (e) Compliance based on the running quarterly annual average of distribution system samples.
- (f) Water quality information from individual wells includes samples collected from 2008-2011, and includes the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations.

#### Definitions:

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

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

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

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

#### Abbreviations

- AL = Regulatory Action Level  
 NA = Not Applicable  
 ND = Not Detected  
 NL = Notification Level  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)  
 ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
 TT = Treatment Technique  
 µS/cm = microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water)