

California drinking water regulations require that water delivered by public water systems be, at all times, pure, wholesome and potable, as required by the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts. To accomplish this mandate, domestic water must meet strict standards, as established in the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations. This regulation includes primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and monitoring frequencies for specified microbiological, chemical and radionuclide contaminants. Primary contaminants are those that may have an adverse health effect. Secondary contaminants are those that may adversely affect the aesthetic quality of the drinking water. The regulation includes the provisions adopted by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The state has direct enforcement responsibility for all public water systems with 200 or more service connections.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes monitoring requirements and maximum contaminant levels. As the EPA develops new standards, California will amend state regulations, which establish water quality requirements for local water supplies. The domestic water supplied by the City of Gilroy meets all current regulations. This report includes the respective Public Health Goal (PHG), or the federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for chemicals that do not yet have a PHG.

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 Gilroy 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>.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 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 CDPH requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA 2011

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(in a month) 0	0	More than 5% samples in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	(in a year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - CUSTOMER TAP LEAD/COPPER SAMPLING

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) 8/25/09	30	2.5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm) 8/25/09	30	0.25	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water 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 Data	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2/10/11	25.67	16.0-43.0	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	2/10/11	230	180-280	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water

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

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Data	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detection	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Perchlorate (ppb)	2011	0.37	N/D-2.6	6	6	An inorganic chemical used in rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries.
Fluoride (ppm)	2/10/11	0.10	ND-0.14	2	1 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as nitrate, NO3) (ppm)	Quarterly 2011	27	12-38	45	45 (NA)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	Monthly 2011	0.15	ND-1.70	5	0.06 (NA)	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories, dry cleaners and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Total trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	Quarterly 2011	3.4	ND-4.8	80	NA (NA)	By-product of drinking water chlorination

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

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Data	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	2/10/11	24.67	18-33	500	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Specific Conductance (micromhos/cm)	2/10/11	552	460-630	1600	NA (NA)	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2/10/11	37	30-51	500	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
Total dissolved solids [TDS] (ppm)	2/10/11	338	280-380	1000	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total dissolved solids [TDS] (ppm)	2/10/11	338	280-380	1000	NA (NA)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent	Sample Data	Level Detected	Action Level	Health Effects Language
Vanadium (ppb)	7/8/03	Avg. 1.19 (ND-5.0)	50	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the action level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals

* Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided below.

Presented By The City of Gilroy
Water Department



Annual Water Quality Report 2011

City of Gilroy



City of Gilroy Annual Water Quality Report

PWSID#4310004

The report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who understand it.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tráduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

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.

The City of Gilroy is committed to providing a safe, reliable supply of excellent quality drinking water that meets Federal and State regulations. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided in 2011. Included are the details about the source of the City's water, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are the best allies. The City encourages public interest and participation in decisions affecting the community's drinking water supply. Our City Council meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first and third Monday of each month at City Hall. The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. (and the fifth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. when applicable.) The City of Gilroy will take any steps necessary to ensure that your water continues to meet safe drinking water standards.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, requires water agencies to annually notify their customers of the constituents or elements in their drinking water. This is not the result of punitive action, nor is it indicative of any

violation of treatment practices. It is strictly a mandated public information service legislated to keep you informed each year of the facts about your drinking water.

Water System

The City of Gilroy obtains its municipal water supply from ground-water well sources within the Llagas Basin Aquifer. The City currently operates nine water wells that vary in depth that are located throughout the City. In 2011, these wells supplied 52,027 residents with water for personal and industrial use. Gilroy treats our water using chlorine disinfection to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. The City has performed a Source Water Assessment of our water which identifies possible impacts to water quality. Our source water is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: gas stations, dry cleaners, and metal plating/finishing/ fabricating. A copy of the Source Water Assessment is available by contacting Engineering at (408) 846-0450. The Security Vulnerability Assessment was completed in 2003. If you have any questions regarding this report or the water system please contact Dan Aldridge at (408) 846-0271.

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops new standards, California will amend state regulations that establish water quality requirements for local water supplies. The domestic water supplied by the City of Gilroy meets all current regulations. This report includes the respective public health goal (PHG), or the federal maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for chemicals that do not yet have a PHG.

System Improvement

To meet the growing needs of our customers, the City of Gilroy is continually developing and improving our water system. Booster Station 6 and Reservoir F-1 were put in operation to provide Zone 2 water to South Eagle Ridge in 2004. A new well has been drilled and installed in 2006 and put in operation in 2008. Reservoir A and B have had the interior recoated and cathodic protection installed. We have completed installation of a new generator for Well 8/8A in 2010.

Perchlorate Monitoring Continues

The perchlorate plume that originated at the Olin Site in Morgan Hill has contaminated wells as far south as Gilman Road. The City of Gilroy has tested for perchlorate monthly since February 2003 and quarterly since 2008. We will continue to monitor quarterly for perchlorate. For more information about the perchlorate contamination/cleanup check the Santa Clara Valley Water District's web site at <http://www.valleywater.org/index.htm>

On March 11, 2004 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Agency (OEHHA) announced the publication of a Public Health Goal for perchlorate of 6 ppb. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) revised the Action Level on the same day to 6 ppb. Both web sites have been revised with this latest information. CDPH: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/perchl/perchlindex.htm> OEHHA: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov> The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has more info regarding perchlorate at their web site: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/index.html> Research and analysis of the affects of perchlorate are continuing. For the latest information see the websites listed above.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act 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 the 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).

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures not only save our water supply, but can also cut the cost of water treatment. By conserving water, we can reduce the energy costs of pumping at the treatment facility and also chemical costs for processing the water. There are a number of measures you, as the water consumer, can do to conserve on water usage.

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

1. Fix leaky faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
2. Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances. All fixtures produced since 1994 are low flow fixtures. Simply replacing old fixtures with a new one will reduce water consumption by nearly one-half. (See Santa Clara Valley Water District web site for rebates available for water saving devices at <http://www.valleywater.org/>)
3. Wash only full loads of laundry.
4. Don't use the toilet for trash disposal.
5. Take shorter showers. Do not let the water run while shaving, washing, brushing teeth, or cleaning fruits and vegetables.
6. Soak dishes before washing. Run the dishwasher only when full.
7. Purchase an energy efficient washing machine and receive a rebate.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

1. Water the lawn and garden as little as possible. Outdoor watering is more efficient in the early morning or evening and also reduces demand during peak use periods.
2. Use mulch around plants and shrubs or choose plants that don't need much water.
3. Repair leaks in faucets and hoses. Use water-saving nozzles.
4. Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.
5. Sweep clippings and leaves from walks and driveways rather than using the hose.

6. Obey any and all water bans or regulations.

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 before we treat it 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, which 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, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, 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, agricultural application and septic systems.*
- *Radioactive contaminants, which 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 US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the CDPH 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the 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 mg/L

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.

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.

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 level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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

NA: not applicable

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)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

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

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