

2012 Consumer Confidence Report

Ashford Highlands Mutual Water Company

June 27, 2013

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, 2012.

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

Type of water source: The Ashford Mutual Water Company consists of two wells located on Cienega Rd, Hollister.

Drinking Water Source Assessment: The source water assessment was conducted for well 1 and well 2 in August 2000 by Binkley and Associates. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminant: septic systems – low density, wells agricultural. A copy of this report may be viewed by contacting the operator.

For more information, contact: MCSI Water Systems Management Phone: (831) 659-5360

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.

Variations 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)

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

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural activities 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California 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.

Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of 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.

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA					
Contaminant(s) (units)	Highest # Detected in a Month	# Of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Coliform	1	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/E Coli	0	0	A routine sample and repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. coli	0	Human & animal fecal waste

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER						
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source
Alpha Activity, Gross (pCi/L)	(0)	15	5	2.78-7.21	5/2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	(0)	3	0.24	ND-0.95	2006	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	(0)	2	0.34	0.37-0.29	2006	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	0.43	20	5		5/2012	Erosion of natural deposits

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER							
Contaminant(s) (units)	Number of Site Collected	PHG	AL	90 th Percentile Level Detected	# of Samples > AL	Date	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	5	0.3	1.3	0.41	0	2010	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; internal corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	5	0.2	15	ND	0	2010	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source
Aluminum (ppm)	0.6	1.0	0.029	ND-0.058	2011	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	2.5	2-3	2011	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	1	0.0255	0.024-0.027	2011	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium –Total (ppb)	(100)	50	30.25	21-41	2012	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1	2.0	0.3	0.17-0.29	2011	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppb)	12	100	1.5	ND-3	2011	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate (NO ₃) (ppm)	45	45	19.5	19-20	2012	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	(50)	50	6.5	6-7	2011	Discharge from petroleum, glass and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

SUBSTANCES OF INTEREST					
Contaminant(s) (units)	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source
Alkalinity CaCO ₃ (ppm)	N/A	294	292-296	2011	Generally found in ground and surface water
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	137	135-139	2011	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	N/A	490	477-503	2011	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium and are usually naturally occurring
pH	N/A	7.8	7.5-8.1	2011	A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Contaminant(s) (units)	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	Typical Source
Boron (ppb)	1000	900	9/2002	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chromium VI (ppb)	N/A	8.2	5/2002	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (ppb)	50	3.0	9/2002	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected (Average)	Range	Sample Date	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	N/A	500	118	107-129	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sea water influence
Color (units)	N/A	15	15	ND - 30	2011	Naturally occurring organic materials
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1	4	ND - 8	2011	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Iron (ppb)	N/A	300	1042	ND- 1794	2011	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	N/A	50	22.6	ND- 51	2011/2012	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (units)	N/A	3	1.5	1-2	2011	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductivity	N/A	1600	1498	1493- 1503	2011	Substances that form natural deposits; sea water influence
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	500	292	264-320	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	N/A	1000	988		2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	5	1.88	0.05-3.7	2011	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	N/A	5.0	0.042	0.028- 0.055	2011	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Additional 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency'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. EPA/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 Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead – Specific Language for Community Water Systems: 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. Ashford Highlands Mutual Water 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 drinking 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, MRDL, or AI or a Violation:

- *Color, Copper, and Iron*, are Secondary Drinking Water Standard Contaminants and are set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and the staining of plumbing fixtures, and clothing while washing.
- *Manganese* was over the notification level of 50 ug/l. The notification level for manganese is used to protect consumers from neurological effects. High levels of manganese in people have been shown to result in effects of the nervous system.

Special Language for Nitrates

- Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

Summary Information for Fecal Indicator-Positive Ground Water Source Samples, Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies, or Violation of Ground Water TT:

- None

System Improvements and Updates:

- The water system is working with California Department of Public Health to add chlorination.

Source Protection and Conservation Tips:

Source Protection

- 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.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Conservation

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4-5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. That can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Fix leaking toilets and faucets. Faucets washer are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information