



Scotts Valley
Water District

SUMMER 2013

water news

VITAL INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY WATER ISSUES

SEE THE INSIDE PAGES FOR THE FULL REPORT ON WATER QUALITY FOR 2012

Results of Annual Tests: Your Water Meets Strict Quality Standards

This annual report on water quality shows that last year, as in years past, your tap water met all State and Federal primary drinking water standards. Included in the report is information about the source of your water and details about testing and water quality. It also explains how our water quality professionals test and treat your water to ensure that it is always safe and refreshing to drink.

Free Training and a \$75 Rebate to Install a Greywater System

Depending on how often they do laundry, A simple greywater system can save a family over 3000 gallons of water each year. This preserves our aquifer and decreases customer water bills.



JOIN US AT A FREE GREYWATER TRAINING EVENT

Saturday, July 27
or Saturday, August 24

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

District Office at:
2 Civic Center Drive

Register online at:
www.centralcoastgreywater.org

HERE IS WHAT YOU GET

LEARN: Materials and installation steps, and when the Plumbing Code allows graywater without permits.

GET: \$75 rebates on materials after a pre- and post inspection, and when built according to code.

FREE: Volunteer installation help is available this summer only.

Our Commitment to Providing Quality Water

We Start With a Quality Water Supply

Your drinking water comes from local groundwater supplies.

Then We Provide Advanced Treatment

We operate four advanced water treatment facilities to produce safe, high-quality water.

We Test to Ensure Quality

Our state-certified water quality professionals monitor your water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure the safety of your water.

Continuous Testing. Some tests are done daily, others weekly, monthly, or at other intervals. Some measurements are taken continuously, around the clock, using sophisticated equipment. We do more testing than required by state and federal regulators.

Our Labs Are State Certified. Tests and results are produced by independent state-certified facilities.

Testing Accuracy: The thousands of tests we conduct every year are done with extraordinary accuracy. Many substances can be detected at a level of two grams per one million gallons of water.



Information About Drinking Water Quality

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 storm water 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 applications, and septic systems.

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

An assessment of the drinking water sources for Scotts Valley Water District was completed in September 2001 and January 2011. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: drycleaning, gasoline storage and distribution, and manufacturing. In addition, the

sources are considered most vulnerable to these activities: abandoned water and monitoring wells, septic systems, transportation corridors, commercial parking lots, and sewer collection systems. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the District Office at 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley or by e-mail at contact@svwd.org.

Water Quality Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (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 provide the same protection for public health.

When to Seek Health Care Advice

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).

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESULTS OF 2012 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants and other constituents detected between January 1 and December 31, 2012. Secondary Standards in the table refer to aesthetic aspects of water. In general, water quality remained constant or improved in 2012 and meets all State and Federal standards.

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT TREATED WATER

CONTAMINANT	MCL or MRDL	PHG or MCLG	RANGE	AVERAGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLs					
Arsenic (PPB)	10	4	ND to 6.7	1.8	Naturally occurring minerals.
Fluoride (F) (PPB) (Natural-Source)	2,000	1,000	0.12 to 0.74	0.39	Naturally occurring minerals.
Gross alpha particle activity ¹ (pCi/L)	15	3	ND to 7.2	2.4	Naturally occurring minerals.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL					
Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)	80	NA	ND to 67	6.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (PPB)	60	NA	ND to 2.8	1.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine (PPM)	4	4	0.035 to 2.2	0.95	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.

LEAD AND COPPER²						
	ACTION LEVEL	PHG	# OF SITES SAMPLED	90 TH PERCENTILE	# OF SITES EXCEEDING	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Lead ² (total) (PPB)	15	0	20	2.1	0	Customer household plumbing.
Copper ² (total) (PPB)	1,300	300	20	440	0	Customer household plumbing.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLs					
CONTAMINANT	SECONDARY MCL	RANGE	AVERAGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
Chloride (PPM)	500	22 to 100	47.42	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Iron (Fe) (PPB)	300	ND to 0.61	38.56	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Manganese (Mn) (PPB)	50	ND to 37	2.49	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Odor Threshold @ 60 C (TON)	3	ND to 3	1.57	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Specific Conductance (E.C.) (micromhos per cm)	1,600	390 to 1,800	651.67	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Sulfate (SO4) (PPM)	500	75 to 110	91.42	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Turbidity (NTU)	5	0.79 to 14	0.31	Naturally occurring minerals.	
Total Dissolved Solids (PPM)	1,000	260 to 610	420	Naturally occurring minerals.	

NO STANDARDS			
pH (UNITS)		7.1 to 8.1	7.49
Sodium (PPM)		34 to 120	62
Total Hardness ³ as CaCO3 (PPM)		100 to 300	208.33
Calcium (Ca) (PPM)		32 to 66	52.58
Carbonate (as CO3) (PPM)		ND to 7.8	1.86
Magnesium (Mg) (PPM)		5.4 to 35	19.07
Potassium (K) (PPM)		1.6 to 3.2	2.23
Total Alkalinity (PPM)		56 to 290	169.5
Orthophosphate [as P04] (PPM)		0.26 to 1.8	1.06
Carbon Dioxide (PPM)		ND to 6.7	.97

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS CHART:

- Grains per Gallon:** A unit of hardness where 17.1 parts per million equals 1 grain per gallon.
- Turbidity:** A physical characteristic of water that makes the water appear cloudy. The condition is caused by the presence of suspended matter. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
- Micromhos per Centimeter:** An indicator of dissolved minerals in the water.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. 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.
- NA:** Not applicable.
- ND:** Not detected at testing limit.
- NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit, indicating the clarity of the water.
- pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity.
- PDWS:** Primary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- PPB:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. 1 PPB equals 0.001 PPM and is equivalent to about one drop in 17,000 gallons of water.
- PPM:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter. 1 PPM equals 1,000 PPB and is equivalent to about one drop in 17 gallons of water.
- PHG:** Public Health Goal: 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.
- Total Dissolved Solids:** An indicator of dissolved minerals in the water.
- TON:** Threshold Odor Number: The unit of odor.
- 90TH Percentile:** The third highest sample result of 20 sample results.

NOTES

- A. Water samples for the data reported above are drawn from both the treatment plants and the distribution system.
- B. Our treatment plants remove a combination of iron, manganese, arsenic, sulfide, and reduced constituents inherent to the Scotts Valley groundwater supply. Where needed volatile organic compounds are also removed.
- C. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Radiological constituents samples were drawn from three treatment plants in September 2008.
- ² Lead and Copper Rule samples were drawn from 20 customer taps in September 2011.
- ³ Average Total Hardness for 2012 was 12.2 grains per gallon.

Scotts Valley Water District

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www.svwd.org

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Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

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

How to Get Involved

We urge customers to attend Monthly Board Meetings. They are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the District office, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.

Got Questions?

Contact Assistant General Manager/Operations Manager William O'Brien at 831-438-2363 or by e-mail at contact@svwd.org for more information about your water quality.

Sign Up for Free Online Billing or Auto Pay

More and more customers are using online bill pay—and you can too! Sign up at www.svwd.org to view your water bill and use a credit or debit card to pay it online.

You may also sign up for automatic recurring payments by downloading our authorization form from our website, signing it and returning it to our office by mail, fax, email or in person. You'll be saving yourself and us time (and sometimes a late payment penalty!).

Visit our website at www.svwd.org or call us at 831/438-2363 for help signing up.

**Please Use Water Wisely.
Saving Water Now Helps Sustain
Our Limited Local Groundwater
Supply for the Future.**

Get Rebates and Save Water and Money

Learn the Rules Before You Purchase or Install. Keep Your Receipts.

\$200 Washer Rebates: Certain high efficiency washers can receive up to \$200, with combined City and District rebates.

\$200 Toilet Rebates: Toilets can earn rebates up to \$200 with combined City and District rebates.

\$.50 Per Sq. Ft. For Lawn Replacement: Replace all or part of your lawn with low-water plants, groundcovers, mulch or wood chips, gravel or pervious pavement, infiltration basins, rain gardens, swales or artificial turf.

\$1 Per Sq. Ft. for Impervious Hardscape Replacement: Remove old concrete or asphalt where it causes stormwater run-off.

\$100 for Smart Irrigation Controllers: Upgrade your irrigation controller to one that senses moisture available to plants on-site and earn a rebate up to \$100.

\$.20 Per Sq. Ft. for Low Volume Irrigation Systems: Retrofit your sprinkler or hand-watering with a drip or other low volume irrigation system.

\$25 Per Hundred Gallons for Rainwater Cisterns: Catch and store your rain water in the winter for use during the summer months.

\$75 Per Fixture for Graywater Systems: Legally divert waste water from washers, tubs and showers to your landscape.

**Download an Application
at www.svwd.org or
Call: 831/438-2363**



Please visit us at www.svwd.org. Use our website to access meeting agendas and minutes, as well as information about the Board of Directors, rates, water quality, water conservation, and more.