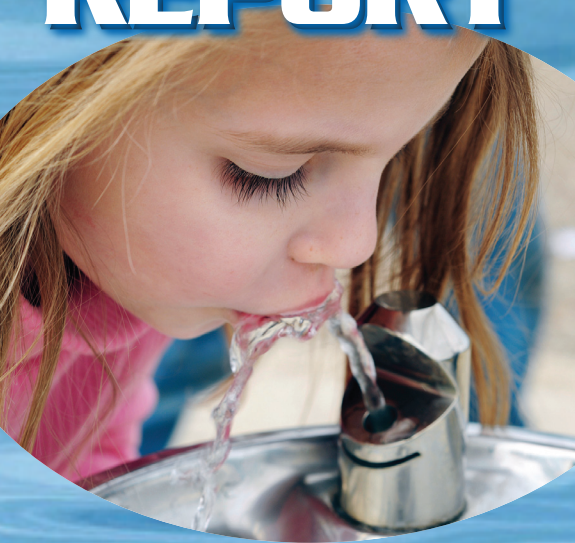


City of Santa Maria 2014

WATER QUALITY REPORT



This report provides information regarding the quality of water for the City of Santa Maria during 2014. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Through planning and operational efficiency, the City will continue to provide a reliable drinking water supply.



Utilities Department

(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270

2065 East Main Street • Santa Maria, CA 93454
TDD 800-735-2929 (English) • 800-855-3000 (Spanish)
www.cityofsantamaria.org

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

WATER SUPPLY: The City of Santa Maria (“City”) 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 Central Coast Water Authority and delivered to the City of Santa Maria via the Coastal Branch Aqueduct. In 2014, the City received about 13 percent of its water from the State Water Project.

WATER QUALITY: 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 (“USEPA”) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board 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 persons 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).

The City 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 2014, and shows that the City met all State and Federal drinking water standards in 2014.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT: A drinking water source assessment for the City was completed in March 2014. The City’s water sources were considered most vulnerable to the following activities: runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits. You may request a summary of the assessment at the City Utilities Department, 2065 East Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454, or by contacting the City at (805) 925-0951, extension 7270.

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY: Multiple levels of safety are implemented to protect the City’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 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://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

ABOUT NITRATE: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L 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 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.

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 East 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 Laboratory Coordinator at (805) 925-0951, extension 7270. ■

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring Requirements Not Met for City of Santa Maria

Our water system violated drinking water requirements over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2014 we did not monitor or test for the proper number of bacteriological samples or for hexavalent chromium and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Total coliform	100 samples per month	99 in August 2014 100 in all other months	August 2014	Restored proper number of samples Sept. 2014
Total coliform	Groundwater sources within 24 hours of positive coliform in distribution system	0 groundwater sources for 1 positive coliform sample	August 2014	0, missed 24 hour window
Hexavalent chromium	Initial sampling of water sources in 2014	0	2014	2015

What has been done?

City staff received clarification on how to address sample stations that are out of service. Now, staff know to collect a nearby sample or one from the sample station immediately after repair, in order to make sure that one hundred samples are collected each month. In addition, staff were given a refresher on the Groundwater Rule, which requires that samples are collected from operating groundwater sources within 24 hours of receipt of a positive coliform samples in the distribution system.

City staff were informed in January 2015 that their total chromium samples were not sufficient for the initial sampling for hexavalent chromium required in 2014. Staff immediately gathered the necessary samples and analysis demonstrated that the City’s water sources are well below the maximum contaminant level for hexavalent chromium.

For more information, please contact the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department at (805) 925-0951, extension 7270 or 2065 E. Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Santa Maria. State Water System ID#: 4210011 • Date distributed: June 2015.

2014 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		0.04-0.11	100% < 0.3	<0.1-0.13	0.11	Soil runoff
Aluminum (b)	ppb	1000	600	ND-110	69	ND (<50)	ND (<50)	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 = 0.3-3.6)		Measure of the disinfection of the water		
Total Coliform Bacteria (<i>c</i>)	NA	see note (c)	(0)	Average = 0.51% (Range = 0-4.3%)		Naturally present in the environment		
Fluoride (treated water) (<i>d</i>)	ppm	2	1	Average = 0.93 (Range = 0.80-1.1)		Erosion of natural deposits; additive to promote strong teeth		
Total Trihalomethanes (<i>e</i>)	ppb	80	NA	Average = 12 (Range = <1.0-44)		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
Haloacetic Acids (<i>e</i>)	ppb	60	NA	Average = 2.6 (Range = <1.0-8.3)		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
Nitrate as NO ₃	ppm	45	45	Average = 12 (Range = <2.0-23)		Leaching from fertilizers; erosion of natural deposits		

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS–Aesthetic Standards

Chloride	ppm	500	NA	Average = 37 (Range = 20-69)		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 = 943 (Range = 840-1100)		Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence		
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	Average = 278 (Range = 190-320)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes		
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	NA	Average = 683 (Range = 510-770)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	Average = <0.1 (Range=<0.1-0.46)		Soil runoff		

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS (Unregulated)

Alkalinity (Total) as CaCO ₃	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 200 (Range = 160-220)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Boron	ppb	NL = 1000	NA	NA	NA	<100-220	145	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 89 (Range = 64-100)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Hardness (Total) as CaCO ₃	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 413 (Range = 300-480)		Leaching from natural deposits		
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 45 (Range = 32-54)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
pH	pH units	NA	NA	Average = 7.5 (Range = 6.7-7.9)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 2.85 (Range = 2.7-3.0)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 52 (Range = 47-60)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence		
Vanadium	ppb	NL = 50	NA	NA	NA	3.2-5.4	4.0	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; combustion of fossil fuels

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING PROGRAM–SAMPLING OCCURRED IN JULY 2013

Parameter	Units	Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	MAJOR SOURCES
Copper	ppm	34	0.170	0	1.3	0.3	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	34	NA	0	15	0.2	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits

ABBREVIATIONS, NOTES, AND DEFINITIONS

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)

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 State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.

(e) Compliance based on the running quarterly annual average of distribution system samples.

(f) Water quality information from individual wells includes samples collected from 2013.

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.