



TGW

2015 Newsletter

& 2014 Consumer Confidence Report

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co.
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FY 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It's been a busy year for Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co. Below are the highlights:

3 New mains



4 New Hydrants!!

- Phase 1 New Mains & Hydrants Completed:
 - Cherokee Lane
 - Lower
 - Mid Trout Gulch
 - Found existing 6 inch main on Ross Rd. Installed air relief and hydrant.
- Phase 2: USDA 40 Year Loan for \$2.9M @ 3.75%, Letter of Conditions received!!
- TGW Line of Credit of \$100,000!
- 99% Meters installed!!
- Improved Chlorination system for construction
- New equipment storage building
- 2014 TGW Water Conservation 23.38%

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IN PROCESS & CHALLENGES

We had some challenges with the installation of Lower Trout Gulch main therefore TGW has installed a chlorination system as a precaution.

- Lower Trout Gulch new main chlorination
- Phase 2: USDA Project Infrastructure improvements as follows:
 - Well #2 replacement
 - Additional Water Storage
 - Older pipe replacements in Norman neighborhood area.
 - Valencia loop
 - Upgrade to Skyward water system
 - Permits, plans, specifications and bid award by end of 2015. Construction starts January 2016-2017
- Security fence at Meadow Ranch Tank



FY2015/2016 OUTLOOK

- Board Election Results: Frank Busalacchi, Brian Turpen & Patricia Newby
- Focusing on Phase 2 USDA Project
- TGW participates in Soquel-Aptos Ground Water Management Committee.

How can I get involved?

TGW is starting a Board Apprenticeship Program by attending the following you can become an Apprentice to the board!

- 3 Thursday night Board Meetings per year
- 1 Emergency Training Meeting
- 1 Online Board Training class
- 1 TGW Financial training session
- 1 TGW Operations training session

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Schedule and locations are posted on the web at www.troughwater.org.



WATER CONSERVATION

Governor Brown has mandated a 25% conservation for each water system. TGW has conserved 23.38% from 2013 to 2014!! Here are the requirements from the state mandate:

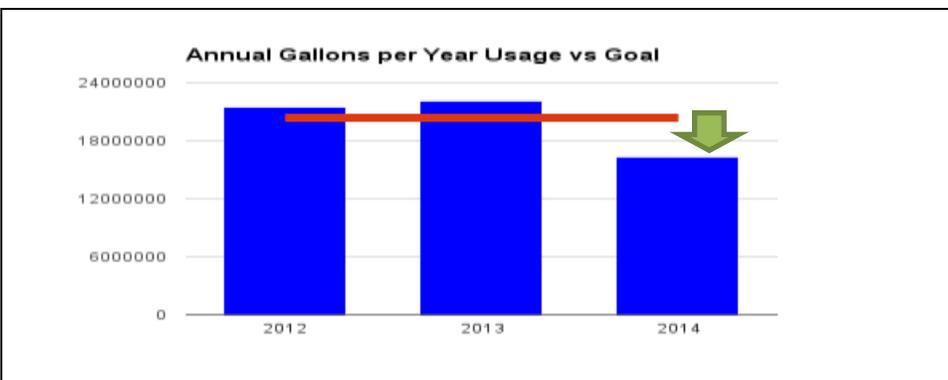
- Outdoor watering of lawn (turf) or landscaping is limited to no more than two days per week.
- Outdoor irrigation is prohibited during and in the 48 hour following “measurable precipitation” or rain showers.

As a reminder, all residence goal is to use 75 gallons of water per person per day which equals to 10 units.

- Your billing is in units: 1 unit = 100 cubic Feet
- A billing cycle is roughly 60 days; therefore, one person can meet the target of using 6 units (600 cubic feet).

“TGW goal of 75 Gallons of water per person a day = 10 units. 1 person in a 60 day billing period = 6 units

UNITS	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
PERSONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



Goal: 20,367,000 gallons per year; based on a 4 person household using 75 gallons per day per person.

Water Conservation Tips

The average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day. There are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference to achieve a 25% reduction in water use during 2015.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
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- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers 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.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



Cross Connection Control

In this newsletter you will find a Cross Connection Brochure for your education. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

WATER QUALITY

2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

By Chris Klein

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Is My Water Safe?

TGW is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's (2014) water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 (800-426-4791). TGW, as you likely are aware, began construction in September of 2014 to replace and improve old infrastructure (mostly undersized, very old, water mains) in our service area. As a result, our water is now being chlorinated to prevent and kill bacteria that can occasionally contaminate the distribution pipes while they are opened during pipe replacement. Along with the positive effects of disinfection, some unpleasing side effects can occur. You may have detected the odor of chlorine and in some cases, slight discoloration as the chlorine oxidizes manganese in the water leaving a precipitate that tints the water slightly brown. Our water is tested regularly and in compliance with safety standards. Monthly reports are sent to the Santa Cruz County Department of Environmental as required by law.

A Consumer Confidence Reports is an annual water quality report or a drinking water quality report, provides information on your local drinking water quality.

Where does my water come from?

In 2014, TGW derived water solely from deep-water wells that have remained stable over many years. Inherently, ground water has less potential for contamination than surface water sources.

No contamination of TGW source water was identified in 2014.

Sources; TGW has three wells and a connection to Soquel Creek Water District:

- Well #1 - Norman Well (1931). Active but in standby mode. Not used for distribution in 2014. Water produced is of good quality but is very high (>900 PPB) in Mn. This well remains a backup for emergency use and fire protection.
- Well #2 - Old Meadow Ranch Well (1961). Active and in use daily. Produces good quality water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements but low volume. This well is slated for rebuilding in the near future.
- Well #3 - New Meadow Ranch Well (2009). Active and in use daily. Produces good quality water in high volume. Exceeds Mn MCL of 50 PPB (<150 PPB). Water is often blended with production from Well #2 to lower the total Mn delivered.
- SCWD Intertie – A Soquel Creek Water District to TGW water connection for emergency backup and fire protection. The Intertie was not required for use in 2014 to meet water demands of TGW.

Source water assessment and its availability

TGW water sources are monitored by Company Contractors and by the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Service (SCCEHS). Water distributed is in compliance with all known safe drinking water requirements and regulations.

In 2014, water from source Well #3 showed manganese (Mn), a secondary standard not normally associated with health risks in the general population, in excess of State maximum contaminant level (MCL). By popular vote of TGW members and by the rules outlined in Title 22 of the California Health and Safety Code, TGW has opted not to treat and filter our water to further reduce Mn levels. TGW has a treatment waiver, issued by SCCEHS, to distribute water with Mn up to 150 ppb (greater than the 50 ppb MCL set by the State). TGW provides information regarding water quality and other important water related issues on the web at www.troutgulchwater.org. Information is continually updated as changes occur.

Visit often to remain informed with the latest developments and Company status.



Why are there contaminants in my 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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:

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 agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Description of Water Treatment

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Additional information for 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. Trout Gulch 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 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range Low</u> <u>High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Microbiological Contaminants							
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	2014	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.							
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA	2014	No	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.3	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	0	500	ND	No	Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	ND	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	ND	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (chrome 6) (ppb)	10	10	#3 ND #2 6.6	No	Well #3 is Non detect. Well #2 is 6.6. Well #2 ran 33% of the year & Well #3 ran 67% of the year.
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	ND	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - source water (ppm)		MPL	ND	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppb)		1300	ND	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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 allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information about the CCR Report, please contact:

Contact Name: Chris Klein

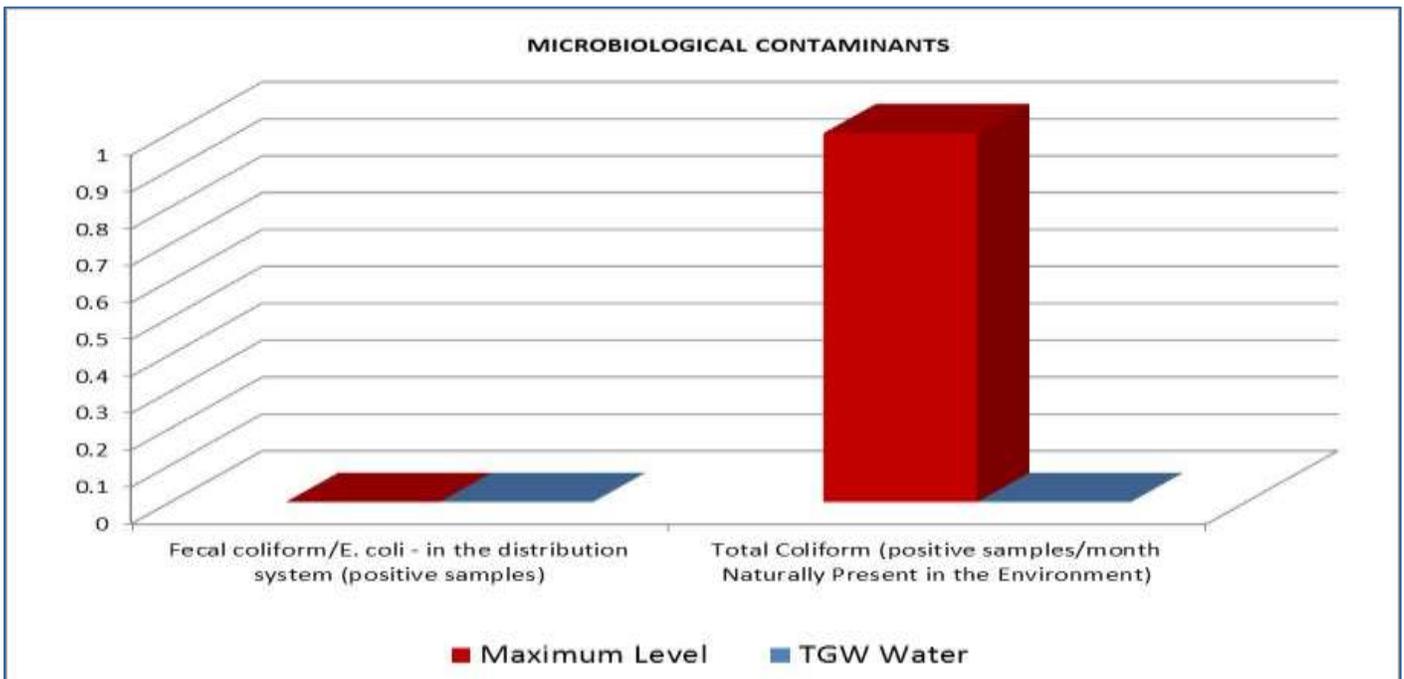
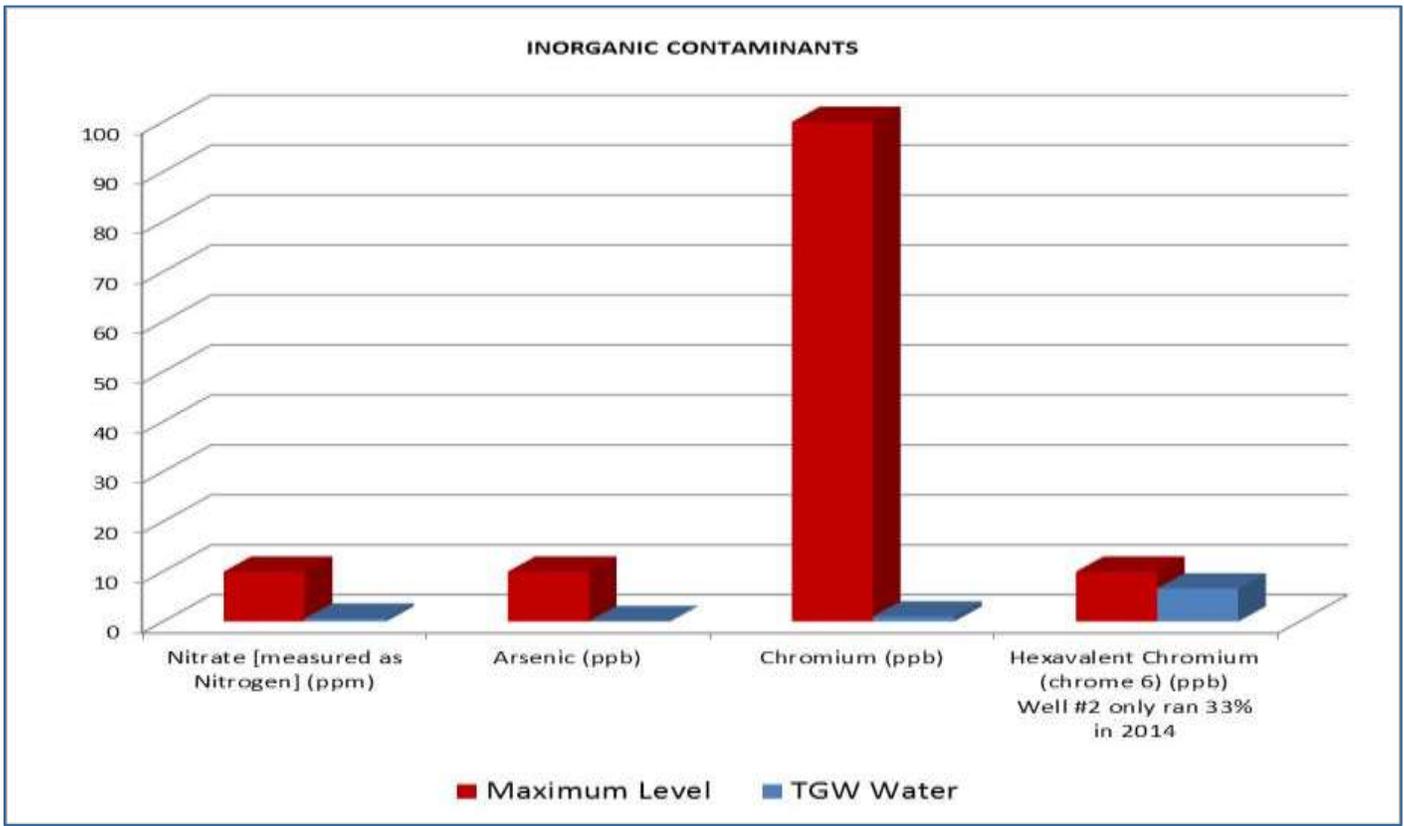
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