

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Bluffs Water System

May 31, 2016

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, 2015.

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

Type of water source: The Bluffs Homeowners Water System is located in Monterey County near the intersection of Davis and Reservation Roads and serves the Bluffs Homeowners Association. The drinking water sources include two wells, one of which is a backup source. General land use is agriculture and rural residential. This report lists the results for the primary well as the backup well was not used in 2015.

Drinking Water Source Assessment: The source water assessment was conducted for the well and tank site of the Bluffs Water System in September 2002. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminant: septic systems – high density. The wells for the water system are located in an agricultural area adjacent to the Salinas River. Therefore, the wells may be vulnerable to flooding, synthetic organic compounds and nitrates. A copy of this report is available by contacting the system 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: State Board 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 application, 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 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.

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 State Board 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

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detection	# Of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Coliform, Bacteria	1/ month	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/E Coli	0/ year	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)	Number of Samples Collected	PHG	AL	90 th Percentile Level Detected	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	5	0.3	1.3	0.59	0	9/2014	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	5	0.2	15	5.5	0	9/2014	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharge from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF RADIOACTIVITY

Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	(0)	15	6.10	9/2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	0.019	5	0.74	6/2003	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0.05	5	ND-0.6	2008	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	0.43	20	6.93	9/2014	Erosion of natural deposits

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD					
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	4	10	3	12/2013	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.064	12/2013	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	(100)	50	7	12/2013	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1	2	0.4	12/2013	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	0.2	12/2015	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as N) (ppm)	1	1	0.2	12/2013	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD					
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG/ (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	N/A	500	72	12/2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	N/A	15	8	12/2013	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1	0.007	12/2013	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppm)	N/A	500	210	12/2013	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Odor (units)	N/A	3	1	12/2013	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	N/A	300	268	12/2013	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	N/A	50	20	12/2013	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductivity	N/A	1600	815	12/2013	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	500	92	12/2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	N/A	1000	510	12/2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	5	1.3	12/2013	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	N/A	5	0.356	12/2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SUBSTANCES OF INTEREST					
Contaminant(s) (units)	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Level Detected	Sample Date	Typical Source
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	None	None	223	12/2013	Generally found in ground and surface water
Sodium (ppm)	None	None	65	12/2013	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally-occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	None	None	273	12/2013	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally-occurring.
pH (units)	None	None	7.1	12/2013	A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.

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 USEPA'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. 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).

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. Bluffs Water System 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/lead>.

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, AL or a Violation:

- None

Providing Ground Water as a Source of Drinking Water

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLES

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if fecal-indicator detected)	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
<i>E. coli</i>	(In the year)/0	None	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste

System Improvements and Updates:

- None

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
- Call MCSI (831) 659-5360 or The Water Awareness Committee at www.waterawareness.org for further information.