



# TGW

## 2016 Newsletter

& 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

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### FY 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



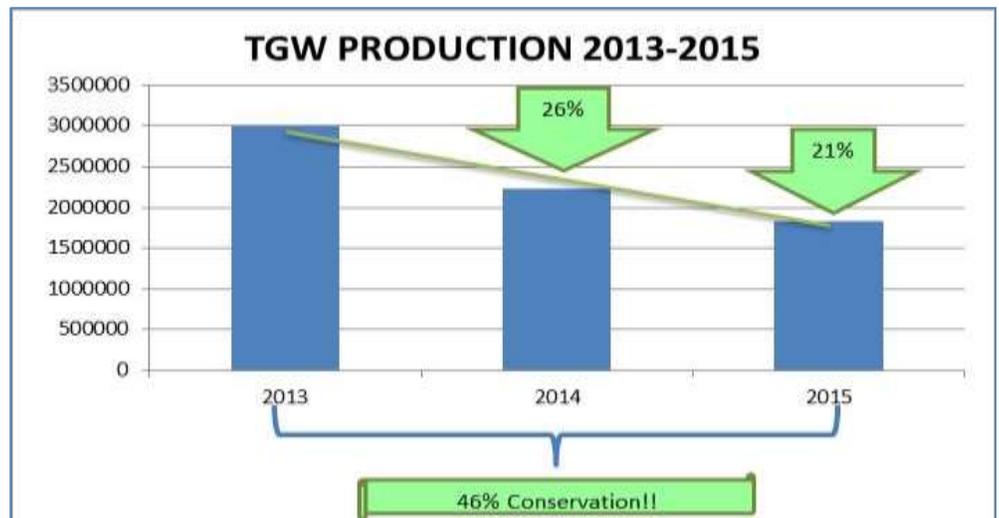
*It's been a busy year for Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co. Below are the highlights:*

- Phase 1 State 3 main replacement project completed
  - Valencia/Trout Gulch roads slurried & striped
  - 2 connections moved to Line 8 Lower Trout Gulch
- Phase 2: USDA 40 Year Loan for \$2.9M @ 3.75%, Letter of Conditions:
  - Bridge Loan from Cobank received to finance USDA Letter of Conditions
  - Completion of Engineering plans, specifications and surveying
- Norman & Meadow Ranch Tanks cleaned
- Security fence installed at Meadow Ranch Tank
- 8 meters replaced
- 2015 TGW Water Conservation 21%

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** FY2016 Accomplishments,
- 2** In Process & Challenges, FY2017 Outlook
- 3-10** 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

**You did it!!  
Great Job!!**





## WATER QUALITY

# 2015 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

By Chris Klein

### Is My Water Safe?

TGW is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report or CCR) 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 (2015) water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

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

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### 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). 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 and 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.

Disinfection has continued throughout 2015 with laboratory testing assuring our water meets safety standards. Monthly Bacteriological and Quarterly Manganese reports can be viewed at [www.troutgulchwater.org](http://www.troutgulchwater.org)

### Where does my water come from?

In 2015, 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 2015.

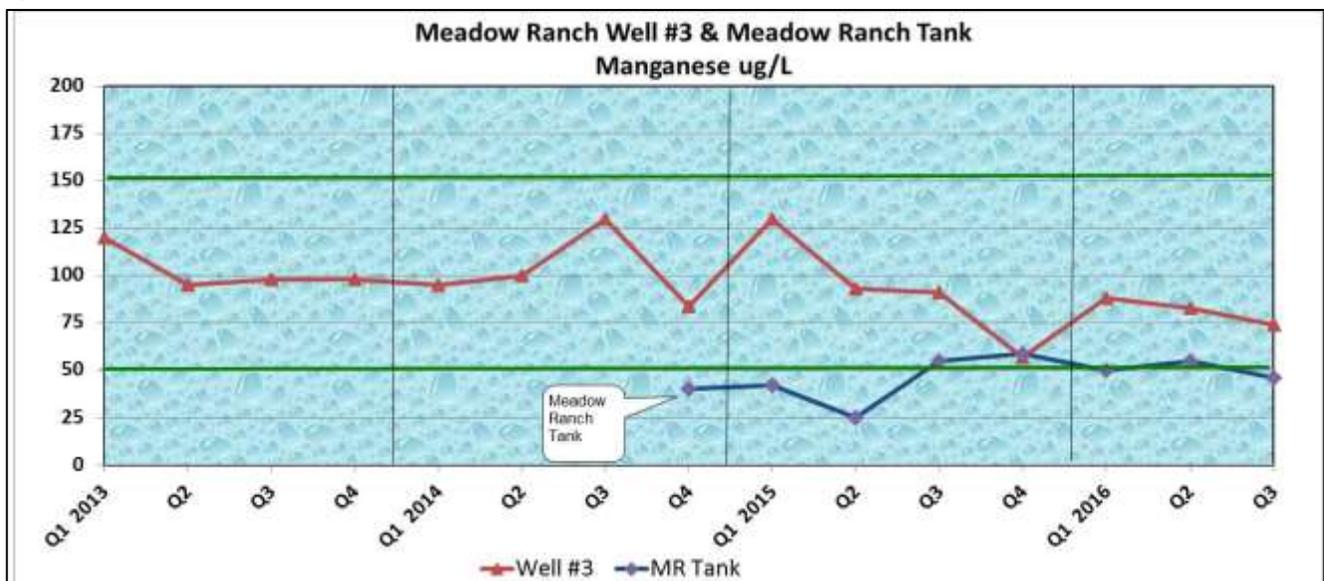
Sources; TGW has three wells and a connection to Soquel Creek Water District:

- Well #1 - Norman Well (1931). Active but in standby mode. Not used for distribution in 2015. 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 likely in the year 2016.
- 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 (~95 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 2015 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 2015, 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). In 2013 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](http://www.troutgulchwater.org). Information is continually updated as changes occur.



**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). 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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.

**Disinfection Information**

During 2015, TGW chose to disinfect water production from our primary source, Well #3 at the Meadow Well Yard located at 90 Victoria Lane, Aptos. Much of the year infrastructure was upgraded and open to possible bacteria contamination. To prevent contamination, chlorine (Multichlor) was injected into the water pumped from our source well and chlorine levels were monitored closely to assure they were within the allowed limits provided Safe Drinking Water Standards. Water was sampled and laboratory tested monthly. No contamination issues resulted.

**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>. 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>.

### **How can I get involved?**

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company (TGW) is a non-profit, member owned and operated mutual benefit corporation in business solely to provide its members with water related services including safe drinking water, irrigation, fire protection and more.

All members are encouraged to stay current with TGW information by frequently visiting our website at [www.troutgulchwater.org](http://www.troutgulchwater.org). In addition, members are welcome to assist in necessary work to operate and maintain the company by seeking a position on the voluntary Board of Directors. There are many tasks necessary to keep the water flowing. Please participate; many hands make light work for all. TGW Board of Directors meets monthly. All members are welcome to attend. Meeting schedules and locations are posted on the web at [www.troutgulchwater.org](http://www.troutgulchwater.org).

The Board of Directors meets typically on the third Thursday of each month at the local fire station on Soquel Road near Mar Vista Elementary School. All members are welcome (and encouraged) to come. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. Typical meetings will last 2 hours.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

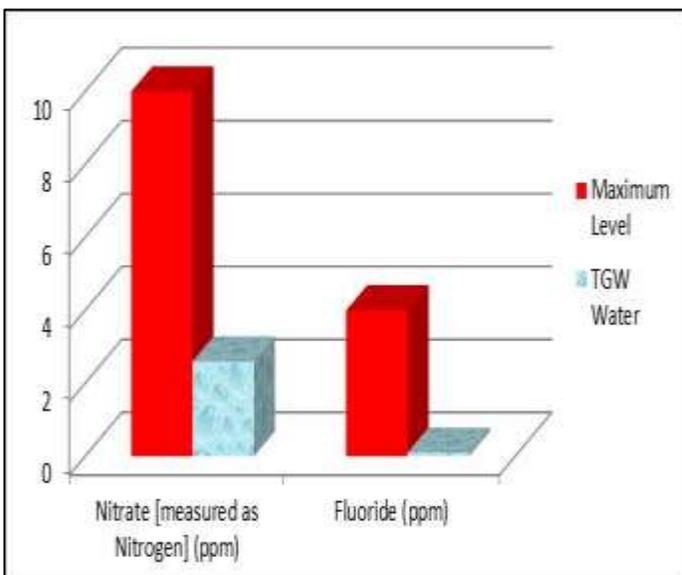
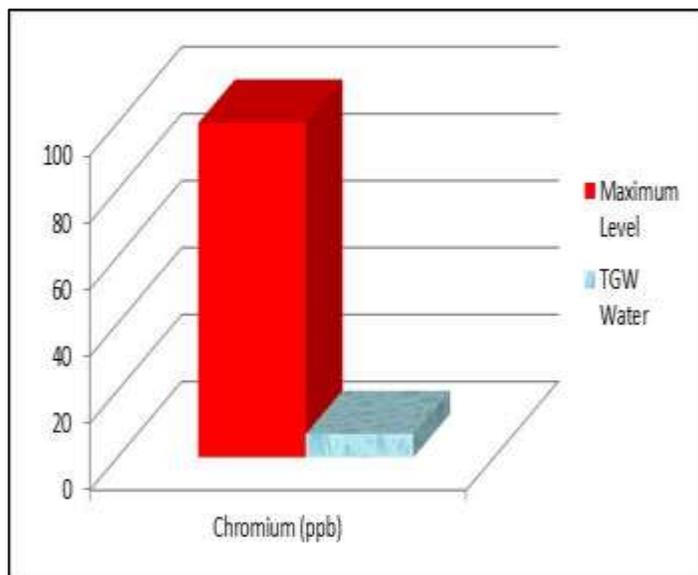
Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 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.
- 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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**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.

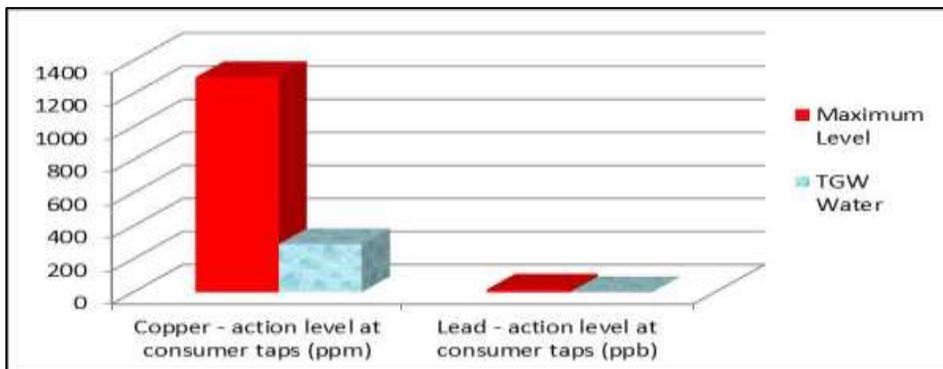
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	7	NA	7	2015	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.1	NA	.1	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Primary source (Well #3) showed Non Detect for Fluoride. Only Well #2 showed listed amounts of Fluoride
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.6	NA	2.6	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits



Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA		2015	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		2015	No	Naturally present in the environment

		COLIFORM TEST		ECOLI TEST	
TEST TYPE	DATE	106 VICTORIA	120 ROSS	106 VICTORIA	120 ROSS
ROUTINE	JAN 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	FEB 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	MAR 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	APR 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	MAY 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	JUNE 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	JULY 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	AUG 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	SEPT 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	OCT 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	NOV 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS
ROUTINE	DEC 2015	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

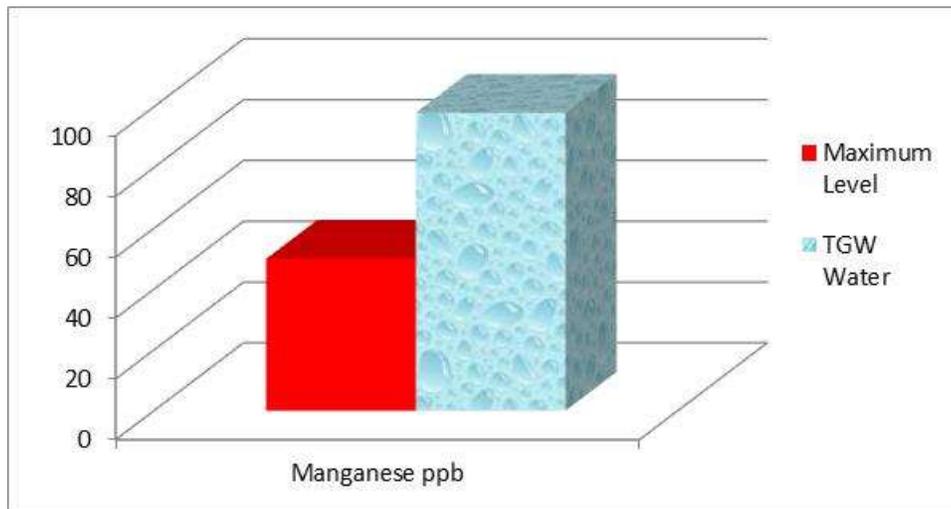
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants at Consumer Tap</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.290	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2015	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits



## Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment
Manganese	50 ppb	98 ppb	No	TGW is operating under a State waiver allowing water as high as 150 parts per billion (ppb) to be served. Water tested quarterly showed as much as 98 ppb in Manganese (Mn), Mn is not normally considered to be a health hazard. See page 4 for more details.



## Undetected Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
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
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	ND	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
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
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Copper - source water (ppm)	NA		ND	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
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
Lead - source water (ppm)	NA		ND	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	0	500	ND	No	Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle

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.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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:**



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