

2015 Water Quality Report

- Robert Postle, President, Board of Directors
- Julie Messersmith, Vice-president, Board of Directors
- Frances Basich Whitney, Member, Board of Directors
- Robert Marani, Member, Board of Directors
- John R. Benich, Member, Board of Directors



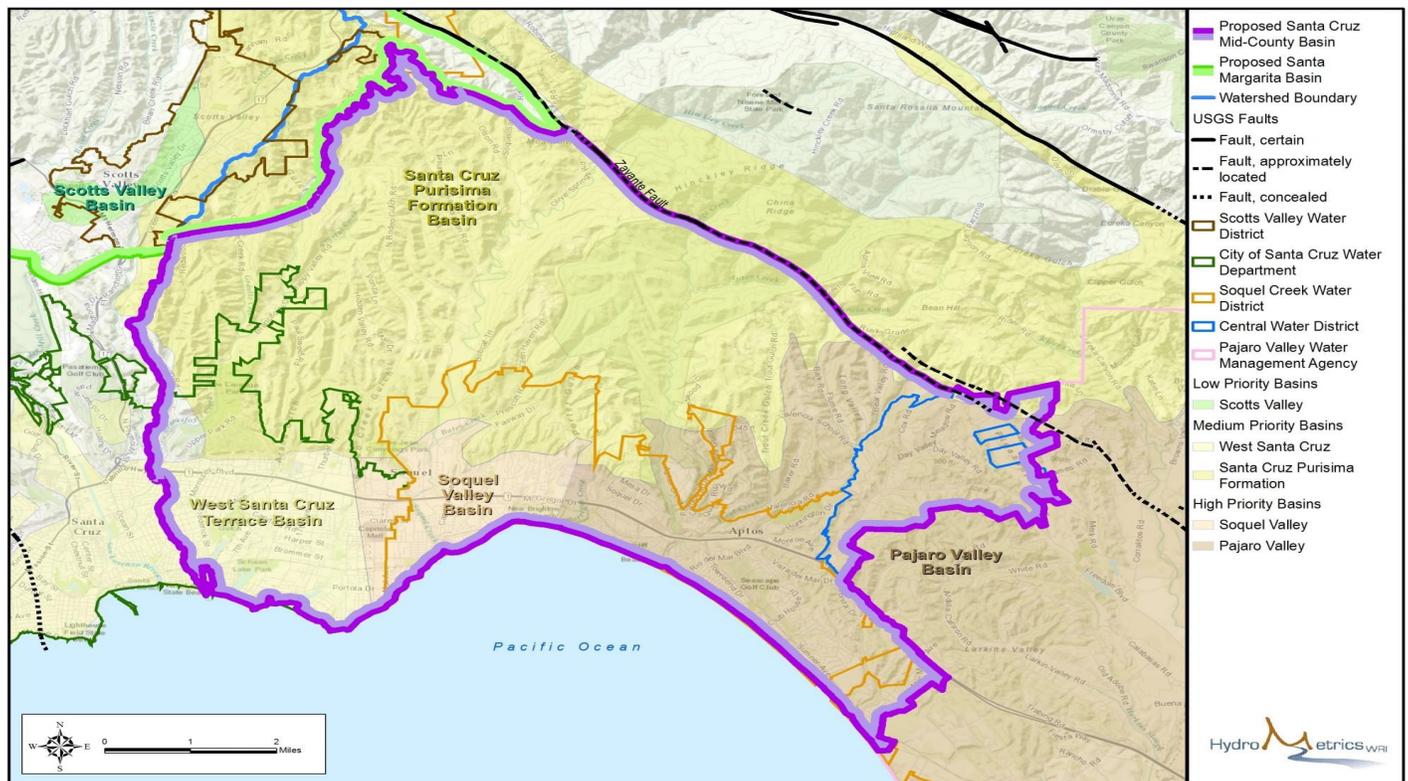
2016 Newsletter/ 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Distributed Spring/Summer 2016

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency was formed by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement entered into by the Central Water District, the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa

Cruz and the Soquel Creek Water District. The intent is that this agency will become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that will develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the

mid-county basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. You can find out more information about the agency at the website: www.midcountygroundwater.org.



A Message from Bob Postle, President of the Central Water District Board of Directors

The customers of the Central Water District have been champions with water conservation. The Governor issued an Executive Order in April 2015 imposing restrictions to achieve a statewide 25% reduction in potable water use and to date, the Central Water District customers have met and often exceeded that goal. Thank you, your efforts are greatly appreciated. As noted above, Governor Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014 and that has led to the formation of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency. The District is well represented on the agency by Directors John Benich and Rob Marani. When you have some time I think it is worth taking a look at the agency website to learn more about the planning for sustainable groundwater management. In addition to working on issues related to the drought, the District has been busy planning for its own sustainability by adopting a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The District CIP is a ten year plan that has identified projects and equipment purchases that will help to preserve the District's infrastructure and ensure the most efficient use of funds. The plan includes replacing aging water mainlines, upgrading water tanks, and the possible drilling of a new well. These projects have been prioritized and are part of a District strategic plan to maintain optimal operations.

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

All water produced and delivered by Central Water meets or exceeds standards for public drinking water established by the State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This yearly report describes where your water comes from, what is in it and how its quality compares with the regulatory standards set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Central Water drinking water is tested extensively, and results consistently show that regulated contaminants are either not detected, or are present in amounts far below the limits permitted by state and federal drinking water standards. These tests monitor tap water for microbial organisms, minerals and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for over 120 different contaminants including bacteria, metals, organic chemicals and pesticides. Only substances that are detected in the water are included in this report.

Did you know?

A cup of coffee takes 55 gallons of water to make, with most of that H₂O used to grow the coffee beans.



Terms Used in this Report

Definitions: In the following tables, you will find detailed information about the water that comes from your tap. Your water is regularly tested for many chemicals and other substances, as well as radioactivity. Only substances that were detected in the water are listed in the tables. This information is provided to help you understand the terms used in this Consumer Confidence Report. CWD drinking water is tested extensively, and consistently show that regulated contaminants are either not detected, or are present in amounts far below the limits permitted by state and federal drinking water standards. These tests monitor tap water for microbial organisms, minerals and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects.

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 or 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 USEPA.

Public Health Goal (PHG) The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk no 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (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 effect taste, order or appearance. Contaminants with SDWSs do not effect the health at the MCL levels.

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.

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, which a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: State Board permission to exceed and MCL or Not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

- ACRONYMS**
- ND - not detectable at testing limit
 - MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level
 - CLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
 - NA - Not Applicable
 - NC - Not Collected
 - ND - Not Detected
 - mg/L - Milligrams per Liter or parts per million). (Equivalent to 1 second in 11 1/2 days)
 - NL - Notificafon Level
 - NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units material
 - pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter
 - ppt - Parts per Trillion (1 second in 31,700 years)
 - TT - Treatment Technique
 - ug/L - Micrograms per Liter or parts per billion (ppb) (Equivalent to 1 second in 31.7 years)

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: Assessment of the drinking water sources was completed in 2009. Our water sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: Septic systems low and high density and fertilizer applications. The sources is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Office building complexes/ Sewer collection systems / Housing—high density/ Wells water supply/ transportation corridors—freeway and roads/streets/ Rv—ministorage/ veterinary office-clinic.

A copy of the full reports are available at the District office.

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 by-products 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.

Fun Water Facts

- 30% of fresh water is underground
- Water weighs about 8 pounds per gallon
- It takes seven and a half years for the average household to use the same amount of water that flows over the Niagara Falls in one second (750,000 gallons)

MG/L -
MILLIGRAMS PER
LITER OR PARTS
PER MILLION).
(EQUIVALENT TO
1 SECOND IN 11
1/2 DAYS)

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Samples Results Showing Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Microbiological Contaminants	No. Collected in 2015	Highest No. of Detection in a Month	No. of Months In violation	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	36	0	1	none	0	Naturally Occurring in the Environment
Fecal Coliform Or E.coli	0	0	0	none	0	Human and Animal Fecal Matter

Lead and Copper Survey Samples Taken in 2013 (Scheduled for summer of 2016)

Lead and Copper	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	10	ND	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	10	.063	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

THE RANGE OF PH
IN OUR WATER :

6.9- 7.5

NUETRAL PH=7

Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	06/16/14	26	23-26	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	06/16/14	210	200-210	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Why do we have hard water? Hard water is high in dissolved minerals. As groundwater moves through soil and rock it dissolves small amounts of naturally occurring minerals and carries them to the water supply. Hardness is a property of water that is not a health concern but it can be a nuisance.

Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Chromium (ppb)	06/16/14	(Highest) 12	ND-12	50	2.5	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm) (as Nitrogen, N)	12/15/15	(Highest) 7.1	4.4 - 32	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	06/16/14	ND	0.31-0.80	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes & Haa5 (ppb)	06/16/14	ND	ND	80 60	0	By product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	06/16/14	ND to 0.12	ND- 0.12	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6) (ug/L)	06/16/14	Well 4 / Well 10/ Well 12	8.6 / 7.7 /5.9	10	0.2	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate The District has detected nitrate as (N) levels at 7.1 mg/L, but less than the MCL of 10 mg/L in one of its 5 active wells. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six (6) 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 10 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. Nitrate levels **may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.**

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Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Color (units) *	2015	ND	ND-40	15	NA	Oxidized iron and manganese
Iron (ppb)*	06/16/14	ND	ND-	300	NA	Leaching of natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	06/16/14	ND	ND	50 ug/L	NA	Leaching of natural deposits
Odor-threshold (units)	Quarterly 2015	ND	ND	3 units	NA	Naturally occurring organic materials
Sulfate (ppm)	06/16/14	37 to 45	37 to 45	500	500	Runoff /leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	Quarterly 2015	1.5	.29-1.5	5 NTU	NA	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	06/16/14	340	230-320	1000	NA	Leaching of natural deposits

Additional General Information

Chromium is a naturally occurring metallic element found in rocks, soils, plants and animals. The most common forms are Chromium 3 and Chromium 6. Chromium 3 is found in foods and is an essential dietary nutrient. Chromium 6 can be toxic if consumed in large amounts. The Chromium 6 detected in our water supply is naturally occurring. There was no industrial spill or discharge. Scientists have estimated that up to 80% of the drinking water sources in the US could have Chromium 6. California has historically enforced a drinking water standard for Total Chromium (which includes Chromium 6) of 50 ug/L. That level was more stringent than the federal standard of 100ppb. State Water resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water adopted a new drinking water standard for just Chromium 6 in July 2014 of 10 ug/L.

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).

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.

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 the 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).



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Manage your Account Online

Central Water District has set up a Web Portal that will allow you to review your account online. You will be able to review your usage, update contact information, and view your account balance.

Just go to the website at CENTRALWATERDISTRICT.US.COM and look for the button like the one pictured below and click it! Follow the instruction for new users : Tip: Have your bill in front of you when you set up an online account.



Central Water District Capital Improvement Projects in Progress

The following projects are in the planning phase or initial implementation:

- ◆ Valencia Pipeline Project; the District has contracted for the services of Mesiti-Miller Engineering to assist with the replacement of 4700 feet of the aging steel water main located along Valencia Road.
- ◆ Upgrades to the Redwood Heights Booster Pump Station.
- ◆ A test well to determine if it is feasible to move forward with drilling a new well (Well 14).
- ◆ Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) mapping of the District infrastructure. This project was started with the work of a student intern from San Jose State University.
- ◆ Updated Standard Specifications related to construction documents and projects.
- ◆ Replacement of older, less accurate water meters.



W is for Water...use your creativity to color and/or decorate the letter W shown below. Bring it into the Central Water District office located at 400 Cox Road and your artwork will be displayed for all to see and enjoy for the months of June and July 2016.

This activity is for artists of all ages.



Artist's Name _____