

2018 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc. Report Date: June 14, 2019

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, 2018 and may include earlier monitoring data.

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

Type of water source(s) in use: Groundwater wells

Name & general location of source(s): Well #5 (located on the Hilmar Cheese Company site, 9001 N. Lander Ave., Hilmar, CA) and Well #4 (located near Oslo Road and Johnson Road, Hilmar, CA)

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Source Water Assessments were submitted 9/30/2015 for Wells #4 and #5.

Vulnerability was for septic systems and nitrates.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: NA

For more information, contact: Julie Connel Phone: (209) 656-1171

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 (U.S. EPA).

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.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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.

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. EPA 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these 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. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 — SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA						
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria	Health Effects
Total Coliform Bacteria (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In a mo.) 2	2*	1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. *Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

TABLE 2 — SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION of LEAD and COPPER							
Lead and Copper (and reporting units)	Sample Date	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	8/1/17 – 8/2/17	22	.0055	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8/1/17 – 8/2/17	22	.55	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	10/6/16, 10/11/16	180	170-190	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	10/6/16, 10/11/16	210	150-270	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant	Health Effects
Arsenic in treated water, ppb	Weekly 2018	8.5	1.0-17.0*	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes	*Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Arsenic water before treatment, ppb	Monthly 2018	80.8	25-150*	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes	*Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Barium, ppm	9/27/2016	0.27	0.13-0.40	1	2	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure.
Chlorine, ppm	Daily 2018	0.41	0.18-0.59	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[MRDLG = 4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant	Health Effects
Fluoride, ppm	10/1/2013	0.092	0.087-0.097	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth.
Uranium, pCi/L	7/10/2007	9	9	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes	8/9/2018	4.5	4.5	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride, ppm	10/6/16, 10/11/16	280	230-330	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron in treated water, ppb	Weekly 2018	54.1	ND-240	300	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Iron in untreated water, ppb	Monthly 2018	419	ND-980	300	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese in treated water, ppb	Weekly 2018	ND	ND-29	50	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese in untreated water, ppb	Monthly 2018	311	ND-450	50	Leaching from natural deposits

Additional General 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA'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. U.S. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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. Hilmar Cheese Company 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/lead>.

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT				
Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Arsenic	Treatment system exceeded operational parameters	Five intermittent incidents of one week or less	Corrected treatment system parameters	Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Coliform Bacteria	Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.	Three occurrences in two months	Corrected sampling technique	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.