

Ensuring safe, quality drinking water

Drinking water standards are established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California Department of Health Services (DHS). In order to be called safe, water supplies must stay within USEPA and State maximums when measured for certain constituents. This Water Quality Report communicates whether there is a detectable presence and the levels of each of the tested constituents in our water supply.

During the past year, the District tested for over 150 constituents in order to ensure your water meets State and Federal drinking water standards. You can review the data for each of the aquifers in the table provided in this report. These test results reflect all of our groundwater wells. Only those constituents that had detected levels are shown. At the time of testing, all were within established primary health standards.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For information about this report, Source Water Assessments, general District news, or your water quality in general, please contact the District at (831) 475-8500 or visit our web site at www.SoquelCreekWater.org.

There is also a wealth of information on the Internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. Two good sites include:

California Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management
www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/ps/ddwem

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater/

IF YOU ARE A LANDLORD OR MANAGE A MULTI-UNIT DWELLING, please contact us to order as many additional copies of the report as you need to ensure your tenants receive this important information.

INFORMACION MUY IMPORTANTE: Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien, o llamenos a 475-8500.

GETTING INVOLVED IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR DRINKING WATER: The District encourages public participation in its decision-making process. The District is governed by a five-person, publicly elected Board of Directors. The Board meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 5180 Soquel Drive in Soquel.

Board of Directors
Bruce Daniels, President
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Daniel F. Kriege
Dr. Bruce Jaffe

Laura D. Brown, General Manager

What's on Tap is an in-house publication printed bi-monthly for the customers of the District.



WHAT'S ON TAP

Volume 9, No. 3

May/June 2007



2006 Consumer Confidence/ Water Quality Report

Soquel Creek Water District



Feeling confident about the water you drink

Providing safe drinking water to our customers is our first priority. We are proud to report that the District continues to meet or exceed established drinking water health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS).

This annual consumer confidence/water quality report presents the results of test data from all of our groundwater wells that pump water from the Purisima and Aromas Red Sands aquifers. All test samples are collected and reported in accordance with standards and requirements established by the USEPA and DHS. This year's report covers calendar year 2006 water quality testing.

The presence and level of contaminants varies throughout the District. If you have questions, suggestions, or comments regarding this report, or questions regarding the specific water quality for your neighborhood, please contact the District at (831) 475-8500. Additional copies of this report are available upon request.

Source water assessments

In 2002, the District completed its source water assessment of the underlying Purisima and Aromas Red Sands Aquifers. A source water assessment lists possible contaminating activities and the susceptibility of identified contamination threats that might affect the quality of our drinking water supplies.

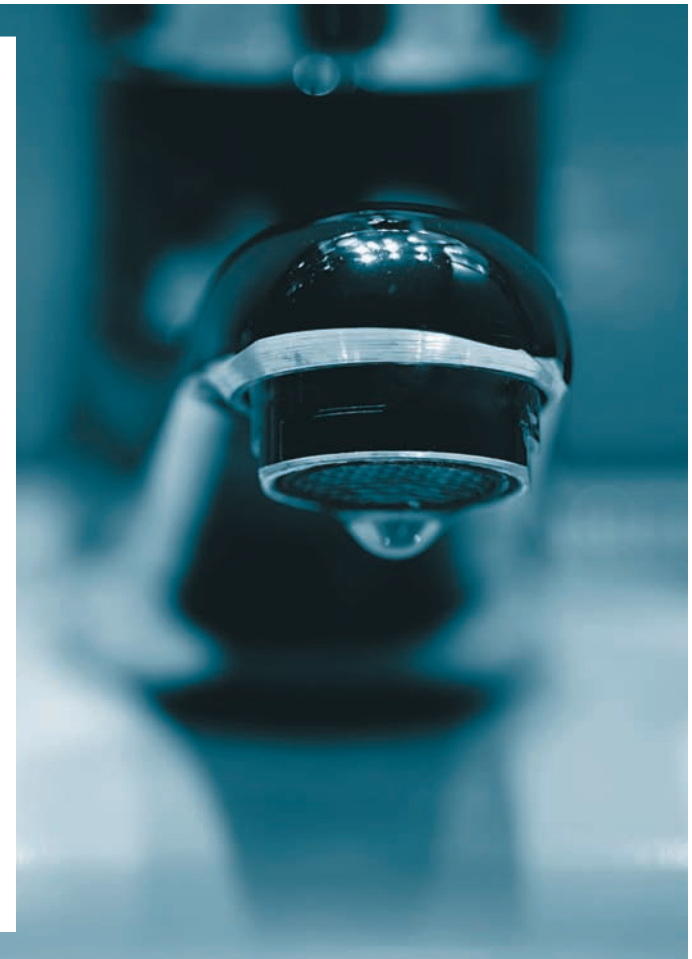
Aromas Red Sands Aquifer supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to on-site residential septic systems and potential leakage from sewer lines. Purisima Formation supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from dry cleaners, historic and active automobile gas stations, sewer collection systems, home manufacturing, grazing, known contaminant plumes, photo processing/printing establishments, and utility stations/maintenance areas. The District monitors potential contamination in the vicinity of its wells and works with other agencies to proactively protect the quality of its groundwater resources.

Copies of the Executive Summary for each assessment are available at www.SoquelCreekWater.org, and both the Executive Summaries and the full reports are available at the District headquarters office.

Immuno-compromised people

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 at 800-426-4791.



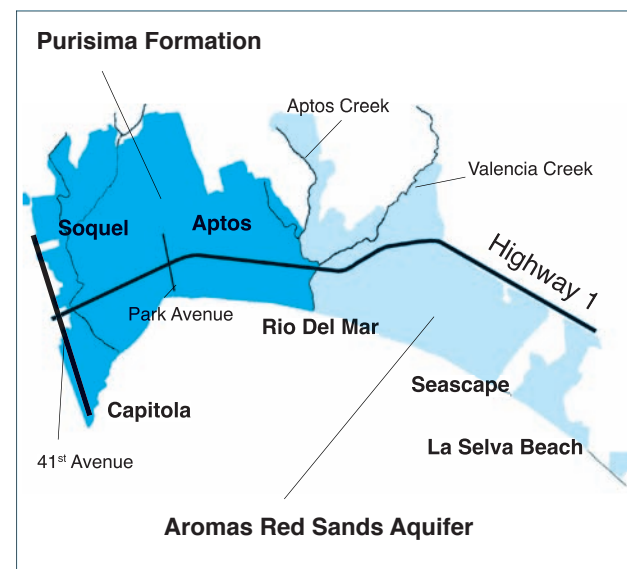
Basic information about drinking water contaminants

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled

water that must 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 water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:	Possible Sources:
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria	<i>Sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.</i>
Inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals	<i>Naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.</i>
Radioactive contaminants	<i>Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.</i>
Pesticides and herbicides	<i>May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.</i>
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals	<i>By-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.</i>



Where your water comes from

In 2006, District customers received water from 16 wells pumping from two underground aquifers. Both sources meet all current drinking water health standards.

Delivered water represents a blend from several wells. In general, the average amounts of contaminants shown in the table below are the most representative of the water quality received by customers.

PURISIMA FORMATION

The Purisima Formation provides water for Capitola, Soquel, and Aptos. Because this water is high in iron and manganese, it is treated to remove these minerals.

AROMAS RED SANDS AQUIFER

Customers in Rio Del Mar, Seascape, and La Selva Beach receive water from the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer.

2006 Soquel Creek Water District Water Quality Analysis Table

The following key terms will help you interpret the data listed in the table on the right.

Primary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs and MRDLs (see definitions below) for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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 EPA.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

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 are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the USEPA.

Measurements: Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Detected constituents are measured in parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb).

Primary Standards - Health Standards	MCL	MCLG, or (PHG)	Range of Detections	Average Amounts	Range of Detections	Average Amounts	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Constituents - Tested in 2006			Purissima Formation		Aromas Red Sands		
Present/Absent % Positive *	5	0	ND - 3	0.71	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment
Disinfection Byproducts - Tested in 2006							
Trihalomethanes, Total * (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	NS	3.9 - 50	21.8	ND - 61	7.8	By-product of chlorination
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0 - 1.70	0.49	0 - 2.0	0.58	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acid (five)* (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NS	ND - 6.9	2.7	ND - 9.4	1.0	By-product of chlorination
Inorganic Constituents - Tested in 2006							
Arsenic (a) (ppb)	10	0	ND - 4.6	1.0	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium total (ppb)	50	0	ND	ND	ND - 37	17	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.20 - 0.40	0.2	ND - 0.10	0.08	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as NO ₃) (ppm)	45	(45)	ND	ND	4.0 - 37.0	13	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer/septic
Radioactive Constituents - Tested in 2006							
Alpha Activity, Gross (pCi/L)	15	0	0.09 - 0.60	0.2	0.09 - 0.80	0.5	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	<1.0 - 2.93	1.0	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards - Aesthetic Standards - Tested in 2006							
Chloride (ppm)	500	NS	22 - 83	39	16 - 32	23	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Iron** (ppb)	300	NS	ND - 320	66	ND	ND	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese** (ppb)	50	NS	ND - 34	3.8	ND	ND	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor-Threshold (units)	3	NS	1.0 - 1.0	1.0	1.0 - 1.0	1.0	Naturally occurring organic materials
Turbidity (b) (units)	5	NS	<0.1 - 2.0	0.4	<0.1 - 0.40	0.1	Soil runoff
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1,600	NS	480 - 820	551	200 - 500	363	Substances that form ions when in water
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	1,000	NS	330 - 670	384	170 - 340	270	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Unregulated Constituents - Tested in 2006							
Alkalinity (c) (ppm)	NS	NS	140 - 260	170	90 - 170	138	A measure of the capacity to neutralize acid
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) (ppm)	NS	NS	170 - 320	207	110 - 210	170	Naturally occurring mineral
Calcium (ppm)	NS	NS	36 - 110	48	21 - 34	29	Leaching from natural deposits
Hardness (c) (ppm)	NS	NS	150 - 380	208	100 - 220	167	Naturally occurring
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6) (ppb)	NS	NS	ND	ND	ND - 37	17	Naturally occurring chromium bearing minerals
Magnesium (ppm)	NS	NS	14 - 47	21	13 - 33	24	Naturally occurring mineral
pH (units)	NS	NS	7.5 - 8.0	7.8	7.8 - 8.0	8.0	A measure of the acidity or alkalinity
Potassium (ppm)	NS	NS	3.7 - 8.0	4.8	<2 - 2.8	2.0	Naturally occurring mineral
Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	30 - 71	40	11 - 23	19	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Tap - Tested in 2004

Every 3 years, at least 30 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2004. None of the samples exceeded the regulatory action level. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

	Action Level (AL)	Health Goal	90 th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding Action Level/Number of Sites	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.17	0.39	0/30	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	2	5	0/30	Corrosion of household plumbing

Footnotes

ND = None Detected; NS = No Standard; pCi/L = Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity); ppb = Parts per billion; ppm = Parts per million.

* = Sampled within the distribution system. All other contaminants are sampled for at the well head.

** = Sampled immediately after treatment.

(a) Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, water from some wells contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the

costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services 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.

(b) Turbidity: Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness in the water and can mask the presence of pathogens.

(c) Measured in CaCO₃ equivalents.