

How to reach us

If you have questions, comments or would like more information on water issues, please contact us or visit our web site.

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Soquel Creek Water District is a nonprofit, local government agency with a locally elected Board of Directors. The District provides water supply and water resource management to more than 45,000 customers within a 17-square mile area of mid-Santa Cruz County.

The Board of Directors meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the District's office at 5180 Soquel Drive. Meetings are open to everyone and comments from the public are heard at each meeting.

Board of Directors

Daniel F. Kriege, *President*
Gary E. Hazelton, *Vice President*
James M. Bargetto
John W. Beebe
Jeff N. Eckles

Laura D. Brown, *General Manager*

What's on Tap is an in-house publication for the customers of the District. Forward your comments to the editor at the address above.

Christopher J. Regan, *Editor*



Some important things you need to know about your 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Is the water safe for everyone to drink?

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).



What's ON TAP

At the Soquel Creek Water District

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May/June 2000

1999 Water Quality Report

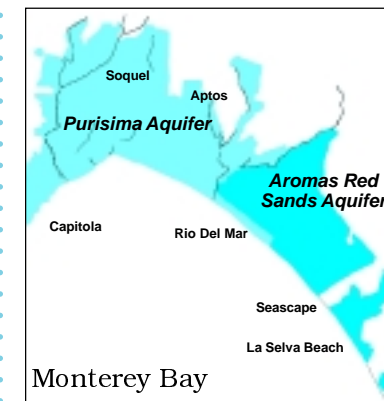
The Soquel Creek Water District is proud to report that the water provided by the District met or exceeded all Federal and State standards for drinking water during 1999.

Your source of water

The District's source of water is 17 wells pumping from two underground aquifers. The **Purisima Aquifer** provides water for Capitola, Soquel and Aptos. This water meets all health standards, but it is high in iron and manganese. Currently, the District uses filter treatment to remove these minerals, but slight discoloration and hardness are still evident.

A comprehensive water quality study identifying advanced technologies to improve taste, odor, aesthetic qualities, and consistent chlorine concentrations throughout the District has recently been completed. The District has funds budgeted for addressing these issues.

Customers in Rio Del Mar, Seascapes, and La Selva Beach receive water from the **Aromas Red Sands Aquifer**. This water has only negligible levels of iron and manganese, is somewhat softer than water from the Purisima Aquifer, and also meets all health standards.



Questions?

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this report, contact the District at 475-8500.

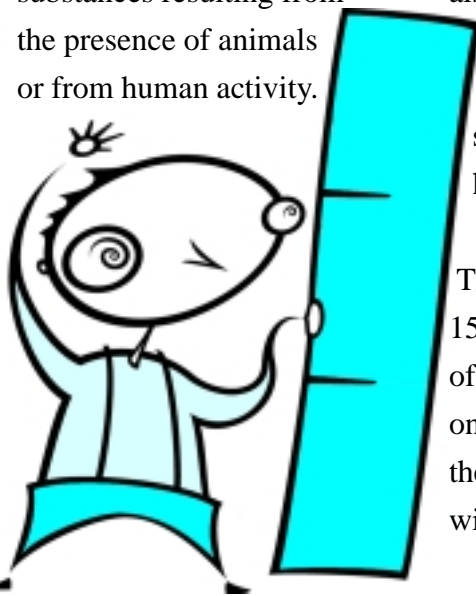
Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

How your tap water measures up

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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services (DHS) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

The District tested for over 154 contaminants. The levels of those detected are shown on the chart to the right. At the time of testing, all were within acceptable limits. 💧



	Substance	MCL	MCLG/ (PHG)	Source Range	Average	Distribution Range	Average	Sources of Contaminant	Monitored
Primary Drinking Water Standards	Microbial Contaminants								
	Coliform % Positive Samples	5	zero	-	-	0-2.6	0.4	Naturally present in the environment	1999
	Organic Chemical Contaminants								
	Trihalomethanes, Total (TTHMs) (ppb)	100	NS	-	-	ND-36	11	By-product of chlorination	1999
	Inorganic Compounds								
	Arsenic (ppb)	50	NS	ND-6	0.6	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits	1998
	Chromium (ppb)	50	100	ND-31	5.2	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits	1998
	Copper (at-the-tap; 90 th percentile)(ppm)	AL=1.3	(0.17)	-	-	0.09-0.42	0.38	Corrosion of household plumbing	1998
	Fluoride (ppm)	2	(1)	ND-0.29	.25	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits	1998
	Lead (at-the-tap; 90 th percentile) (ppb)	AL=15	(2)	-	-	ND-2.0	2	Corrosion of household plumbing	1998
Nitrate (as NO ₃) (ppm)	45	(45)	ND-20	3.85	-	-	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer/septic	1998	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Alpha Activity, Gross (pCi/L)	15	NS	0-4.53	1.65	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits	1998	
Secondary Drinking Water Standards									
	Chloride (ppm)	250	NS	15-69	38	-	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	1998
	Color (units)	15	NS	ND-30	2.8	ND	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials	1998
	Iron (ppb)	300	NS	ND-1200	344	ND-70	4	Leaching from natural deposits	1998
	Manganese (ppb)	50	NS	ND-400	198	ND-40	2	Leaching from natural deposits	1998
	Sulfate (ppm)	250	NS	4.9-170	63	-	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	1998
	Specific Conductance (micromhos)	900	NS	245-830	596	-	-	Substances that form ions when in water	1998
Additional Constituents Analyzed									
	Hardness (CaCO ₃) (ppm)	NS	NS	95-315	198	-	-		1998
	Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	43-105	43	-	-		1998

Abbreviations and Units

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

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 United State's Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their

monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Source and Distribution Ranges: Minimum to maximum amount detected in the District's water supply at the source (wells) and in the distribution system.

Monitored: The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

ND	None Detected
NS	No Standard
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
ppb	Parts per billion. (One ppb corresponds to one penny in one million dollars)
ppm	Parts per million. (One ppm corresponds to one dollar in one million dollars)

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.

- **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 storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

- **Inorganic compounds**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

- **Pesticides and herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.