

## 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  
Bruce Daniels

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*



# What you should 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?

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).

## Update on MtBE

In our March/April edition of *What's on Tap*, we reported about MtBE contamination at the Quik Stop gas station in Soquel, which is in close proximity to three District wells. The District has been monitoring the situation closely, and we are fortunate that no MtBE has been detected in any of our water supply.

The District is acting proactively to assure that our wells are not contaminated. In addition to regular testing, we have hired an independent consultant to review the cleanup plans for the Quik Stop Market spill and recommend any additional actions that may be called for in order to protect District wells and the groundwater basin.

In addition, the District's Board of Directors has sent a letter to the County Board of Supervisors supporting the County's consideration of the need for, and feasibility of, enacting a local ban on the storage and sale of gasoline containing the additive MtBE in Santa Cruz County.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. 💧



# What's ON TAP

## At the Soquel Creek Water District

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May/June 2001

## 2000 Water Quality Report

Every Soquel Creek Water District customer deserves healthful drinking water, so strict monitoring of water quality is our top priority. Each year, California water agencies are required to inform customers about their drinking water. We are pleased to report that the water we deliver not only meets but exceeds standards set by Federal and State regulatory agencies.

### Where your water comes from

The District's source of water is 17 wells pumping from two underground aquifers. The **Purissima Formation** 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.

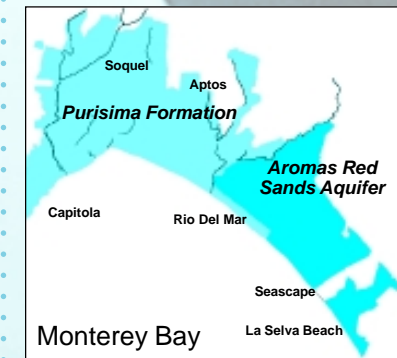
Customers in Rio Del Mar, Seascape, and La Selva Beach receive water from the **Aromas Red Sands Aquifer**. This water has only negligible levels of iron and manganese, is somewhat softer than water from the Purissima Formation, and also meets all health standards.

The District has committed funding to improve taste, odor, aesthetic qualities, and consistent chlorine concentrations throughout the District.

### Questions?

For questions regarding this report, contact the District at 475-8500. 💧

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*



# Assuring water quality 365 days a year

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 pro-

vided 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 150 contaminants. The levels of those detected are shown on the chart to the right. At the time of testing, all were within acceptable limits. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. 💧

Primary Drinking Water Standards								
Substance	MCL	MCLG/ (PHG)	Water Source		Distribution System		Sources of Contaminant	Year Monitored
			Range	Average	Range	Average		
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>								
Coliform % Positive Samples	5	zero			0-2.6	0.4	Naturally present in the environment	2000
<b>Organic Chemical Contaminants</b>								
Trihalomethanes, Total (TTHMs) (ppb)	100	NS			ND-36	11	By-product of chlorination	2000
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>								
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> percentile) (ppb)	AL=15	(2)			ND-2.0	2	Corrosion of household plumbing	1998
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ) (ppm)	45	(45)	ND-20	3.85			Runoff/leaching from fertilizer/septic	2000
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha Activity, Gross (pCi/L)	15	NS	0-4.53	1.65			Erosion of natural deposits	1998
<b>Secondary Drinking Water Standards</b>								
Chloride (ppm)	250	NS	15-69	38			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	1998
Color (units)	15	NS			ND-18	9	Naturally occurring organic materials	2000
Iron (ppb)	300	NS	ND-80	10			Leaching from natural deposits	2000
Manganese (ppb)	50	NS	ND-15	2			Leaching from natural deposits	2000
Odor-Threshold (units)	3	NS			ND-1	1	Naturally occurring organic materials	2000
Ph (units)	6.5-8.5	NS			7.2-8.4	7.63		2000
Turbidity (units)	5	NS			.25-5.2	.4	Soil runoff	2000
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
<b>Additional Constituents Analysed</b>								
Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (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.  
**ppm** Parts per million.

## Contaminant Definitions

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.