# Important information regarding your water

Drinking water standards are established by the USEPA and CDPH. In order to be called safe, water supplies must stay within USEPA and State maximums when measured for certain contaminants. This Water Quality Report communicates whether your water meets State and Federal drinking water standards. 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.

## Source Water assessments
In 2002, the District completed its source water assessment of the underlying Purisima and Aromas Red Sands Aquifers. 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 on the District’s web site and the full reports are available at the District office.

## What's On Tap
2009 Soquel Creek Water District Consumer Confidence/ Water Quality Report

The Soquel Creek Water District strives to meet established drinking water health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

This annual Consumer Confidence/Water Quality Report presents the test data from all of our groundwater wells that pump water from the Purisima and Aromas Red Sands aquifers plus water purchased to supplement our supply. All test samples are collected and reported in accordance with standards and requirements established by the USEPA and CDPH. This year’s report covers calendar year 2009 testing.

Developed by Laura D. Brown, General Manager

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

### Source water assessment

- **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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is no evidence that it poses a risk to health.
- **Secondary MCLs:** Are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standards:** MCLs and MRDLs (see definitions above) for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### Water quality goals

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guidance for the control of microbial contaminants.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 EPA.

## What’s on Tap

### Consumer Confidence

- **California Board of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management**
  - www.cdph.ca.gov/certfic/drinkingwater/Pages/default.aspx

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
  - www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html

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.

**Information may include:**

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**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**
- Dr. Thomas Larkas, President
- Bruce Daniels, Vice President
- Dr. Don Hoernschemeyer
- Daniel F. Krige
- Dr. Bruce Jaffe
- Laura D. Brown, General Manager

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### Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

| 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). | Possible Sources:
| --- | --- |
| Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria | Sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
| Inorganic compounds, such as metals and salts | Naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, and gas and oil production, mining, and farming.
| Radioactive contaminants | Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
| Pesticides and herbicides | 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 | By products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

### Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water.

The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

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

### What are water quality goals?

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- **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 EPA.
Where your water comes from

In 2009, 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 analysis table are the most representative of the water quality received by customers.

Aromas Red Sands Aquifer

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

Central Water District

Last year, the District reduced pumping at several wells due to seawater intrusion concerns in the Aromas area and took one well out of service due to water quality concerns in La Selva Beach. To assist the District during the peak pumping period of August to October, water was purchased from Central Water District and provided to the Aptos neighborhoods of Huntington Drive, Wallace Avenue, and Monroe Avenue.

Ensuring safe, quality drinking water

T he presence and level of constituents varies throughout the District. If you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding this report, or questions regarding the specific water quality for your neighborhood, please contact the District at (831) 476-8500. Additional copies of this report are available upon request.

How are contaminants measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Detected constituents are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (μg/L)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Think about these things:

- parts per million 1 drop in 14 gallons
- parts per billion 1 drop in 14,000,000 gallons
- parts per trillion 1 drop in 14,000,000,000 gallons

Water Quality Analysis Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY HEALTH STANDARD</th>
<th>MCL or MCLG</th>
<th>Action Level</th>
<th>Concentration of constituent</th>
<th>Action Level</th>
<th>Concentration of constituent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arsenic (ppb)</strong></td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.0009</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chloride (ppm)</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color (units)</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fluoride (ppb)</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iron (ppb)</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrogen (parts per million)</strong></td>
<td>1,1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms may include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen to other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant less than six months of age or for another individual with these symptoms, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary lead (ppb)</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary lead (ppb)</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turbidity</strong> [Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs)]</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turbidity</strong> [Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs)]</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Suspended Solids</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Dissolved Solids</strong></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Coliforms</strong></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Constituents</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary lead (ppb)**

Still under EPA review.

**Total Coliforms**

A measure of the fecal matter in water. Coliform bacteria are fecal bacteria present in the intestines of warm-blooded animals including humans. The presence of these bacteria confirms the presence of fecal material and sewage in your water. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly. The District monitors for total coliform bacteria weekly.