

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Madera County Maintenance District 7

Marina View – 2004

We're pleased to present to you this year's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to improve the water treatment and delivery process and protect your water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 human activity.

Possible sources of contamination:

- *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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Maximum Contamination Limits (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the risk of possible health effects for regulated contaminants, you should know that a person would have to drink two (2) liters of water every day for a lifetime at the MCL level to have a one-in-a-million chance of affecting their 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the 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. USEPA/Center 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).

Your water is supplied by two deep wells drawing from fractured rock approximately 200 to 550 feet below the earth's surface. During 2004, testing revealed violation of the EPA's MCL for two primary contaminants. More information is given below. **We do not recommend drinking water from this system.**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Linda Alexander at (559) 661-6333. We want our customers to be informed about their water utility.

The Madera County Engineering Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Our tables show the results of monitoring for the period of January 1st through December 31st, 2004.

Results of Water Testing

The following tables present results from testing in 2004. Not all testing is reported here. We test for many chemicals that were not detected at a level high enough to be reported. Additionally, the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less frequently than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The results shown are from the most recent testing and test dates are noted. If you have a specific question about a contaminant you do not see listed, we invite you to call our office.

In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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 “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as is feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – the “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Michromhos ($\mu\text{MHO}/\text{cm}$) – a measure of the electrical conductivity of water.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Turbidity Unit (TU) – a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 TU is just noticeable to the average person.

TEST RESULTS FOR PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0	0	More than one positive monthly sample	0	At least 1 test per month	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	YES*	64.0	27-180	15	N/A	2,5,8 & 11/04	Naturally present in the environment.
Uranium (pCi/L)	YES*	65.8	30-182	20	N/A	2,5,8 & 11/04	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	N	1.82	.96-4.44	5	N/A	5, 8 & 11/04	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	N	5.53	5.53	50**	N/A	4/02	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	N	.15	.15	2	1	4/02	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant / Date	Violation	90 th Percentile	# Sites Above AL	AL	90 th Percentile Goal	Total # Sites Sampled	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) / 2002	N	<9	0	15	2	5	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) / 2002	N	.38	0	1.3	1.7	5	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

About our violations:

***Gross Alpha and Uranium:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing uranium or alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. This water continues to test high for gross alpha and uranium due to the erosion of natural deposits.

A consultant has been hired to assess methods of reducing the levels of Gross Alpha and Uranium. Once a viable option has been identified, we will need to address how the project can be funded and we will contact you with additional information at that time.

** You may have heard that the EPA recently reduced the MCL and MCLG for Arsenic. The new MCL (set at 10.0 ppb) and MCLG (set at 0) do not become mandatory until January 23, 2006 to allow for the installation of any needed treatment facilities. The Arsenic level at this system does not exceed the new MCL.

Secondary standards have been set to protect against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor and the staining of plumbing fixtures (e.g., tubs and sinks) and clothing while washing. These do not pose a risk to public health and communities may decide whether or not to treat for them.

Secondary Standard Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloride (ppm)	No	11.5	11.5	500	N/A	4/02	Leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	No	<5	<5	15	N/A	4/02	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity	N/A*	-1.28 Moderately aggressive	-1.28	Non-Corrosive	N/A	4/02	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water, affected by temperature and other factors

Secondary Standard Contaminants continued...							
Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Manganese (ppb)	No	22.6	22.6	50	N/A	4/02	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µMHO/cm)	No	230	230	1600	N/A	4/02	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	No	5.23	5.23	500	N/A	4/02	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	No	200	200	1000	N/A	4/02	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (TU)	No	.4	.4	5	N/A	4/02	Soil runoff

*Corrosivity is somewhat tied to Lead and Copper in that, if the 90th percentile of lead and copper levels exceeded the AL, it would indicate that the Corrosivity of the water was causing leaching of the copper, lead, or lead-soldered joints of plumbing systems. While Corrosivity does fall into the moderately aggressive category, we do not have elevated levels of lead or copper; therefore, no treatment is necessary at this time.

Other Unregulated Contaminants			
Contaminant	Test Date	Range	Result
Alkalinity – ppm		150	150
Bicarbonate – ppm		117	117
Boron - ppm	All tests were performed on 4/9/02 & 5/21/03.	<100-160	<124
Calcium – ppm		34	34
Magnesium – ppm		3	3
pH		6.9	6.9
Potassium – ppm		2	2
Sodium – ppm		24	24
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) – ppm		88	88

These **Unregulated Contaminants** may also be of interest to you. No MCLs, PHGs or MCLGs have been established.

In Summary:

As you can see by the tables, our testing revealed violations in two primary areas. The source water for this system has consistently contained high levels of Gross Alpha and Uranium. Long-term exposure to contaminants in concentrations above the MCL has been determined by the EPA to lead to a higher incidence of cancer. Although we are studying several possibilities, no system improvements are planned at this time. **WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT YOU DRINK WATER FROM THIS SYSTEM.**

Other Information

A source water assessment was conducted for both Marina View Heights wells in July 2002. While few contaminating activities were noted due to the remote location of the wells, the assessment identified other wells in the area as having potential for outside contamination. Your system is already subject to a quarterly “DO NOT DRINK ADVISORY” due to the presence of naturally occurring contaminants. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the Madera County Environmental Health Department, by visiting State’s website, www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/dwp/source_info/source_index.htm, or by requesting a summary of the assessment from Environmental Health, at (559) 661-6333.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements to the water system. The costs may be reflected in the rate structure, because rate adjustments may be necessary in order to make these improvements.

We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please call our office if you have questions. The County of Madera works continually to provide the best available water to every tap. We ask that you, our customers, help us protect our water sources. Water is the heart of our community, our way of life and our future.

Noticia a Los Clientes Que Solo Hablan Español

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

Madera County Resource Management Agency
Engineering and General Services
661-6333

WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE NO. 532

1. No outdoor water use between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.
2. Even number addresses water Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
3. Odd number addresses water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
4. Any address may water on Sunday during watering hours.
5. Hosing down paved driveway, sidewalks or paved parking lots is prohibited.
6. Restaurants are encouraged to serve water only upon request.
7. These restrictions shall be in effect each year between May 1st and October 31st.
8. Violations are subject to a \$100.00 fine per violation per day.

CONSERVACION de AGUA ORDENANSA NO. 532

1. Nada de uso de agua en las afueras de la casa, Entre las 12 medio día y las 5:00 p.m.
2. Riego de casas con dirrecion con numero parejo son los Lunes, Miercoles y Viernes.
3. Casas con dirreciones nonas podran regar los Martes, Jueves y Sabados.
4. Todos podran regar en Domingo a las horas senaladas para el riego.
5. Se prohíbe lavar con mangeras las entradas de residencia, las banquetas y lugares de estacionamiento.
6. Los Restaurantes se les recomienda de no servir agua, unicamente si es pedida.
7. Estas restricciones estaran en efecto cada año entre el 1o de Mayo y el 31 de Octubre.
8. Todos Violaciones estan sugetas a una multa de \$100.00 por cada violacion.