

2006 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: MD-95 Ranchos West

Report Date: 6/8/07

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2006.

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

Type of water source(s) in use: Your water is supplied by three deep wells, of which two were used in 2006.

Name & location of source(s): The wells, known as the North, South and East Wells, are located in the Ranchos West maintenance District (MD-95). The North Well was not used in 2006.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: A source water assessment was conducted in April 2002 for all three Ranchos West wells. While no contaminants exceeding current MCLs were found, the assessment identified septic systems in the area as having the potential for outside contamination. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the Madera County Environmental Health Department at (559) 675-7823 or by visiting the State's website, www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwen/technical/dwp/source_info/source_index.htm.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday, except the fifth Tuesday of any month, at the Board of Supervisors Chambers: 200 W. 4th Street, Madera. Visit the County's website, www.madera-county.com/supervisors/agenda.html for a copy of the agenda.

For more information, contact: Linda Alexander

Phone: (559) 675-7817

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

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.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

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

Variations and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the state 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.

Tables 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER						
Lead and Copper	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	5	<5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	5	.34	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	32.5	31-34	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	84.5	83-86	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

*Any violation of an MCL or AL is marked with an asterisk. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	5/03 & 5/05	2.35	2.3-2.4	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes

TABLE 4 CONTINUED- DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	5/03 & 5/05	.08	<.05-.11	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Barium (ppm)	5/03 & 5/05	0.19	0.17-0.21	1	2	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	5/06	17.45	16.7-18.2	45	45	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	43.3	43.1-43.5	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	5/05 & 5/06	15*	<5 - >25	15	N/A	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	5/05 & 5/06	1450*	<100-2800	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Manganese (ppb)	5/05 & 5/06	39.5	<20-59	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
SEC (micromhos)	5/05 & 5/06	289	280-298	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	6.05	6-6.1	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	262	260-264	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	5/05 & 5/06	14.53*	<0.05-29	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	5/05 & 5/06	0.22	<.05-0.39	5	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	5 & 11/05	2.75	n/a	n/a
Vanadium (ppb)	5 & 11/05	19.75	50	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Additional General Information on Drinking 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 the 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).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

***Iron** was found at a level that exceeds the secondary MCL of 300 ppb and, while the combined average level for Manganese did not exceed the 50 ppb MCL, the sample from the East well by itself did. The high levels of these contaminants affected both the clarity and color of the water due to the process of oxidation, resulting in further secondary violations for **Color** and **Turbidity**. These levels are the result of natural deposits that occur in the East Well.

Secondary standards have been set to protect against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, 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.

Informational test results from the North Well, which was not used last year, and therefore not included in the tabulation of results used in preparing this report, also showed high levels of the constituents mentioned above, as well as a primary violation for Arsenic.

In Closing...

The Ranchos West system had no primary violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements for primary contaminants. Though we've learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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 resources. Water is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our future.