

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Madera County Service Area 19

Rolling Hills – 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).

Most of your water is supplied by one deep well drawing from an aquifer approximately 240 to 700 feet below the earth's surface. During periods of high demand, your water supply is supplemented from a well constructed by Service Area 19 and now owned by S & J Ranches. We are pleased to

report that your drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

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 of some of the approximately 150 tests made. 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 Treatment Technique is 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 1 positive monthly sample.	0	At least 2 tests per month	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	N	<1.41	<1-2.6	15	N/A	2,5,9 & 11/04	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	N	<3.45	<2-4.9	50*	N/A	5/02 5/04	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate (ppm)	N	5.1	4.7-5.5	45	45	5/04	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors							
Chlorine (ppm)	N	.83	.7-1	4	4	At least 2 tests per month	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	Violation	90 th Percentile	# Sites Above AL	AL	90 th Percentile Goal	Total # Sites Sampled & Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	N	7.2	0	15	2	10 9/04	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	N	.88	0	1.3	.17	10 9/04	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

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

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 / Unit of Measurement	Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Test Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloride (ppm)	No	8.1	7.3 – 8.9	500	N/A	5/04 5/02	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Color (Units)	No	<5	<5	15	N/A	5/04 5/02	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity	N/A*	-1.59	-1.44 to -1.73	Non-Corrosive	N/A	5/04 5/02	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water, affected by temperature and other factors
Specific Conductance (µMHO/cm)	No	170	160-180	1600	N/A	5/04 5/02	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	No	139.5	139-140	1000	N/A	5/04 5/02	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (TU)	No	.15	.1-.2	5	N/A	5/04 5/02	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.

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

Other Unregulated Contaminants...			
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	Test Date	Range	Result
Alkalinity – ppm		70-85	77.5
Bicarbonate – ppm		56-71	63.5
Bromodichloromethane - ppb	All tests were performed on	<.5-.62	<.56
Calcium – ppm		8-10	9
Magnesium – ppm	5/16/02,	6-7	6.66
pH	6/25/03,	7.0-7.1	7.1
Potassium – ppm	5/11/04,	3	3
Radon 228 – pCi/L	5/13/04 and	.16-1.1	.7
Sodium – ppm	11/18/04.	18-19	18.5
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) – ppm		49-60	54.5
Vanadium - ppb		6.1-9.5	7.8

Summary:

As shown by the tables, the Rolling Hills system had no violations. We’re proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. 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.

Other Information

A source water assessment was conducted for the Rolling Hills and S&J Ranch wells in April 2003. The assessments identify several activities as being associated with detected contaminants. These are: automobile gas and repair stations, and fire stations. The contaminants identified are: Arsenic, dichloromethane, gross alpha and total trihalomethanes. Arsenic and gross alpha are both naturally occurring but can be associated with activities mentioned. Dichloromethane is associated with automobile repair shops and gas stations as well as many other activities. Total trihalomethanes are associated with drinking water treatment. All of the contaminants occurred at concentrations below the maximum contaminant levels.

The assessments also identified the following activities as having the potential for outside contamination, even though no contaminants associated with these activities were found: high-density septic systems, underground storage tanks, irrigated crops, and fertilizer or pesticide/herbicide application.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the Madera County Engineering Department, by visiting the 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 Linda Alexander, of the Resource Management Agency, Engineering and General Services, 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.