



Scotts Valley  
Water District

SUMMER 2003

# water news

Vital Information on Community Water Issues

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY FOR 2002

## Customers Enjoy High-Quality Water Supply

Your drinking water comes from high-quality local groundwater supplies. We treat the water in four advanced water treatment facilities before we deliver it to you. Our quality program is run by state-certified water quality experts who conduct intensive tests in our own lab or at independent state-certified labs.

### How to Get Involved

We urge you to attend meetings of our Board of Directors to learn more about water in your community. The Board meets every second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the District office at 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.

### Who to Contact

For more information about your water quality, call Operations Manager Daryl Ellis at 438-2363.

### En Español

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

## Scotts Valley Water Continues to Provide High-Quality Drinking Water

**W**e are pleased to present this detailed report on the Scotts Valley Water District's 2002 water quality. The report demonstrates continued success in providing our customers with safe, high-quality and reliable drinking water. Actual results of hundreds of water quality tests conducted in 2002 as well as other water quality information are included in the report.

### How We Provide Top Quality Water

*Our state-certified water quality experts work as a team to ensure that the water we provide to your home or business is safe and clean.*



#### Testing

Water quality technicians test throughout the system on a strict daily, weekly, quarterly, and annual pattern. Quality tests detect substances as small as one hundredth of a part per billion. This is equivalent to one foot in 19 million miles, or circling the earth 750 times.



#### Treatment

Scotts Valley Water District has built several custom water treatment plants to meet local water quality needs. Low level amounts of chlorine are added to disinfect the water and keep it safe as it travels through pipelines to your home or business.



#### Flushing

Pipelines periodically need to be cleaned, so we flush water out of fire hydrants at high volume. This removes small amounts of natural sand and minerals that slowly build up.

# Scotts Valley Passes Annual Water-Quality Checkup



## When To Seek Health Care Advice

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are 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. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1/800/426-4791 or by visiting the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Where to Get More Information

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1/800/426-4791 or by visiting the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Once again, Scotts Valley Water District is proud to present the results of its annual water quality testing to you, our customers. We are fortunate to be able to start with a high quality local underground water supply. Our state certified water quality experts oversee a program that includes extensive testing, treatment and monitoring. The tests show that our water meets or is better than the increasingly strict standards set by state and federal regulators.

## Water Quality Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## Tough Drinking Water Standards How We Measured Up

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. The District's current source of supply is 100 percent groundwater. 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 before treatment 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**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, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

# RESULTS OF 2002 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants and other constituents that we detected during the 2002 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables are from testing between January 1 and December 31, 2002.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG or PHG	GROUNDWATER		SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION FOR ADDED SUBSTANCES
			RANGE	AVERAGE	
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLS</b>					
Arsenic (PPB)	50	NA	ND to 12	3	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (PPM)	2	1	0.13 to 0.53	0.33	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and alumium factories.
Lab Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	TT	NA	ND to 1.3	0.43	Soil runoff.
Monochlorobenzene (PPB)	70	100	ND to 1.2	0.07	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories and dry cleaning facilities.
Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)	100	NA	ND to 15.1	3	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Xylenes (PPM)	1.75	1.8	ND to 3.2	0.03	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent.
Trichloroethylene	0.005	0	ND to 0.6	0.005	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLS</b>					
	SECONDARY MCL				
Chloride (PPM)	500		19 to 64	37	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits.
Color (Units)	15		ND to 10	3	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Iron (PPB)	300		ND to 350	92	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
Manganese (PPB)	50		ND to 61	5	Leaching from natural deposits.
Odor threshold (TON)	3		1 to 17	6.3	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1,600		305 to 851	700	Substances that form ions in water.
Sulfate (PPM)	500		61 to 160	108	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
<b>NO STANDARDS</b>					
PH (Units)			7 to 8.1	7.6	
Sodium (PPM)			25 to 100	66	
Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (PPM)			84 to 304	234	
Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> ) (PPM)			69 to 395	262	
Calcium (PPM)			27 to 75	60	
Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) (PPM)			0.12 to 3	0.87	
Hydroxide (OH) (PPM)			0.002 to 0.02	0.008	
Magnesium (PPM)			4 to 35	20	
Potassium (PPM)			1.6 to 3.2	2.5	
Total Alkalinity (PPM)			57 to 324	212	
Phosphates (PPM)			0.082 to 0.97	0.367	
Hexavalent Chromium (PPB)			ND to 2	0.62	
Carbon Dioxide (PPM)			1,750 to 35,800	16,750	
Langelier Index			Minus 0.3 to 0.62	0.28	
Total Filterable Residue (TDS) (PPM)			220 to 550	421	

## Definitions Used in this Chart:

**PPM** - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter. 1 PPM is equal to about one drop in 17 gallons of water.

**PPB** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. 1 PPB is equal to about one drop in 17,000 gallons of water.

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

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

**NA**: Not applicable.

**NS**: No standard.

**ND**: Not detected at testing limit.

**pCi/L** - pico curies per liter, a measure of radiation.

**mmhos/cm**: Micromhos per centimeter (an indicator of dissolved minerals in the water).

**NTU** - nephelometric turbidity unit.

**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 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.

**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.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard or PDWS**: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1) Be less than or equal to 0.5 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month; 2) Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours; 3) Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA and the California Department of Health Services to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

**Note**: 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.

Most testing samples are taken from treated water. Our treatment plants remove arsenic, iron, and manganese. Copper and lead were sampled directly in the consumer tap. Coliform, color, odor, and turbidity are taken from sample stations located throughout the District. Some Volatile Organic Compounds are removed by treatment.

# Thank You

## to Retiring General Manager Jon Sansing

Scotts Valley Water District's longtime general manager, Jon Sansing has retired after a productive 16-year tenure.

Highlights of his administration included construction of a new treatment plant, complete renovation of two existing plants, building of two new storage tanks, replacement of two existing tanks, as well as the drilling and construction of the District's two largest and deepest wells.



Jon was instrumental in developing the Recycled Water Project with the City, a first in the county. He also developed the District's AB3030 groundwater plan, the first by any agency in the state.

Countless other innovations, too numerous to mention, are to his credit. Thank you Jon, for a job exceptionally well done.

## Wells May be Drilled as Backup Supply

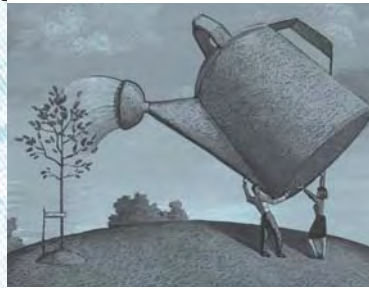
We are evaluating drilling backup wells to augment the regular well system. This would allow us to meet peak demands for water even if the regular system were out of service due to an emergency or other unforeseen reason.

Exploratory wells will be drilled to assess the potential for additional backup wells. We will closely monitor the flow and quality of the exploratory wells before making a final decision on whether to go ahead with the backup wells.



## Recycled Water Use Growing


We started supplying recycled water last summer to irrigate the landscaped median strips on Mt. Herman Road and Scotts Valley Drive. The test project has been successful and we are now expanding the water-recycling program. The Skypark Soccer Field is now on-line.



On deck to receive recycled water next are the grounds of Scotts Valley High School, Siltanen Park, and other projects. The water comes from a recycling plant, built by the Scotts Valley Water District, owned by the City of Scotts Valley, and designed to produce up to 1 million gallons a day of highly treated recycled water.

## Study Seeks Even Better Quality

We are seeking a way to improve the taste and other qualities of your water by retaining an outside engineering firm to examine our treatment process. Because your water meets all health related water standards, improving the esthetics of water is not required. Rather, it is something we want to do to provide even better service to our customers.

 Printed on recycled paper with soy ink. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

### Scotts Valley Water District

P.O. Box 660006  
Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0006  
831-438-2363



#### Board of Directors

RICK MADAY  
*President*

MARGO HOBER  
*Vice President*

PAUL WATKINS

ROGER KERN

WILLIAM KASSIS

JILL DUERIG  
*General Manager*

PRST. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COMPLETE MAILING  
SERVICE, INC.