



Scotts Valley
Water District

SUMMER 2004

water news

Vital Information on Community Water Issues

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY FOR 2003

Scotts Valley Water PASSES the Test Again

As part of our commitment to provide you with the best possible water at the lowest cost, we are pleased to present this detailed report on Scotts Valley Water District's 2003 water quality.

Once again, the report shows that your tap water meets or is better than the increasingly stringent standards set by state and federal regulators. Contained in the report are the results of hundreds of water quality tests conducted in 2003 as well as other useful and educational water quality information.

High-Quality Water Supply For Our Customers

Your drinking water comes from local groundwater supplies. We treat the water in three advanced water treatment facilities before we deliver it to you. Our water quality program and facilities are operated by state-certified water quality experts. Intensive water quality tests are performed by 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 of the month 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/Assistant General Manager William O'Brien at 438-2363.

En Español

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

Testing Accuracy

The thousands of tests conducted every year are done with extraordinary accuracy that can detect one hundredth of a part of

some substances in a billion parts of water.



Round the Clock Monitoring

Our state-certified water quality professionals monitor your water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you don't have to worry about it.

Certified Labs

Results of the water quality tests come from independent state-certified labs.

Frequency of Tests

Some tests are done daily, others weekly, monthly or at other intervals, even continuously around the clock using sophisticated equipment.

Scotts Valley Water District

Continues to Provide High-Quality And Reliable Drinking Water

Testing confirms that the combination of a high-quality water supply and an effective, efficient and modern treatment and delivery system continues to provide our customers with top quality and reliable drinking water.

We are proud of the testing results, which reflect not only our treatment processes, but also our on-going maintenance programs and our efficient and effective operations.

But we have not stood still. We have moved forward to improve our operations to better serve our customers. Our staff is well-trained and state certified. They use modern, high-tech equipment that is more reliable and more effective than ever before.

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.

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/OW.

Specific information about California's drinking water is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ca.htm.

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/Centers 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.

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 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 2003 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants and other constituents that we detected during the 2003 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, 2003. Secondary Standards in the chart below refer to aesthetic aspects of water and do not impact health.

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT TREATED WATER					
CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG or PHG	RANGE	AVERAGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION FOR ADDED SUBSTANCES
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLS					
Arsenic (PPB)	50	NA	ND to 4	1.6	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (PPM)	2	1	0.11 to 0.51	0.29	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer.
Lab Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	TT	NA	0.15 to 1.10	0.48	Soil runoff.
Monochlorobenzene (PPB)	70	100	ND	ND	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories and dry cleaning facilities.
Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)	100	NA	ND to 10.7	2.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Xylenes (PPB)	170	1.8	ND	ND	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent.
Trichloroethylene (PPB)	5.0	0	ND	ND	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLS					
	SECONDARY MCL				
Chloride (PPM)	500		19 to 110	42	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits.
Color (Units)	15		3 to 5	4.7	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Iron (PPB)	300		ND to 360	73	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
Manganese (PPB)	50		ND to 35	5.6	Leaching from natural deposits.
Odor threshold (TON)	3		2 to 17	9.2	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1,600		270 to 1,600	760	Substances that form ions in water.
Sulfate (PPM)	500		45 to 430	142	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
NO STANDARDS					
PH (Units)			7.4 to 8.4	7.9	
Sodium (PPM)			29 to 280	79	
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) (PPM)			54 to 319	219	
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) (PPM)			66 to 387	231	
Calcium (PPM)			21 to 80	58	
Carbonate (CO ₃) (PPM)			0.31 to 6.10	2.05	
Hydroxide (OH) (PPM)			0.004 to 0.040	0.018	
Magnesium (PPM)			3.2 to 36	18.4	
Potassium (PPM)			1.6 to 5.7	2.6	
Total Alkalinity (PPM)			54 to 319	190	
Phosphates (PPM)			0.066 to 0.699	0.336	
Hexavalent Chromium (PPB)			ND to 1	0.08	
Carbon Dioxide (PPM)			1,340 to 15,000	6,526	
Langelier Index			ND to 1.30	0.68	
Total Filterable Residue (TDS) (PPM)			210 to 1,030	501	

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: Not 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

¹Turbidity 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.

Treatment Units Rehabilitated

The Orchard Run Well treatment plant has been rehabilitated as part of the District's on-going maintenance program. The filter underwent an annual inspection, and its pneumatic valves and piping were replaced to allow continued effective and efficient operation of the wellhead treatment facility.

The District rehabilitated Well 7A. The work included installation of a new pump and motor. The maintenance program ensures continued reliability of your water supply.

Water Too Precious to Waste

There is never enough water to waste. It is a precious resource. Do your part to help conserve water.

- Use water wisely indoors and create attractive gardens with low-water-use plants.
- Switch to low-flush toilets and low-flow shower heads.

We can help you conserve water. Stop by the District office and pick up free literature.

State Money Grab May Impact District

The State of California is proposing to take 40% of the property tax revenues of many local special district governments, including Scotts Valley Water District. The State property tax grab is currently proposed to last two years or more in order to help balance the State budgets. The District has already taken many steps over the years to keep costs down, and may be required to cut services and/or raise rates if the State takes \$200,000 per year as currently planned.

Recycled Water Use Expanded

Our program for use of recycled water to irrigate landscaping is continuing to expand. The latest addition to the program is Siltanen Park and Baymonte Christian Preschool. They join Skypark Soccer Field and landscaped median strips on Mt. Hermon Road and Scotts Valley Drive as recipients of recycled water 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.

Annual Cleaning Yields Great Results

The District's yearly pipeline flushing program was completed in the spring with excellent results. Pipelines need to be cleaned regularly to remove small amounts of natural sand and minerals that slowly build up. The cleaning process involves flushing water out of fire hydrants at high volume. The flushing program is one of the steps we take to ensure the quality and reliability of your drinking water supply.



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

Staff Changes

Welcome...

William O'Brien has joined the District staff as operations manager/assistant general manager. He was manager of the Felton Water District for 11 years.

Farewell...

Daryl Ellis has retired as operations manager for the District. He joined the District in 1973 as a utility/maintenance worker, rose in the ranks and become operations manager in the early 1980s.

Scotts Valley Water District

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