



Scotts Valley  
Water District

SUMMER 2005

# water news

Vital Information on Community Water Issues

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY FOR 2004



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

**W**e are very pleased to provide you with this report showing that Scotts Valley Water District continues to provide quality water to your homes and businesses.

Your tap water meets or is better than the increasingly stringent standards set by state and federal regulators. This demonstrates the District's continued success in providing our customers with safe, high-quality and reliable drinking water.

Contained in this report are the results of hundreds of water quality tests conducted in 2004 as well as other useful and educational water quality information.



## How We Provide Top-Quality Water

### **We Start With Top Quality Water Supply**

Your drinking water comes from high-quality local groundwater supplies.

### **We Filter and Disinfect**

We treat your water in four advanced water treatment facilities. Then we add trace amounts of chlorine to disinfect the water and to keep it clean as it travels through the pipeline system.

### **Finally, We Test, Test, and Test for Quality**

**Round The Clock Monitoring:** Our state-certified water quality professionals monitor your water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Daily Tests:** Each day, water samples from various locations around the District are analyzed by certified treatment operators and independent state-certified labs.

**Weekly Tests:** Additional weekly testing is conducted for bacterial contamination.

**More Tests:** Extensive monthly, quarterly and annual tests also are performed.

**Accuracy:** Water quality tests detect substances as small as one-half part per billion.

# Modern Equipment, Techniques Allow for Quality Water Service

**A**n effective, efficient and modern treatment and delivery system combined with a high-quality water supply allows the Scotts Valley Water District to continue to provide our customers with top-quality and reliable drinking water year after year.



The continued excellent test scores confirm the success of our treatment processes, our on-going maintenance programs and our efficient and effective operations.

We continue to improve our operations to better serve our customers. Our staff is well-trained and state-certified. They use modern, high-tech equipment to hold down our operational costs, which saves our customers money.

## Water Quality Regulations

**I**n 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](http://www.epa.gov/OW).

Specific information about California's drinking water is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ca.htm](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ca.htm) or [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/).

## Tough Drinking Water Standards How We Measured Up

**S**ources 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.

## When to Seek Health Care Advice

**S**ome 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.gov/OW](http://www.epa.gov/OW).

# RESULTS OF 2004 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants and other constituents that we detected during the 2004 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, 2004. 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
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLS</b>					
Arsenic (PPB)	50	NA	ND to 3.5	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (PPM)	2	1	0.1 to 0.64	0.28	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and alumium factories.
Lab Turbidity1 (NTU)	TT	NA	0.2-1.8	0.64	Soil runoff.
Monochlorobenzene (PPB)	70	100	ND to 0.5	0.5	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories and dry cleaning facilities.
Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)	100	NA	ND to 8.5	4.5	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	ND	ND	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLS</b>					
SECONDARY MCL					
Chloride (PPM)	500		15-86	40	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits.
Color (Units)	15		ND-10	4	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Iron (PPB)	300		ND to 760	207	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
Manganese (PPB)	50		ND to 50	12.9	Leaching from natural deposits.
Odor threshold (TON)	3		2 to 17	6	Naturally occurring organic minerals.
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1,600		215-1,470	705	Substances that form ions in water.
Sulfate (PPM)	500		47-500	146	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
<b>NO STANDARDS</b>					
PH (Units)			7.1 to 8.7	7.9	
Sodium (PPM)			26 to 350	86	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) (PPM)			65.2 to 304	198.9	
Bicarbonate (HCO3) (PPM)			52.7-408	199.1	
Calcium (PPM)			21 to 80	53	
Carbonate (CO3) (PPM)			0.151 to 7.36	1.925	
Hydroxide (OH) (PPM)			0.002 to 0.09	0.02	
Magnesium (PPM)			3.1-35	15.9	
Potassium (PPM)			1.6 to 6.9	2.6	
Total Alkalinity (PPM)			43.3-336	163.9	
Phosphates (PPM)			0.103-1.5	0.491	
Hexavalent Chromium (PPB)			ND to 5	2.9	
Carbon Dioxide (PPM)			0.902-29.4	6.373	
Langelier Index			Minus 0.7 to 1.4	0.375	
Silver (PPM)			ND-0.0097	0.00406	

## 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.

# District Bolsters Water Conservation Program

In May, the District became a signatory to the California Urban Water Conservation Council, representing a commitment to ensure use of the best conservation methods available. Advice from the Council will help the District keep its Urban Water Management Plan in line with State Department of Water Resources required conservation practices.



## 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 Interim 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.*

## STAFF CHANGES

### Farewell to General Manager Duerig

**Jill Duerig**, who served as General Manager of the Scotts Valley Water District for more than two years, resigned in June to take a position closer to home.

During her tenure, the District expanded the recycled water program, obtained a state grant to update our knowledge of groundwater and improved relationships with neighboring public agencies.

The District Board of Directors thanked Miss Duerig for her service and said that she will be missed.

The Board named **William O'Brien** as the Interim General Manager. O'Brien joined the District staff as operations manager/assistant general manager a year and a half ago. He had been manager of the Felton Water District for 11 years.


### Another Farewell . . .

**Scott Hamm**, the District's Field Supervisor, has retired after 27 years of service. He joined the District in June 1977 as a Maintenance I worker and rose in the ranks to become Field Supervisor in 1980.

### Welcome . . .

**Troy Adams** joined the staff as an electrician after working for a private company that did much of the District's electrical work. He has become a key member of the operations staff.

**Colin Smith** joined the staff as an assistant engineer, to design, plan and coordinate water utility projects and the updating of the District's distribution maps.

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

### **Scotts Valley Water District**

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