Scotts Valley Water District

water news

Vital Information on Community Water Issues

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY FOR 2010

Get Involved With Water

Learn more about water in your community! We urge customers to attend monthly Board Meetings held on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the District office, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.

How to Contact Us

Contact Assistant General Manager/Operations Manager William O'Brien at 831-438-2363 or by e-mail at contact@svwd.org for more information about your water quality.

Please Visit Us at www.svwd.org

Use our website to access meeting agendas and minutes, as well as information about the Board of Directors, rates, water quality, water conservation, and more.

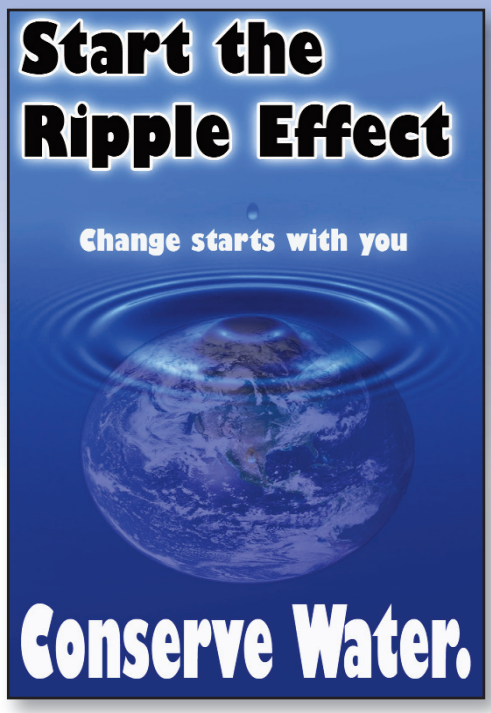
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Your Water Quality Passes the Test, Again!

This report covers water quality test results for samples drawn during 2010 and required historical test results. Once again the test results show your drinking water is of a higher quality than state and federal standards require.

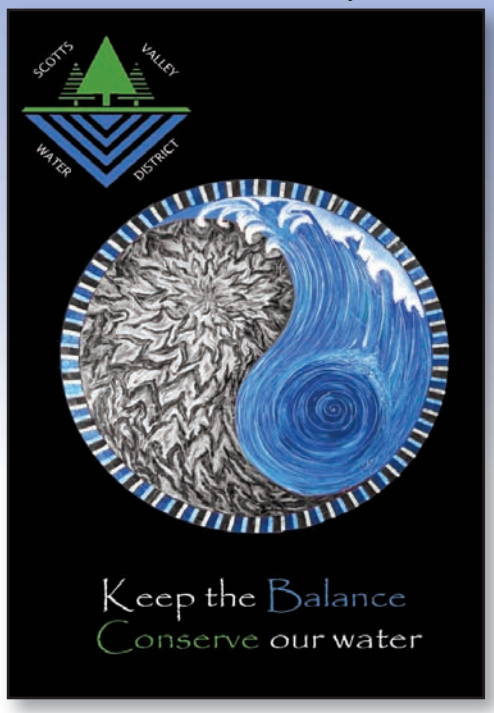
In addition to detailed results of water quality testing, this report also contains a description of local water sources, answers to common questions about water quality, and materials to help your family or business conserve the precious water resources of our community.

First Place: Julia Pini



Second Place: Kelsey Van Valer

Third Place: Callum Percy



Student Water Conservation Print-Ad Contest

Scotts Valley Water District high school students once again used their graphic design skills to promote water conservation as part of the District's Annual Print Ad Contest. Ninety four entries were received this year. Congratulations to all participants!

Our Commitment to Providing Quality Water

Water Quality Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services 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. For information go to www.epa.gov.

Quality Water Supply

Your drinking water comes from local groundwater supplies.

Your Water Is Highly Treated

We operate four advanced water treatment facilities to produce safe, high-quality water.

We Test for Quality

Our state-certified water quality professionals monitor your water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure the safety of your water.

Frequency of Tests: Some tests are done daily, others weekly, monthly, or at other intervals. Some measurements are taken continuously, around the clock, using sophisticated equipment. We do more testing than required by state and federal regulators.

Certified Labs: Tests and results are produced by independent state-certified facilities.

Test Accuracy: The thousands of tests we conduct every year are done with extraordinary accuracy. Many substances can be detected at a level of two grams per one million gallons of water.

Water in the Environment

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, that 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, agricultural applications, and septic systems.

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

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the Scotts Valley Water District was completed in September 2001. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: drycleaning, gasoline storage and distribution, and manufacturing. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to these activities: abandoned water and monitoring wells, septic systems, transportation corridors, commercial parking lots, and sewer collection systems.

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.

When to Seek Health Care Advice

Our water supply is from underground aquifers that are less susceptible to surface water contaminants. 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.

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESULTS OF 2010 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants and other constituents detected between January 1 and December 31, 2010. Secondary Standards in the table refer to aesthetic aspects of water.

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT TREATED WATER

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLs

CONTAMINANT	MCL or MRDL	PHG or MCLG	RANGE	AVERAGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Arsenic (PPB)	10	4	ND to 5.2	1.6	Naturally occurring minerals.
Fluoride (PPB)	2,000	1,000	120 to 690	376	Naturally occurring minerals.
Gross alpha particle activity[1] (pCi/L)	15	3	ND to 7.2	2.4	Naturally occurring minerals.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT	PDWS or MCL	PHG or MCLG	RANGE	VIOLATION	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria	2	0	0 - 1	NO	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment. They are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.
E. coli	2	0	0 - 1	NO	Human or animal fecal waste.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL

Total Trihalomethanes (PPB)	80	NA	ND to 52	13.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic acids (PPB)	60	NA	ND to 4.5	3.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine [free] (PPM)	4	4	0.1 to 1.6	0.8	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.

LEAD AND COPPER[2]

	ACTION LEVEL	PHG	# OF SITES SAMPLED	# OF SITES EXCEEDING	90TH PERCENTILE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Lead[2] [total] (PPB)	15	2	20	0	3.0	Customer household plumbing.
Copper[2] [total] (PPB)	1,300	170	20	0	370	Customer household plumbing.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLs

CONTAMINANT	SECONDARY MCL	RANGE	AVERAGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chloride (PPM)	500	21.0 to 91.0	43	Naturally occurring minerals.
Color (ACU)	15	ND to 5.0	0.2	Naturally occurring minerals.
Iron (PPB)	300	ND to 320	30.3	Naturally occurring minerals.
Manganese (PPB)	50	ND to 38	3.2	Naturally occurring minerals.
Odor threshold (TON)	3	ND to 2	1.3	Naturally occurring minerals.
Specific Conductance (micromhos per cm)	1,600	360 to 1,700	785	Naturally occurring minerals.
Sulfate (PPM)	500	79 to 520	134	Naturally occurring minerals.
Turbidity (NTU)	5	0.08 to 0.75	0.26	Naturally occurring minerals.
Total Dissolved Solids (PPM)	1,000	260 to 1,200	486	Naturally occurring minerals.

NO STANDARDS

	RANGE	AVERAGE
pH	7.3 to 8.3	7.9
Sodium (PPM)	30 to 350	85
Total Hardness[3] [as CaC03] (PPM)	100 to 290	213
Calcium (PPM)	32 to 68	57
Carbonate [as C03] (PPM)	ND to 4.7	1.7
Magnesium (PPM)	5 to 36	19
Potassium (PPM)	1.5 to 5.7	2.6
Total Alkalinity (PPM)	55 to 360	199
ortho-Phosphate [as P04] (PPM)	0.8 to 2.9	1.4
Carbon Dioxide (PPM)	ND to 17	5
Langelier Index	Minus 0.5 to 1.2	0.4

NOTES

A. Water samples for the data reported above are drawn from both the treatment plants and the distribution system.

B. Our treatment plants remove a combination of iron, manganese, arsenic, sulfide, and reduced constituents inherent to the Scotts Valley groundwater supply. Where needed volatile organic compounds are also removed.

C. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Radiological constituents samples were drawn from three treatment plants in September 2008.
[2] Lead and Copper Rule samples were drawn from 20 customer taps in the Summer of 2008.
[3] Average Total Hardness for 2010 was 12.5 grains per gallon.

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS CHART:

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

ACU: Apparent Color Units: A measurement of color.

Grains per Gallon: A unit of hardness where 17.1 parts per million equals 1 grain per gallon.

Turbidity: A physical characteristic of water that makes the water appear cloudy. The condition is caused by the presence of suspended matter. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Langelier Index: This index is used in stabilizing water to control both corrosion and the deposition of scale.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

Micromhos per Centimeter: An indicator of dissolved minerals in the water.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected at testing limit.

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit, indicating the clarity of the water.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity.

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

PPB: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. 1 PPB equals 0.001 PPM and is equivalent to about one drop in 17,000 gallons of water.

PPM: Parts per million or milligrams per liter. 1 PPM equals 1,000 PPB and is equivalent to about one drop in 17 gallons of water.

PHG: Public Health Goal: 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.

Total Dissolved Solids: An indicator of dissolved minerals in the water.

TON: Threshold Odor Number: The unit of odor.

90TH Percentile: The third highest sample result of 20 sample results.

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www.svwd.org

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

Visit Our Website at www.svwd.org for Water Saving Ideas and Rebates.

Check Out These Tips for A Healthy, Water-Efficient Garden

1. Plan and Design: Highlight the major structures in your garden, identify what you want to achieve with your new landscape.

2. Lose the Lawn! Replace high water-using lawns with alternative turf options.

3. Irrigate Efficiently: Investing in an efficient irrigation system prevents water from being wasted and benefits plants.

4. Plant in Zones: Save water by grouping plants based on their water needs, then modify your irrigation system to match those needs.

5. Use Mulch: Applying a layer of mulch helps to retain root zone moisture, lessen evaporation, reduce erosion, prevent the soil from developing a surface crust, and suppress weed growth.

6. Improve your Soil: Types of soils differ in their ability to retain water. Applying a layer of compost helps develop healthy soil, roots, and plants.

7. Maintenance: Make sure to maintain your landscape in order to keep plants healthy and happy.

Rebate Programs

Start saving water and money today by participating in one of the residential rebate programs listed below!

- **High Efficiency Toilet Retrofit:** Replace your old toilet with a new 1.28 gallon per flush High Efficiency Toilet (HET) and you could see water savings of 24,600 gallons per year! You could also be eligible for a rebate of up to $200.
- **High Efficiency Washer Retrofit:** Replace your old clothes washer with a new High Efficiency Washer (HEW) and you could see a water savings of 6,000 gallons a year! You could also be eligible for a rebate of up to $200.
- **Landscape Rebates:** Landscape rebates are offered for lawn replacement, rain catchment systems, weather based irrigation controllers, and low-flow irrigation (NEW!). Rebate amounts vary.

Terms and procedures for all of the rebate programs can be found on our website at www.svwd.org. Start saving today!

Visit Our New Water-Smart Demonstration Garden

Installation of the Water-Smart Demonstration Garden was completed in November 2010, and things are really starting to bloom! Funded by a State Proposition 50 Grant, the garden has a number of water-saving features, including: low-flow and efficient irrigation systems, bioswale to help retain water, permeable paving, weather based irrigation controller, rainwater catchment system, and water-smart and drought tolerant plants. The garden is tailored to our Scotts Valley environment, and is organized to show local plant community groupings. The garden is located at Scotts Valley Water District's Office: 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.

Take a stroll through our water-smart garden to find inspiration for your next home or business landscaping project.