

June 26, 2009

TO: Westborough Water District Customers
FROM: Westborough Water District Board of Directors
SUBJECT: 2008 Annual Water Quality Report

To comply with Section 64463.1, Public Information, of the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations, attached is a copy of the Drinking Water Standards and Typical Concentrations of Constituents found in your water. The information was largely compiled by the San Francisco Water Department.

As you are aware, the District purchases all of our water from the San Francisco Water Department.

If you have any questions about the report, please call the District at (650) 589-1435 or e-mail us at wwd@westboroughwater.com.

We encourage you to make this Water Quality Report available to everyone, including tenants, employees, homeowner association members, etc.

Annual Water Quality Report (2008)

SFPUC Drinking Water Sources

The Westborough Water District purchases 100% of its water from the SFPUC. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. For the SFPUC systems, the major water source originates from spring snowmelt flowing down the Tuolumne River to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, where it is stored. This pristine water source is located in the well protected Sierra region and meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection. Based on the SFPUC's disinfection treatment practice, extensive bacteriological-quality monitoring, and high operational standards, the State has granted the Hetch Hetchy water source a filtration exemption. In other words, the source is so clean and protected that the SFPUC is not required to filter water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

The Hetch Hetchy water is supplemented with surface water sources from two local watersheds. Rainfall and runoff collected from Alameda Watershed, which spans more than 35,000 acres in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, are collected in the Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs. Prior to distribution, the water from these reservoirs is treated at the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP). Treatment processes include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Fluoridation, chloramination and corrosion control treatment are provided for the combined Hetch Hetchy and SVWTP water at the Sunol Chloramination and Fluoridation Facilities. Rainfall and runoff captured in the 23,000-acre Peninsula Watershed, located in San Mateo County, are stored in four reservoirs: Crystal Springs (Lower and Upper), San Andreas, Pilarcitos, and Stone Dam. The water from these reservoirs is treated at the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP). Treatment processes at the HTWTP include ozonation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, disinfection, fluoridation, corrosion control treatment, and chloramination.

In 2008, the Hetch Hetchy Watershed provided approximately 84% of our total water supply, with the remainder contributed by the two local watersheds.

Watersheds Protection

The SFPUC actively and aggressively protects the natural water resources entrusted to its care. An annual report on the Hetch Hetchy and its neighboring watersheds is prepared to evaluate the sanitary conditions, water quality, and potential contamination sources. The report also presents performance results of watershed management activities implemented by the SFPUC and its partner agencies, such as the National Park Service, to reduce or eliminate the potential contamination sources. The 2008 sanitary survey concludes that very low levels of contaminants associated with wildlife and human activities exist in those upcountry watersheds. The SFPUC also conducts sanitary surveys of the two local watersheds every five years. The potential contamination sources identified in the 2005 survey are similar to the upcountry watersheds. These survey reports are available at the San Francisco District office (510-620-3474) of the California Department of Public Health.

The Highest Quality Water

The Westborough Water District and the SFPUC's Water Quality Division regularly collects and tests water samples from reservoirs and designated sampling points throughout the system to ensure that the SFPUC's water meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water

standards. In 2008, Water Quality staff conducted 56,200 drinking water tests in the transmission and distribution systems. This monitoring effort is in addition to the extensive treatment process control monitoring performed by our certified and knowledgeable treatment plant staff.

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. Such substances are called contaminants. 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.

The adjacent table lists all drinking water contaminants detected in 2008. Contaminants below detection limits, such as arsenic, perchlorate, MTBE, and others, are not listed. In the same year, the SFPUC also completed four quarters of monitoring of 25 contaminants that are required under the USEPA second Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation. All 25 contaminants were not detected in the water supplied to you. The list of the 25 contaminants is available at USEPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/basicinformation.html#list>

The table contains the name of each contaminant, the applicable drinking water standards or regulatory action levels, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected in water, the typical contaminant sources, and footnotes explaining the findings. The State allows the SFPUC to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations do not change. For certain other contaminants that were absent in the water based on many years of monitoring, the SFPUC received a monitoring waiver from the State.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same

protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Key Water Quality Terms

Following are definitions of key terms noted on the adjacent water quality data table. These terms refer to the standards and goals for water quality described below.

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 USEPA.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the USEPA.

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

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

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

Cryptosporidium is a parasitic microbe found in most surface water. The SFPUC regularly tests for this waterborne pathogen, and found it at very low levels in source water and treated water in 2008. However, current test methods approved by the USEPA do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. If ingested, these parasites may produce symptoms of nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Special Health Needs

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/Centers 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) or at www.epa.gov/safewater.

For more information about the contents of this report, call the Westborough Water District (650) 589-1435 or e-mail us at wwd@westboroughwater.com.

Spanish:

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

Tagalog:

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

Chinese (Traditional):

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chinese (Simplified):

此份有关你的食水报告,内有重要资料和讯息,请找他人为你翻译及解释清楚。