

June 25, 2010



TO: Westborough Water District Customers

FROM: Westborough Water District Board of Directors

SUBJECT: 2009 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 Darryl Barrow, General Manager, 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 member, etc.



Annual Water Quality Report (2009)

SFPUC Drinking Water Sources

The Westborough Water District purchases 100% of its water from the SFPUC. Their sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, oceans, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. The SFPUC has a major water source originating 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. In conjunction with the SFPUC's stringent disinfection treatment practice, extensive bacteriological-quality monitoring, and high operational standards, the State and USEPA have 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 from two local watersheds. Rainfall and runoff collected from the 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 reservoirs, including Crystal Springs (Lower and Upper), San Andreas, and Pilarcitos. 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.□

Protecting Our Watersheds

The SFPUC actively and aggressively protects the natural water resources entrusted to its care. An annual report on watershed for the Hetch Hetchy supply is prepared to evaluate the sanitary conditions, water quality, and potential contamination sources. This 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 2009 Hetch Hetchy sanitary survey concludes that only very low levels of contaminants associated with wildlife and human activities exist in the watershed. The SFPUC also conducts sanitary surveys of the local Alameda and Peninsula watersheds every five years. The potential contamination sources identified in the latest survey in 2005 are similar to the upcountry watershed. These survey reports are available at the San Francisco District office (510-620-3474) of the California Department of Public Health.□



Water Quality, Contaminants, and Regulations

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 2009, Water Quality staff conducted 58,595 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. The SFPUC also has online instruments providing continuous water quality monitoring at numerous locations.

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 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and 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 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 800-426-4791.□

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 by-products 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. □

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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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 2009. However, current test methods approved by the USEPA do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may produce symptoms of nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. □

Special Health Needs

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater. □

Reducing Lead from Plumbing Fixtures

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Westborough Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in your household or building plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Visit the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website www.cdph.ca.gov or the USEPA website www.epa.gov. □

Water Quality Data for Year 2009

The following table lists drinking water contaminants detected in 2009. Contaminants below detection limits are not shown. In addition to the contaminants' names, applicable drinking water standards or regulatory action levels, ideal goals for public health, and levels detected in water, the table also includes the information about 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 frequently. The SFPUC received from the State a monitoring waiver for some contaminants that were absent in the water. □

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



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT ENCLOSED



Translation Languages

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it. Para ver una versión en español, visite nuestro sitio web en www.sfwater.org/quality.

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。