



CITY OF MENLO PARK
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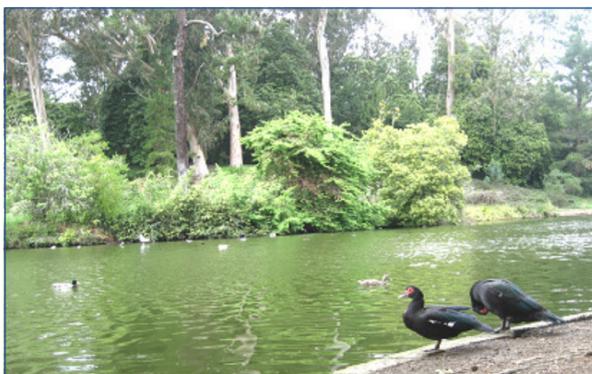
2011 WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

EN ESPAÑOL:
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para obtener copias en español, llame a la Ciudad de Menlo Park, (650) 330-6740.

Preventing Backflow

Backflow is the undesirable reverse flow of non-drinking water from an unapproved water source into the public drinking water system. This can occur if the water system suddenly loses pressure due to leaks or firefighting efforts. If backflow occurs, City water could become contaminated from a system that may contain harmful substances. Examples include pools, hot tubs, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation pipes, wells and industrial processes.

Therefore, at every property with these non-drinking water sources there must be a backflow prevention assembly with a valve which prevents water from moving back into the public system. The City maintains records of these "cross-connections" to ensure that the assemblies are in working order and tested every year. Please notify us if you have a cross-connection on your property so we can ensure the public water system is fully protected.

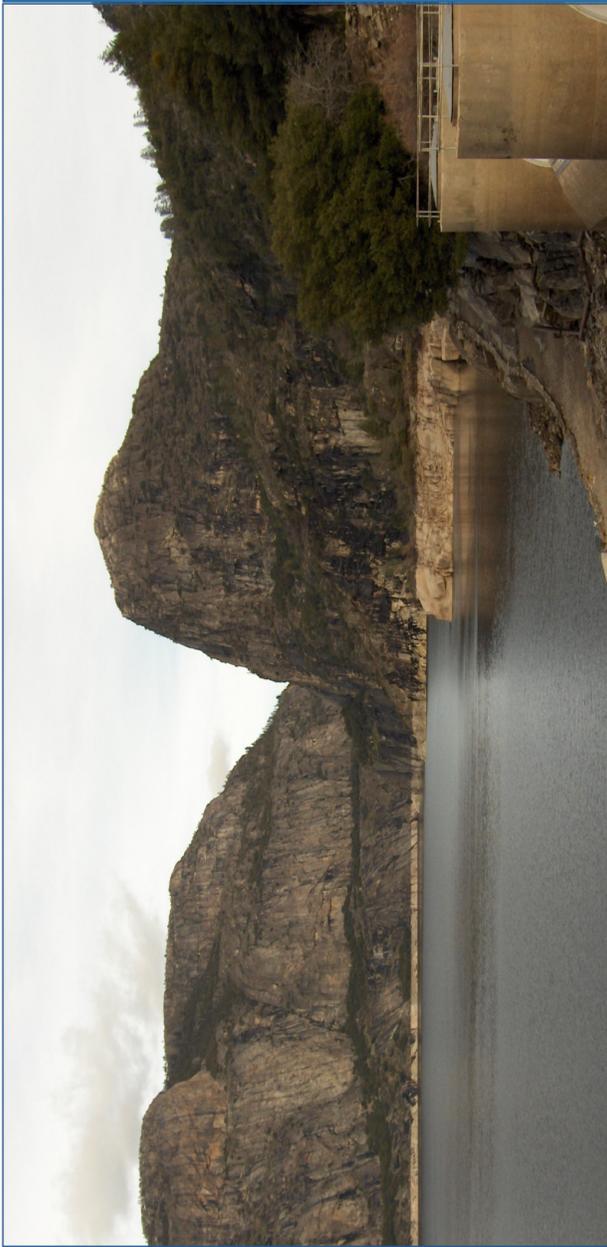


For More Information

Water Bills-650-330-0385
Water Quality-650-330-6780
Water Conservation-650-330-6740
Water Policy Decisions-Sign up to receive City Council agendas at http://www.menlopark.org/council/city_council.html. Scroll down to "Schedule" and click on "agendas."

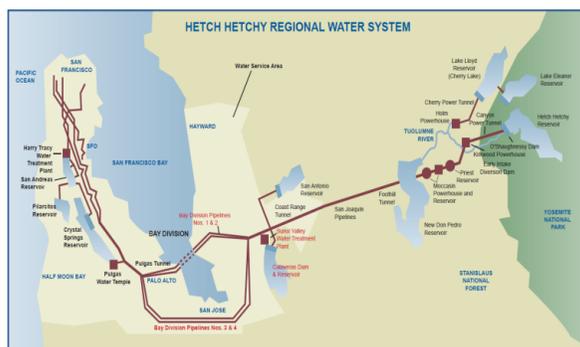
If you have other questions about your water or this brochure, please call Virginia Parks at 650-330-6740 or visit www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/mpmwd.html. Further information is available at the California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH): www.cdph.ca.gov.

WATER QUALITY 2011



Drinking Water Sources

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, oceans, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. The City of Menlo Park Municipal Water District (MPMWD) receives its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) whose main water source is spring snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada. It flows down the Tuolumne River to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Rainfall from two other local watersheds in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties is also used as a secondary



source. SFPUC acts aggressively to protect these natural water sources. Along with its partner agencies, including the National Park Service, it manages activities in the watershed to reduce or eliminate potential contamination. Survey reports with information about sanitary conditions and water quality for all three watersheds are available from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), San Francisco District office, at 510-620-3474.

SFPUC's Water Quality Division regularly collects and tests water samples from reservoirs and designated sampling points throughout its system to ensure that it meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards. In 2011, SFPUC Water Quality staff conducted 69,875 drinking water tests in the transmission and distribution systems. Numerous online instruments also provide continuous water quality information. Certified and knowledgeable treatment plant staff perform additional monitoring throughout the extensive treatment process.

Once the water reaches MPMWD, City staff conducts weekly sampling throughout the local system. In 2011 we collected 676 samples from 28 locations.

Your 2011 Annual Water Quality Report

Every year the City of Menlo Park's Municipal Water District (MPMWD) publishes this water quality information for our customers. As in prior years, the quality of your drinking water in 2011 exceeded all federal and state standards.

Water is precious and it takes great care and expense to collect and pipe it to your home and business. Be a good steward of the earth and conserve water in every way you can.

At MPMWD you can take advantage of rebates on water conserving appliances and get FREE water conserving fixtures. Call us at 650-330-6740 or visit www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/mpmwd.html. You'll find conservation information for both homeowners and businesses.

Don't Flush That!

If you're like most people, you have expired medications in your medicine cabinet. Bring your old and expired medicines to a convenient drop-off site around town. Twelve local pharmacies have partnered with the City to offer this easy way to properly dispose of unused medicines. Find a participating location near you at sfwater.org/CleanBay (select "Home and Garden" then "Expired Medications").



Protecting Your Health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons can be particularly at risk from infections. They include people with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, the elderly and infants under six months of age. If you are in one of these categories seek advice about drinking water from your health care provider. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to reduce 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. The primary sources of lead in drinking water are private service lines and plumbing. When replacing plumbing in your home or business, be sure to purchase and install non-lead containing materials.

You can minimize the potential for lead exposure when turning on your tap after your water has not been used for several hours. Just flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested please contact us. MPMWD tests forty homes for lead every three years. For more information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



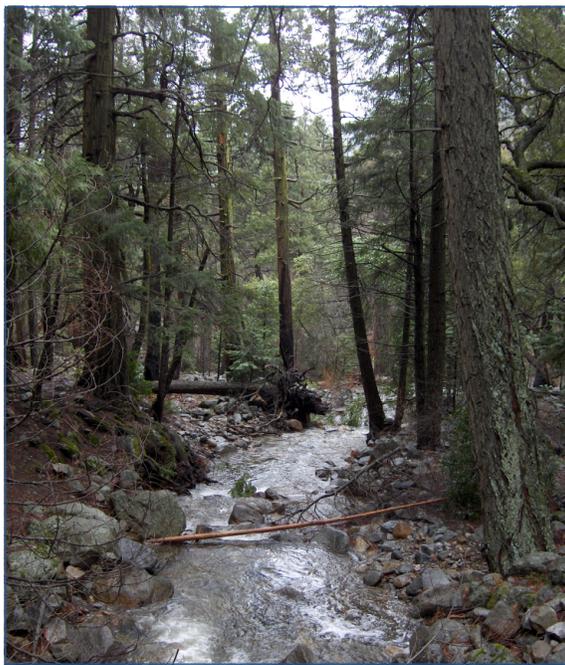
How Do Drinking Water Sources Become Polluted?

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.

Cryptosporidium is a parasitic microbe found in most surface water. SFPUC regularly tests for it and in 2011 found it at very low levels in both source and treated waters. However, current test methods do not distinguish between dead microbes and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of live *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.



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.

Water Quality Terms

These terms refer to the standards and goals for water quality that are used in the table 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. MPMWD uses chloramine.

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.

Turbidity

A water clarity indicator that is also used to indicate the effectiveness of filtration plants. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Regulatory Action Level

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

2011 WATER QUALITY RESULTS¹

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL	PHG or [MCLG]	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Major Sources in Drinking Water
TURBIDITY						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.2 - 0.7 ²	[2.1] ³	Soil runoff
Filtered Water - Sunol Valley WTP	NTU	1 ⁴ : min 95% of samples ≤0.3 NTU ⁴	N/A	99.9%-100%	[0.36]	Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRE-CURSORS (SFPUC Regional System)						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	10 - 84	[45] ⁵	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	4 - 59	[33] ⁵	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon ⁶	ppm	TT	N/A	2.6 - 2.9	2.7	Various natural and human-made sources
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRE-CURSORS (MPMWD System)						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	39.4 - 57.1	[49.4] ⁵	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	20.3 - 54.8	[41.9] ⁵	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform (MPMWD)	-	>1/month	[0]	0-0/month	[0]	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Giardia lamblia</i> (SFPUC Regional System)	cyst/L	TT	[0]	ND - 0.07	[0.07]	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Fluoride (source water) ⁷	ppm	2.0	1	ND - 0.8	0.3 ⁸	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramine (as chlorine)	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1.6 - 3.7	2.5	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
RADIONUCLIDES						
Radium-226	pCi/L	N/A	0.05	ND-1.2	<1	Erosion of Natural Deposits
CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS						
Aluminum ⁹	ppb	200	600	ND - 53	<50	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	3 - 20	11	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Color	unit	15	N/A	<5 - 9	<5	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	39 - 289	181	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1.3 - 36	18	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	83 - 194	132	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	0.06 - 0.35	0.16	Soil runoff
LEAD AND COPPER (MPMWD)						
Copper	ppb	1300	300	2.2 - 152.2 ¹⁰	78.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	<1 - 6 ¹¹	2.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

These tables list drinking water contaminants, their sources and the amounts found in your water. Water staff tested for many other constituents which are not shown because the amounts were too small for testing equipment to detect.



OTHER CONSTITUENTS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	10 - 84	49
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	3 - 24	13
Chlorate ¹²	ppb	(800) NL	36 - 488	89
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	10 - 98	57
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	<0.4 - 8.2	4.9
pH	-	N/A	6.7 - 9.7	8.6
Sodium	ppm	N/A	3 - 20	13.5

Footnotes

- All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.
- Turbidity is measured every four hours. These values are monthly averages.
- This is the highest turbidity of the unfiltered water served to customers in 2011. This turbidity spike was the result of flow rate change, and it was not observed downstream at Alameda East.
- There is no turbidity MCL for filtered water. The limits are based on the TT requirements in the State drinking water regulations.
- This is the highest quarterly running annual average value.
- Total organic carbon is a precursor for disinfection byproduct formation. The TT requirement applies to the filtered water from the Sunol Valley (SV) WTP only. These are compliance data for SVWTP raw water.
- The SFPUC adds fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental cavities in consumers. The CDPH requires our fluoride levels in the treated

- water to be maintained within a range of 0.8 - 1.5 ppm. In 2011, the range and average of our fluoride levels were 0.6 - 1.3 ppm and 1.0 ppm, respectively.
- The naturally occurring fluoride levels in the Hetch Hetchy and SVWTP raw water were ND and 0.12 ppm, respectively.
- Aluminum also has an MCL of 1000 ppb.
- The most recent Copper monitoring was in 2009. Of the 35 residences tested none were over the PHG. 90% of the results were below 78.2 ppb.
- The most recent Lead monitoring was in 2009. Of the 35 residences tested none were above the AL. 90% of the results were below 2.2 ppb.
- The detected chlorate in treated water is a degradation byproduct of sodium hypochlorite, the primary disinfectant used by SFPUC.

Abbreviations

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|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| < | = less than | ORL = Other Regulatory Level |
| ≤ | = less than or equal to | ppb = parts per billion |
| AL | = Action Level | ppm = parts per million |
| Max | = Maximum | TT = Treatment Technique |
| Min | = Minimum | µS/cm = microSiemens/Centimeter |
| N/A | = Not Available | WTP = Water Treatment Plant |
| ND | = Non-detect | |
| NL | = Notification Level | |
| NTU | = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit | |