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CITY OF MENLO PARK
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3483



EN ESPAÑOL:

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si necesita asistencia o copias del reporte en español, llame a la Ciudad de Menlo Park, (650) 330-6740.

**2009 WATER QUALITY
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**



**YOUR 2009
WATER QUALITY**

2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Every year, the City of Menlo Park Municipal Water District (MPMWD) publishes this water quality information for our customers. As in prior years, the quality of your drinking water in 2009 exceeded all federal and state standards.

Please remember, this natural resource is precious and it takes great care and expense to collect it and pipe it to your home. Be a good steward of the earth and conserve water in every way you can.

Numerous programs at MPMWD can help you save water and reduce your water bill. Visit our website at www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/mpmwd.html for information about rebates on water conserving appliances and FREE water conserving fixtures. Other conservation information and programs for both homeowners and businesses are also available.

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 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.



If you have comments or questions about your water or the information contained in this brochure, please call or visit our website at www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/mpmwd.html

Water bills 1-888-940-1102
Water Quality and Conservation 650-330-6740.
Further information is available at the California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) website at www.cdph.ca.gov.

Sources of Your Drinking Water

The 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 receives most of its water from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) whose main water source is spring snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada. From the watershed it flows down the Tuolumne River to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The SFPUC system also uses rainfall and runoff water from two local watersheds in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. In 2009, the Hetch Hetchy Watershed contributed approximately 84% of the water and the remainder came from the local watersheds.

The Hetch Hetchy watershed is a pristine source of drinking water and, along with the local watershed, meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection. SFPUC partners with other agencies, such as the National Park Service, to manage the watersheds. An annual report on the Hetch Hetchy watershed evaluates sanitary conditions, water quality and potential contamination sources. The report also presents the results of management activities that reduce or eliminate the potential contamination sources. Survey reports for all three watersheds are available from the California Department of Public Health, San Francisco District office, at 510-620-3474.

SFPUC maintains high operational standards and its Water Quality Division regularly collects and tests water samples from reservoirs and designated sampling points throughout its system to ensure that the water meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards. In 2009, SFPUC Water Quality staff conducted 58,595 drinking water tests in the transmission and distribution systems. SFPUC also has online instruments that provide continuous water quality monitoring at numerous locations. This monitoring effort is in addition to the extensive treatment process control monitoring which is performed by their certified and knowledgeable treatment plant staff.

Once the water reaches MPMWD, City staff conduct additional sampling throughout our system on a weekly basis. In 2009 we collected 640 samples from 28 locations. These samples were then analyzed for concentrations of up to nine different constituents.



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 private service lines and home plumbing. The MPMWD 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 two 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 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Water Quality, Contaminants, and Regulations

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.

Water Quality Terms

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

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.



OTHER CONSTITUENTS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	8 - 102	50
Boron	ppb	N/A	<100 - 102	<100
Bromide	ppb	N/A	<10 - 16	<10
Calcium	ppm	N/A	2 - 26	12
Chlorate ¹¹	ppb	(800) NL	56 - 511	258
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	12 - 108	55
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	0.2 - 8.8	4.5
pH	-	N/A	8.7 - 8.8	8.7
Potassium	ppm	N/A	0.24 - 1.5	0.9
Silica	ppm	N/A	4.8 - 7.5	5.9
Sodium	ppm	N/A	3 - 23	14

City of Menlo Park Municipal Water District (MPMWD) 2009 Water Quality¹

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL	PHG or [MCLG]	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
TURBIDITY ²						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.27 - 0.52 ³	[3.87] ⁴	Soil runoff
Filtered Water - Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant	NTU	1 ⁵ : min 95% of samples ≤0.3 NTU	N/A	100%	[0.26]	Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRE-CURSORS (SFPUC Regional System)						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	9 - 54	[33] ⁶	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	5 - 27	[21] ⁶	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon ⁷	ppm	TT	N/A	2.3 - 3.2	2.7	Various natural and man-made sources
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRE-CURSORS (MPMWD)						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	24.0 - 48.1	[39.3] ⁶	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	24.0 - 31.2	[27.2] ⁶	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform (MPMWD)	-	None present in ≤5% of monthly samples	[0]	0	[0]	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Giardia lamblia</i> (SFPUC Regional System)	cyst/L	TT	[0]	0.01 - 0.05	[0.05]	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Fluoride (source water)	ppm	2.0	1	<0.1 - 0.8	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (treated water) ⁸	ppm	2.0	1	0.7 - 1.3	1.0	Added for dental health
Chlorine [including free chlorine and chloramine]	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1.60 - 2.70	2.17 ⁶	Disinfectant added for treatment
CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS						
Aluminum	ppb	200	N/A	<50 - 51	<50	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	4 - 14.6	9.5	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Color	unit	15	N/A	<5 - 9	<5	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	30 - 309	170	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1.1 - 35.6	16.6	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	22 - 168	92	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	0.08 - 0.33	0.16	Soil runoff
LEAD AND COPPER (MPMWD)						
	Unit	AL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppb	1300	300	2.2 - 152.2 ⁹	78.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	<1 - 6 ¹⁰	2.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

The tables above and to the left list drinking water contaminants, typical sources, standards or regulatory action levels, ideal goals for public health, and levels detected in water. Contaminants below detection limits are not shown.

FOOTNOTES

- All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards. The data is from Hetch Hetchy water, Sunol Valley and Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plants effluents, and MPMWD distribution system.
- Turbidity is a water clarity indicator; it also indicates the effectiveness of the filtration plants.
- Turbidity is measured every four hours. These are monthly average turbidity values.
- This is the highest turbidity of the unfiltered water served to customers in 2009. The highest single turbidity measurement of the unfiltered water in 2009 was 10 NTU but the turbid water was pumped away to San Antonio Reservoir before it was served to customers. The startup of San Joaquin Pipelines caused elevated turbidities as a result of sediment re-suspension in the pipelines.
- There is no MCL for turbidity. The limits are based on the TT requirements in the State drinking water regulations.
- This is the highest quarterly running average value.
- Total organic carbon is a precursor for disinfection byproduct formation. The TT requirement applies to the filtered water from the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant only.
- SFPUC adds fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental cavities in customers. The CDPH requires that fluoride levels in treated water be maintained within a range of 0.8-1.5 ppm.
- 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.
- There was no chlorate detected in the raw water sources. The detected chlorate in treated water is a byproduct of the degradation of sodium hypochlorite, the primary disinfectant used by SFPUC for water disinfection.

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