Report contains water quality monitoring results

The City of Santa Clara is committed to providing you, the water consumer, with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water. Every year we publish an annual water quality report known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This is our 31st annual report on water quality. It contains the latest water quality monitoring results obtained through the end of calendar year 2018. It answers some of the most common water quality questions asked by our customers. We hope it will provide the facts and perspectives you need to make an informed evaluation of your tap water.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and State regulations. Although the water you receive is tested for over 100 potential contaminants and 48 other parameters, the majority of the potential contaminants are never detected. To simplify the report, only the constituents that were detected in at least one water source appear in the water quality table. We are also required by the State to provide additional information about certain contaminants that appear on the water quality table. Even though the water meets all applicable drinking water standards, the State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Santa Clara water comes from three sources

The City of Santa Clara has three separate sources of drinking water. Often, these sources are used interchangeably or are blended together. Altogether these sources provide an average of 18 million gallons of water per day to the homes, businesses, industries and institutions of Santa Clara. In 2018, about 42% of our water was treated surface water purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and from the San Francisco Public Utility Commission’s (SFPUC) Hetch-Hetchy System, imported from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Valley Water serves primarily the southwesterly portion of the City. SFPUC Hetch-Hetchy water typically serves the area north of Highway 101. The remaining 58% is pumped from the City’s system of 21 active wells serving the rest of Santa Clara.

Information and guidance for people with compromised immune systems

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.
City wells

The majority of water consumed in the City of Santa Clara is pumped from the City's system of deep wells. Well water is pulled up from groundwater that is located in aquifers which are water-filled spaces between sand, gravel, silt and clay) deep in the ground. Aquifers are replenished by rainwater that infiltrates down from the land surface.

Hetch Hetchy system

The City purchases water from the SFPUC Hetch Hetchy System. SFPUC conducts watershed sanitary surveys for the Hetch Hetchy system annually and local water sources every five years. The latest local sanitary survey was completed in 2016 for the period of 2011-2015. The SFPUC conducted a watershed sanitary survey for Upcountry Non-Hetch Hetchy Sources in 2015 as part of its drought response plan efforts. These surveys evaluate the sanitary conditions, water quality, potential contamination sources and the results of watershed management activities, and were completed with support from partner agencies including National Park Service and US Forest Service. These surveys identified wildlife, soil, and human activities as potential contamination sources. You may contact the San Francisco District office of SWRCB- DPW at 510-620-3474 for the review of these reports.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

The Santa Clara Valley Water District provides treated surface water to the Silicon Valley, now known as Valley Water, from three water treatment plants. Valley Water surface water is mainly imported from the South Bay Aqueduct, Dyer Reservoir, Lake Del Valle, and San Luis Reservoir, which all draw water from the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta watershed. Valley Water's local water sources include Anderson and Calero Reservoirs. Valley Water's source waters are vulnerable to potential contamination from a variety of land use practices, such as agricultural and urban runoff, recreational activities, livestock grazing, and residential and industrial development. The imported sources are also vulnerable to wastewater treatment plant discharges, seawater intrusion, and wild fires in open space areas. In addition, local sources are also vulnerable to potential contamination from commercial stables, and human activities as potential contamination sources. You may contact Valley Water's website ValleyWater.org.

School lead testing

As of January 2018, State law requires water suppliers to sample all schools on public land by January 1, 2018. The City completed all required sampling (172 samples at 33 schools) and provided results to the school districts following the testing. All samples, with the exception of one sample taken at John Butler Elementary School, were well below the EPA action level for lead of 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The future will be immediately taken out of service and replaced by Santa Clara Unified School District staff. Resampling at the site resulted in a ND (no detect) for lead. Contact your school administration for information about lead testing and results for your local school. For further information, visit Waterboards.CA.gov/drinking_water/certificated/drinkingwater/lead/sampling/schools.html.

Some Santa Clara water is fluoridated

Fluoride is nature’s cavity fighter. Fluoridation adjusts the naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water to the ideal level for protecting your teeth. Fluoridated drinking water benefits people of all ages by preventing tooth decay.

Definitions and Notes:

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLGs and MCLs are standards for contaminants that must be achieved in all community water systems, under all conditions of operation. The maximum contaminant level for a contaminant in drinking water, referred to as the primary MCL (P-MCL), is 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. The maximum contaminant level goal for a contaminant in drinking water, referred to as the primary MCL goal (G-MCL), is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are not enforceable standards. The maximum contaminant level, maximum contaminant level goal, or primary MCL goal for a contaminant is established by the California Environmental Protection Agency. The maximum contaminant level for a contaminant in drinking water, referred to as the primary MCL (P-MCL), is 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. The maximum contaminant level goal for a contaminant in drinking water, referred to as the primary MCL goal (G-MCL), is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are not enforceable standards. The maximum contaminant level, maximum contaminant level goal, or primary MCL goal for a contaminant is established by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Reported Value: The concentration of a contaminant, if measured, that was observed in the sample.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, if measured, that is required as a protective limit for water systems.

Regulated Contaminant (CT): A chemical or microbial substance that is regulated as a primary contaminant in drinking water.

Unregulated Contaminant (UC): A chemical or microbial substance that is monitored in drinking water but is not regulated as a primary contaminant.

Pesticides and other priority pollutants (PEP): Chemicals of potential concern that are not currently regulated as primary contaminants in drinking water but may be the subject of future regulations.

Pesticide or other priority pollutant (POP): A chemical or microbial substance that is monitored in drinking water but is not regulated as a primary contaminant.

Filter method: The method used to measure the concentration of a contaminant. For some compounds, multiple methods are available and test methods can be selected based on the most appropriate method for the sample. This additional information is used to determine the most accurate concentration of a contaminant in the sample.

Fluoride: A naturally occurring element. Fluoride is added to drinking water to accomplish one of several objectives. Fluoride can be added to drinking water to remineralize tooth enamel, control the growth of oral bacteria, and prevent tooth decay. The drinking water system may be fluoridated, while water from Valley Water is not fluoridated. If your zip code is 95054, you may be receiving water without added fluoride.

City of Santa Clara Valley Water Quality Table

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</table>
Water Quality Monitoring

The City completed a Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program for the groundwater sources in August 2002 and submitted it to the State Board in December 2002. A copy of the program is available at the City’s Water Utility offices at 1500 Warburton Ave. You may request a summary of the individual assessments by contacting the Water Utility at 408-615-2000 or by email at water@SantaClaraCA.gov.

The City’s groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination by: leaking underground tanks containing fuel or dry-cleaning chemicals; old, unrecorded septic systems; storm drain dry wells located at various places around the City; many old, shallow, private wells, abandoned and not properly destroyed; and possibly some contaminants from a small landfill dump left over from the early years of the 20th century.

Lead

There have been no exceedances of the ACTION LEVEL for lead in the City of Santa Clara groundwater sources or supplies purchased from other agencies. It is possible for lead levels in your home to be higher than other homes in the community because of plumbing materials used in the original construction of your home. 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 City of Santa Clara is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in 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 1-800-426-4791 or at EPA.gov/lead.

Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months old. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant’s blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Cryptosporidium and Giardia

Cryptosporidiosis is a disease of the intestinal tract brought on by a parasitic microbe (a protozoan) called Cryptosporidium. The disease is transmitted through contaminated water, food or direct contact with human or animal waste. If you are healthy with a normal immune system, the flu-like symptoms usually last about two weeks. Symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, upset stomach and slight fever. However, immuno-compromised people, infants, small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness.

The water purchased by the City from the SFPUC Hetch Hetchy system has been tested for Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The source waters and treated waters are tested at least monthly and occasionally show very low levels of Cryptosporidium in the waters serving the East Bay, South Bay and San Francisco Peninsula. Giardia, another parasitic organism causing similar symptoms, is monitored with the same frequency and very low levels are occasionally detected in the same source waters.

The general public is at very low risk and there have been no reported cases of Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis attributed to the City’s public water supply. This advisory applies to water received from the Hetch Hetchy system in the area of the City north of Highway 101. The California Department of Public Health (916-588-1784) issues guidance for people with serious immune system problems. Currently, available guidance from the state and county health agencies recommends that people with such conditions consult with their doctor or primary health care provider about preventing Cryptosporidium and Giardia infection from all potential sources. Water consumers may choose to boil their drinking water at a rolling boil for at least one minute as an extra precaution.

For more information about Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis, or copies of available guidance, contact the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health at 408-918-3400. You may also contact the USEPA Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What are the sources of tap water?

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over 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. 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

- Organic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or resulting 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 local to the area such as 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 State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY

City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
408-615-2200
SantaClaraCA.gov

Water Utility
1500 Warburton Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Office hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday-Friday
408-615-2000
Water Billing Questions
408-615-2300
Water Quality Report Questions
Mike Vasquez
408-615-2000
mvasquez@santaclaraca.gov

Water Emergencies
408-615-2000 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
408-615-5640 other days and times

Water Conservation
Savingsby_design@scgov.net
408-630-2554 - Water Conservation Hotline and Rebate Information

Sign up for a free Water Wise House Call from Valley Water by calling 1-800-548-1882

Web Resources
If you would like to learn more about drinking water quality, treatment and regulation, contact these organizations:
American Water Works Association
awwa.org
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_waterprograms/index.shtml
United States Environmental Protection Agency
water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Quality Bureau
watercommission.sfgov.org/index.aspx?page=163
Valley Water
valleywater.org
Water Education Foundation
watereducation.org
Water Quality Information Center
waterquality.nal.usda.gov

Public Input
To provide input on decisions that affect drinking water quality, you are welcome to provide input to the Santa Clara City Council at a Council meeting or in advance via mail, email or phone contact. A list of all City Council meetings, agenda items and study sessions can be viewed on the City website SantaClaraCA.gov.

eNotify
Sign up to receive news from the Water Utility SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify