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 29th annual report on water quality. It contains the latest water quality monitoring results obtained through the end of calendar year 2016. 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.

Drinking water must meet standards

The quality of drinking water is carefully regulated by the federal government. In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring the USEPA to establish uniform standards for drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act was further amended in 1986 and 1996, adding even more stringent standards. In California, these standards are enforced by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.

There are two types of drinking water standards. PRIMARY STANDARDS are designed to protect public health. These standards specify the limits, called “Maximum Contaminant Levels” for substances in water that may be harmful to humans or affect their health if consumed in large quantities. SECONDARY STANDARDS are based on aesthetic qualities of water such as color, taste and odor. These standards specify limits for substances that may affect consumer acceptance of the water.

We take great pride in delivering the safest and highest quality water available.

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 2016, about 41% of our water was treated surface water purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and from the San Francisco Public Utility Commission’s Hetch-Hetchy System, imported from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. District water serves primarily the southwesterly portion of the City. SFPUC Hetch-Hetchy water typically serves the area north of Highway 101. The remaining 59% is pumped from the City’s system of 26 deep 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/Center 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 1-800-426-4791.
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.

In November of 2005, the SFPUC Hetch Hetchy system completed construction of a fluoridation facility in the east bay. The water purchased by the City from the SFPUC is fluoridated, while water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District is not fluoridated. If your zip code is 95054, you are in the area receiving fluoridated water. However, this area is also served by well water that has not been fluoridated. Refer to the map above that shows the area supplied with water from both the Hetch-Hetchy system and the City’s wells. The majority of Santa Clara will continue to receive water without added fluoride.

State law requires the addition of fluoride to all water systems in California serving 10,000 customers or more. Fluoridation of the remaining water sources in the City would require installation of fluoride injecting equipment at each of the City’s 26 active wells and at its treated water connection from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The law includes a provision for state funds to finance this fluoridation equipment, however it may be some time before the State can provide funding to move forward with a fluoridation program for the remainder of the City.

Contact your health provider if you have concerns about dental fluorosis. For additional information about fluoridation or oral health, visit the Centers for Disease Control website CDC.gov/fluoridation or the State Water Resources Control Board website Waterboards.CA.gov/drinking_water/certiic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml.
This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

ATTENTION: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que la entienda bien.

Mahalaga ang impormasyon ito.
Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

The Annual Consumer Confidence Report 2017
City of Santa Clara Water Quality Table

PRIMARY STANDARDS AS MEASURED IN CITY OF SANTA CLARA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

| CONTAMINANT | UNIT | MCL (grid) | Daily Average | Percent (%) | Source
|-------------|------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Turbidity   | NTU  | 0.2        | 7.5 - 8.2     | 7.7          | naturally present in environment
| pH          | UNITS | NS         | 7.0 - 8.0     | 7.7          | a<br>
| Alkalinity  | NS   | NS         | 180 - 240     | 205          | 54 - 72
| Hardness    | NS   | NS         | 71 - 135      | 95           | 9 - 76
| Calcium     | NS   | NS         | 40 - 60       | 55           | 14 - 20
| Magnesium   | NS   | NS         | 14 - 24       | 19.7         | 9 - 13
| Sodium      | NS   | NS         | 24 - 40       | 39.5         | 14 - 20
| Iron        | NS   | NS         | 12 - 1.4      | 13.5         | 3 - 7
| Copper      | PPM  | AL = 1.3   | 0.3           | 100%         | Number Exceeded = 0
| Lead        | PPM  | AL = 15    | 0.7           | 100%         | Number Exceeded = 0

NOTIFICATION LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>MCL (grid)</th>
<th>Daily Average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chloride/Hydrogen</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0 - 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0 - 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0 - 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0 - 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saccharide</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0 - 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrates</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.2 - 5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS AS MEASURED IN CITY OF SANTA CLARA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

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This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Chi lê nhay thay quanh tran, Xìn nhõ ngu đich che câu!

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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: leaching 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 left over from the early years of the 20th century.

**Boil** for at least one minute as an extra precaution. 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.

**Nitrates**
Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months old. Such nitrates 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. Nitrates 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.

**Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis**
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 Giardiasis. 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 CDPH issues an advisory for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is 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.

**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 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.

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**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
- **Inorganic 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 introduced by coal and gas production and agricultural activities

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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.

**Sign up to receive news from the Water Utility**
SantaClaraCA.gov