

WATER NEWS

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER

HOW WE ENSURE RELIABLE, HIGH-QUALITY WATER FOR OUR CUSTOMERS:

WE START WITH A HIGH QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

Quality starts at the source. Customers of Goleta Water District enjoy high quality water that comes from a watershed where potential contaminants are minimal or nonexistent.

THEN, WE PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY TREATMENT

State-certified operators ensure that the treatment plant meets and improves on all water quality standards.

FINALLY, WE TEST, TEST, TEST FOR QUALITY

Your water is tested hundreds of times per year in our own state-certified laboratory and independent laboratories, as well as by automated equipment which makes some tests 24 hours a day.

www.goletawater.com

Consumer Confidence Report:

A Look at Water Quality Results

This issue of Water News focuses on water quality. All of the water brought to your home meets or exceeds all state and federal quality requirements as the chart on the inside pages demonstrates. Providing our customers with safe, high quality water is our top priority. We are proud of our excellent water quality and believe you will be too after reading the important information contained in this report.

Where Our Water Originates

Goleta Water District's main source of water is Lake Cachuma. The water is treated at the Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant prior to being distributed to our customers. The district also maintains a number of wells that provide a back-up supply for water. Two wells were run briefly in 1999. Generally, however, the district has an ample water supply from Lake Cachuma, leaving groundwater unpumped and held in reserve for a possible drought.



Results of 1999 Drinking Water Quality Tests

Regulated Contaminants With Primary MCLs							
Inorganic	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	1	N/A	0.124	ND-0.184	ND	ND-0.080	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.428	0.358-0.498	0.257	0.236-0.278	Erosion of natural deposits
Organic							
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	100	N/A	52.8	35.0-85.0	58.6	51.1-62.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radiological							
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/l)	15	(0)	2.2	ND-5.2	2.7	ND-4.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	(0)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.1-2.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper Rule ¹	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	90th Percentile Value	# of Sample Sites	# of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	0.17	1.01	30	2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	2	5.9	30	1	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Microbiological	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Percentage of Samples Meeting TT		Typical Source of Contaminant	
Turbidity ^{2,3} (NTU)	TT ³	N/A	0.181	100%		Soil runoff	
Unregulated Contaminants with Required Monitoring ¹							
Constituent	MCL	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloroform (ppb)	N/A	32.2	22.9-56.8	52.9	47.0-58.7		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated Contaminants With Secondary MCLs							
Constituent	MCL	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	500	17.7	16.8-18.5	17.1	16.4-17.7		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (units)	15	ND	ND-3	ND	ND		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Manganese (ppb)	50	ND	ND	28.0	ND-81.0		Leaching from natural deposits
Odor—Threshold (units)	3	2	ND-5	2	2		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	1600	904	703-979	995	980-1010		Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	313	313	315	301-328		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	628	609-666	639	617-660		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	0.116	0.055-0.185	0.35	0.2-0.5		Soil runoff
Other Constituents	Surface Water Average		Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		
Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO ₃)	169		137-194	191	188-194		
Boron (ppb)	286		286	339	333-344		
Calcium (ppm)	63.8		63.8	81.6	74.2-88.9		
Chlorine Residual	1.04		0.31-1.70	N/A	N/A		
HAA5 ⁴ [sum of five haloacetic acids] (ppb)	35.4		11.5-79.6	19.4	15.4-23.3		
Hardness (ppm as CaCO ₃)	406		350-446	451	435-467		
Magnesium (ppm)	63.6		63.6	60.2	59.5-60.8		
pH (units)	7.71		7.15-8.02	7.51	7.47-7.55		
Phosphate (ppm)	0.06		0.06	0.22	0.21-0.23		
Radon ⁵ (pCi/l)	ND		ND	374	ND-670		
Silica (ppm)	18.9		15.9-21.8	21.5	21.2-21.8		
Sodium (ppm)	40.7		40.7	49.0	48.9-49.1		

DEFINITIONS FOR THE CHART:

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

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected at testing limit.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

pCi/l: Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

µmhos/cm: Micromhos per centimeter (an indicator of dissolved minerals in the water).

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity units.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

FOOTNOTES:

1 The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. These lead and copper results are from our most recent sampling, conducted in August 1997. Goleta Water District meets the standard that requires 90% of homes tested to be below the Action Levels for lead and copper.

Regulations Limit Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. 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 from 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 result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum pro-

duction, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

When to Seek Health Care Advice

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immunocompromised, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, and those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care

providers. The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at 1-800-426-4791.

EPA Hotline

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



2 Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

3 Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1) Be less than or equal to 0.5 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month; 2) Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours; 3) Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.

4 HAA5 will be regulated starting in 2002 under the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule. The MCL will be 60 ppb.

5 Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home

through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are

simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

Variance for Some Goleta West Customers

Goleta Water District serves unfiltered Cachuma Reservoir water to approximately 33 customers. The water receives chlorination treatment but does not comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule. The State Department of Health allows Goleta Water to provide bottled water to these customers for drinking and cooking purposes, as a permanent solution.

Answers to Common Questions



Why Does Water Sometimes Have a Milky Appearance?

This is caused by air bubbles dissolved in the water. In pipelines, water is cold and under pressure. When it comes out of a faucet, pressure is released and the temperature increases slightly, causing air bubbles to be released. Let water sit for a minute or so, and the bubbles will dissipate.

I've Heard Something About MTBE and Water. What is It?

MTBE is a gasoline additive designed to lower air pollution. It can enter the water supply from gas powered watercraft, leaking underground storage tanks and other means. Goleta Water District tests quarterly for MTBE and has never detected it. To prevent future problems, the Governor recently ordered a phase-out of MTBE from gasoline.

What is Hard Water?

Hardness in water is caused by two natural and harmless miner-

als, calcium and magnesium. The minerals make it "hard" to lather or sud soaps. Hard water can also leave a fine film of the minerals on sinks and household appliances. Sometimes dishwashers and other home appliances have special instructions depending on water hardness. Goleta's water has a hardness of about 400 parts per million or 23 grains per gallon.

How is Water Tested?

Our certified water quality experts manage the treatment plant and water system to assure you of top quality water. The care and precision required to test for quality is amazing; many substances are measured in amounts as small as a fraction of a part per billion. Think of one part per billion in this way:

- One drop in 17,000 gallons
- One minute in 1,900 years
- One inch in 19,000 miles

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Consider attending one of our monthly Water Board meetings normally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the District Board Room at 4699 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. For more information, call 964-6761.

For more information about water quality, contact Dije Ndreu, Laboratory Director for Goleta Water District at 968-7474.

Contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or visit their website at www.epa.gov/safewater

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