

2007 Consumer Confidence Report

About Your Water

The Montara Water and Sanitary District is served by groundwater sources from local aquifers and surface water from the Montara Creek. Drinking water treatment technologies used in the water system include conventional coagulation, filtration, and disinfection. The Drinking Water Source Assessment for all sources was completed in January 2003 and is on file with the California Department of Public Health (Department).

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2007.

Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

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 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 byproducts 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (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.

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

Nitrate was found at levels that exceeded the primary MCL of 45 ppm in the raw water from the North Airport Well. The District has installed an Ion Exchange System for nitrate removal at the North Airport Well in 2004. Nitrate levels were significantly reduced after treatment. Water in the distribution system has nitrate levels below the primary MCL of 45 ppm.

Iron, Manganese, and Aluminum were found in the Montara Creek raw water at levels that exceeded the secondary MCL of 300 ppb, 50 ppb, and 200 ppb, respectively. Secondary MCLs were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and the staining of plumbing fixtures (e.g., tubs and


Message from the Board President

Dear Customer,

We are pleased to present you with the Consumer Confidence Report for 2007. This report demonstrates our commitment to providing you with safe and reliable water. In this report, you will read about how we continue the effort of improving the quality of your water. We constantly monitor the water quality at our supply sources and at the distribution system to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. In addition to this report, you can obtain more information on your water from the District's office, the web site at www.msd.montara.org or by attending one of our Board meetings. I hope you find this report informative and useful.

Sincerely,

Paul Perkovic
MWSD Board President



sinks), and clothing while washing. Exceeding the secondary MCLs does not pose a health risk. The high iron, manganese, and aluminum levels are most likely due to leaching of natural deposits.

Color and Turbidity were found at levels that exceeded the secondary MCL of 15 Units and 5 NTU, respectively. The secondary MCLs were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects. The higher turbidity levels are due to naturally-occurring soil runoff. Exceeding the secondary MCLs does not pose a health risk.

These contaminants were found in raw water and were substantially removed before serving drinking water to the public.

Educational Information – Special Health Report

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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six

months of age. 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 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

Terms Used in This Report

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 (USEPA).

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added

for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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 that a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 (In a mo.)	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0 (In the year)	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	0	N.A.	N.A.	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	0	N.A.	N.A.	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	42	20-64	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	162	64-260	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	0.49	0-0.98	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment process
Arsenic (ppb)	5/9, 8/16	2.4	0-4.8	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Flouride (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	0.44	0.38-0.49	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	As Needed	17.14*	0-50	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Control of DBP Precursors, Total Organic Carbon (ppb)	Varies	1.24	0.35-13	TT	N/A	Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of cancer.
TTHMs (ppb)	Quarterly	13.2	0-26	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	Quarterly	4.71	2-9.2	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppb)	5/9, 8/16	490*	0-980	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment process
Turbidity (NTU)	5/9, 8/16, 9/25	7.51*	0-29	5	N/A	Soil Runoff
Color (units)	5/9, 8/16, 9/25	8.75*	0-25	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	5/9, 8/16, 9/24, 10/1	212.5*	0-1700	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	Quarterly	68.63*	0-330	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (units)	5/9, 8/16	1	1	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	550	130-970	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	5/9, 8/16	450	170-730	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water, seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	5/9, 8/16	62	26-98	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sea water influence
Sulfate	5/9, 8/16	53.65	7.3-100	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
None detected	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided in this report.



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Board of Directors

Paul Perkovic, President
Jim Harvey, President pro tem
Scott Boyd, Secretary
Bob Ptacek, Treasurer
Kathryn Slater-Carter, Director

Continuing Our Commitment

The District Board Meetings for public participation are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the District Office at 8888 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA 94037.

For more information about this report and with any questions related to your public water system, please contact the District at (650) 728-3545.

You may also fax to us at (650) 728-8556, or email to msd@coastside.net, or visit us online at mwsd.montara.org

Our Mission Statement

To sensitively manage the natural resources entrusted to our care, to provide the people of Montara and Moss Beach with reliable, high-quality water, wastewater, and trash disposal services at an equitable price, and to ensure the fiscal and environmental vitality of the district for future generations.

TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES

Treatment Technique ^(a) (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Coagulation, Filtration, Disinfection
Turbidity Performance Standards ^(b) (that must be met through the water treatment process)	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 1.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.10 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

- (a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- (b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.