

# 2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Montara Water and Sanitary District

June 2016

## About Your Water

The Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) is served by groundwater sources from San Mateo Coastal Basin Aquifers and surface water from the Montara Creek. Drinking water treatment technologies used in the water system include conventional coagulation, filtration, ion exchange and disinfection. The Drinking Water Source Assessment for all sources was completed in January 2003 and is on file with the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water.

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, 2015 and may include earlier monitoring data.

**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 and mining activities.

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

## Message from the Board President

Dear Customer,

We are pleased to report continued compliance of your local water with all federal and state drinking water regulations, as demonstrated by the Consumer Confidence Report for 2015. This Report summarizes the results of approximately 2,200 analyses conducted on your drinking water in the past year. Since the community acquired the water system in 2003, we continued making improvements to the water system that have resulted in water quality improvements in turbidity, iron, nitrates, and color.

The District has continued its infrastructure improvement efforts throughout 2015, including the completion of construction of the Alta Vista Tank and the rehabilitation of several drinking water wells and water lines to improve water quality and fire storage. The District will continue to implement projects that maximize system reliability while minimizing costs and environmental impacts.

Although California's extreme drought conditions persisted in 2015, with your support, MWSD has reduced water consumption by at least 24% since 2003. For more information on how to save water and reduce your water bills, please visit [saveourh2o.org](http://saveourh2o.org).

MWSD looks forward to continued water conservation efforts and further development of important infrastructure projects, and would like to thank you for your support in helping us to maintain a reliable and environmentally conscious water system.

For more information on the MWSD system and the quality of your drinking water, you can visit the District's office, the web site at [mwsd.montara.org](http://mwsd.montara.org), or by attending one of our Board meetings. District Staff and Board Members are always available to discuss issues with customers and constituents.

Sincerely,

Jim Harvey  
MWSD Board President

## Our Mission Statement

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

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Important Information about Your Drinking Water

**Copper and Lead** were found at levels **below** the Regulatory Action Level (AL) of 1.3 and 15 ppm, respectively, in the 2015 residential tap sampling. No exceedance was found in the distribution system. The typical sources for copper and lead contamination are corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the AL over a relatively short time may experience gastrointestinal distress and liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their doctor.

**Arsenic** was detected at one District well at levels **below** the MCL but above 5 ppb. While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Fluoride** was found at one District well at levels **below** the MCL but above 1 ppm. While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for fluoride, it does contain low levels of fluoride. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth.

**Gross Alpha Particle Activity (GAPA)** was found at one District well at levels **below** the MCL. While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for GAPA, it does contain low levels of GAPA. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 sinks), and clothing while washing. Exceeding the secondary MCLs poses no health risks. **Manganese** was found at levels that exceeded the secondary MCL of 50 ppb that is set to protect consumers from neurological effects. The high manganese levels are most likely due to leaching of natural deposits in the soil where groundwater is in contact with naturally occurring sediments. **Iron** was found at levels that exceeded the secondary MCL of 300 ppb. The high iron levels are due to leaching of natural deposits.

## A Message from the USEPA and the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water

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).

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. MWSD 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for other beneficial purposes, such as watering plants. 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

## Terms Used in this Report

<b>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):</b> 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.	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):</b> 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.	<b>Treatment Technique (TT):</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):</b> 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.	<b>Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):</b> MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.	<b>Regulatory Action Level (AL):</b> The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
<b>Public Health Goal (PHG):</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) sets pHGs.	<b>Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):</b> 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.	<b>Variations and Exemptions:</b> SWRCB Division of Drinking Water permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):</b> 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.	<b>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):</b> Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. Exceeding the SMCLs poses no health risks.	<b>ND:</b> not detectable at testing limit <b>NTU:</b> nephelometric turbidity unit <b>ppm:</b> parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) <b>ppb:</b> parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) <b>ppt:</b> parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) <b>pCi/L:</b> picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) <b>T.O.N.:</b> threshold odor unit

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling events for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

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	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	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./Date of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	12 2015 Tap Sampling	8.4	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	12 2015 Tap Sampling	0.11	0	1.3	0.3	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)	Annually (8/10, 8/17, 10/19)	58	33	-	92	None	None	Salt present in water and generally found naturally occurring in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	Annually (8/10, 8/17, 10/19)	208	120	-	420	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring 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	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	Annually (8/10, 8/17, 10/19)	10.04	0.12	-	39	TT	None	Soil runoff
Arsenic (ppb)	Quarterly	5.8	3.4	-	7.4	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste

\*Any violation of an MCL, TT or AL is asterisked. Additional information is provided in this report.

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

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections			MCL	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	Quarterly	1.0	0.6	-	1.6	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	Annually (3/3/15)	1.2	ND	-	3.6	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	Annually (11/9/15)	0.27	ND	-	0.43	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Toluene (ppb)	Quarterly	2.6	ND	-	11	150	150	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	As needed	8.2	ND	-	55	80	none	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	As needed	1.3	ND	-	5.5	60	none	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Control of DBP precursors [TOC] (ppm)	Quarterly	0.61	0.46	-	0.83	TT	none	Various natural and man-made sources

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

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections			SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>**Color (Color Units)</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Naturally-occurring organic materials</b>
<b>**Iron (ppb)</b>	<b>Quarterly</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes</b>
<b>**Manganese (ppb)</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Leaching from natural deposits</b>
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	Annually (8/10/15)	398	230	-	780	1,000	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Annually (8/10/15)	683	390	-	1,280	1,600	None	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	Annually (8/10/15)	84	47	-	164	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	Annually (8/10/15)	48	14	-	128	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

**\*\*Any exceedance of an SMCL is asterisked. Exceeding the secondary MCLs poses *no* health risks. There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set based on aesthetics.**

**TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections			Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Boron (ppm)	Annually (varies by location)	0.18	0.13	-	0.21	1	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

**TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLES**

Microbiological Contaminants	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
<i>E. coli</i>	0	N/A	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste
Enterococci	0	N/A	TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliphage	0	N/A	TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste

**TABLE 8 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES**

Treatment Technique <sup>(a)</sup> (Type of approval filtration technology used)	Dual-media pressure filters, coagulation and contact clarifiers
Turbidity Performance Standards <sup>(b)</sup> (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 – Be less than or equal to <u>0.3</u> NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed <u>0.3</u> NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed <u>1</u> NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.13
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 NITU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results that meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

**MWSD Board of Directors**

Jim Harvey, President  
 Dwight Wilson, President pro tem  
 Bill Huber, Treasurer  
 Kathryn Slater-Carter, Secretary  
 Scott Boyd, Director



**Montara Water and Sanitary District**

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 Montara, CA 94037

**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 [mwsd@coastside.net](mailto:mwsd@coastside.net), or visit us online at [mwsd.montara.org](http://mwsd.montara.org)