City of Mountain View

# Water Quality 2013

JUNE 2014

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## Commitment to Water Quality

The City of Mountain View is committed to providing its customers with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water that meets Federal and State standards. The City of Mountain View works with its wholesale water suppliers, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), to test over 2,000 water samples each year to continuously monitor water quality. The results of the 2013 sampling program confirm that Mountain View water meets all regulatory standards.

Each year the City provides a summary of the water quality sampling results and other information about Mountain View's water system through a Consumer Confidence Report. This 2013 Consumer Confidence Report was prepared in accordance with Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements.

Look inside to learn about water quality regulations and how the City operates and maintains its water system.

## California Drought

The bay area and many parts of the state are experiencing a third consecutive year of below average precipitation, prompting California's Governor Jerry Brown to declare a drought emergency in January, 2014. In early May, with the State's average snowpack water content at just sixteen percent, the Governor called on all Californians to redouble their efforts to conserve water.

Following the Governor's January declaration, Mountain View's customers reduced total Citywide use by seventeen percent (versus 2013) from February through May. However, with no end in sight to the prolonged dry period, we need to continue to preserve our drinking water. Ongoing conservation will meet many goals, including saving water for the summer and beyond.

As reservoir levels begin to drop, water is drawn into distribution systems from increasingly smaller supplies. The water quality characteristics of the water supply may change, but the City will continue to supply high quality water during this challenging period. Continued conservation helps to maintain water quality and supply.

Clean drinking water is a precious and limited resource, and using water efficiently will help California meet its long term goal of reducing urban water use by 20 percent by the year 2020. You can find information about water conservation programs for residents and businesses on the City of Mountain View website at: *www.conservewater.mountainview.gov* or by calling the City's Water Conservation Hotline at (650) 903-6216.

**READ MORE INSIDE:**



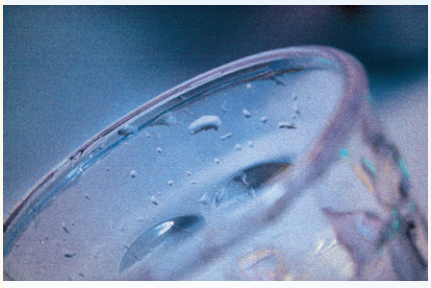
This report contains important information about your community's water quality.

If necessary, please have the report translated or speak with a friend who understands it well.

Este reporte contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Si necesita entender su contenido en español, pida a un familiar o amigo que se la explique.

Это сообщение содержит важную информацию о качестве воды в нашем регионе. Если вам нужна помощь в переводе, поговорите с человеком, хорошо понимающим английский язык.

这份报告含有关于您社区饮用水质量的重要资讯。如果需要，请找可以为您翻译的人翻译或解释清楚



## Drinking Water Sources

The City of Mountain View obtains water from several sources to allow for operational flexibility during system maintenance, drought and disasters. The City delivers more than 3.4 billion gallons of water to its customers each year. The map on the right shows the three zones where source waters are distributed within Mountain View. Mountain View's drinking water sources are described below.

### San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

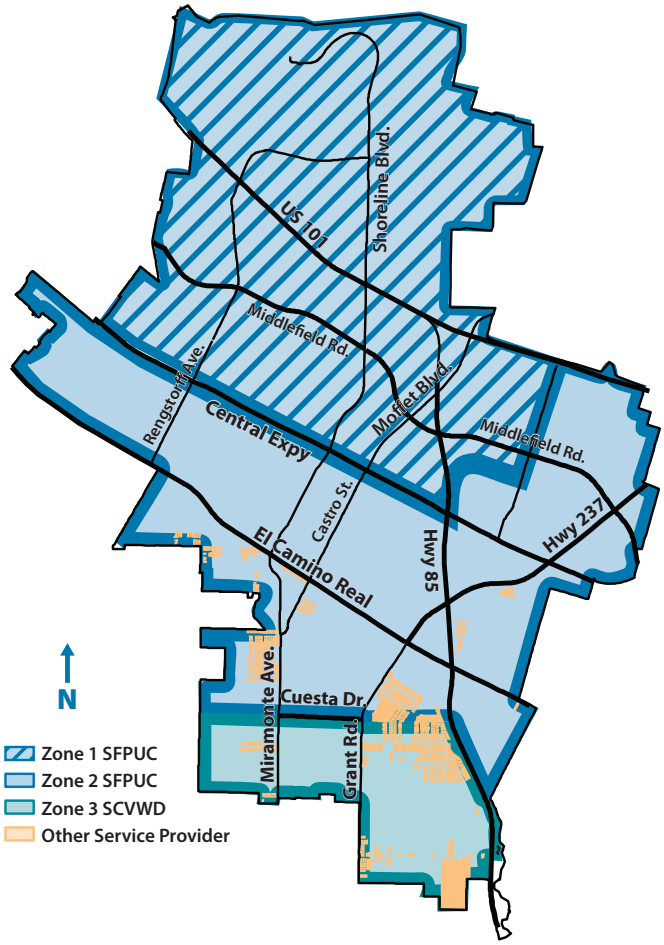
The City purchases approximately 86 percent of its potable water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy system. Most of the SFPUC's water originates from Sierra Nevada snowmelt that flows into the Tuolumne River and is stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. Other sources of SFPUC water include surface water collected in watersheds in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

### Santa Clara Valley Water District

Approximately 10 percent of the City's potable water supply is purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). About half of this water is imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The SCVWD's other water sources include groundwater and surface water collected and stored in local watersheds.

### City Wells

Four percent of the potable water supply comes from groundwater wells owned and operated by the City. This water is pumped from a deep aquifer and blended with treated water for distribution to City water customers.




## Protecting Water Resources

### Drinking Water Source Assessment Programs

Drinking Water Source Assessment Programs evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to potential contamination. Assessments have been conducted for all three of the City of Mountain View's potable water supplies—the SFPUC, the SCVWD and City wells. The assessments are available for review at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Second Floor, Richmond, California, 94804, (510) 620-3474. More information and assessment summaries are also available online at *www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/pages/DWSAP.aspx*.

### SFPUC

The SFPUC's annual Hetch Hetchy Watershed Survey evaluates sanitary conditions, water quality, potential contamination sources and the results of watershed management efforts by the SFPUC and its partner agencies, including the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, to reduce or eliminate contamination sources. The SFPUC also conducts sanitary surveys of the local Alameda and Peninsula watersheds, as well as approved standby water sources, every five years. The latest five-year survey was completed in 2011 for the period of 2006-2010. The surveys identified wildlife, livestock and human activities as potential contamination sources.

### SCVWD

SCVWD surface water is imported mainly from the South Bay Aqueduct, Dyer Reservoir, Lake Del Valle and San Luis Reservoir, which all receive water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed. The SCVWD's local water sources include Lexington and Anderson Reservoirs. The SCVWD'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. Water from imported sources is vulnerable to wastewater treatment plant discharges, seawater intrusion and wildland fires. Commercial stables and historic mining practices may also be sources of contamination to local water sources. No contaminant associated with any of these activities has been detected in the District's treated waters. The District's water treatment plants use multiple techniques for disinfection and physical removal of contaminants.

### City Wells

Groundwater beneath the City of Mountain View is available in two aquifers separated by natural clay formations. To ensure the safety of its groundwater supply, Mountain View actively monitors water produced by City wells. The source assessments of Mountain View's drinking water wells determined the City's groundwater is potentially vulnerable to contamination from auto repair shops and leaking underground storage tanks, but noted these potential impacts are likely to be confined to the upper aquifer. Because City wells are drilled deep into the lower aquifer, the clay formations and geology help to protect the City's groundwater supply from contamination. To receive a copy of the well assessment summaries, contact the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329.

# System Enhancements

Mountain View and its water suppliers continue to upgrade the water delivery system, promote water conservation, prepare for emergencies, and monitor water quality.

City crew replaces a meter

## Mountain View System Improvements

Mountain View supplies about 10 million gallons a day to over 17,600 meter connections, using wells, reservoirs, pump stations and 172 miles of pipeline.

In 2013, the City continued its efforts to ensure a dependable water supply by replacing the water mains and service lines on Karen Way, Morton Court, Carver Place and Ashley Place. The City also designed water main and service line replacements on Tulane Drive, Yale Drive and Cornell Drive, and replacement service connections on Moonbeam Drive, Starlite Court and Morning Sun Court. City crews continued to install new meters with automated reading capabilities, replacing manual-read meters. The City installed 1,368 new water meters in 2013.

## SFPUC Water System Improvement Plan

The SFPUC launched a $4.6 billion program in 2002 to update, repair and seismically upgrade deteriorating pipelines, tunnels, reservoirs, pump stations, dams and other facilities. Program construction reached its peak in 2012 and included continued excavation of the Bay Tunnel. Replacing older pipelines that cross the San Francisco Bay, the Bay Tunnel will be 5 miles long, 15 feet in diameter and go as deep as 100 feet under the Bay. The entire Water System Improvement Plan (WSIP) is scheduled for completion in 2019. To learn more about the WSIP, visit *www.sfwater.org/wsip*.


photo: SFPUC

Bay Tunnel pipe installation

photo: SCVWD

Rinconada Water Treatment Plant

## SCVWD Rinconada Treatment Plant Upgrades

The water Mountain View receives from the SCVWD is treated at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) in Los Gatos. The RWTP is the second-largest of the SCVWD's plants. The SCVWD is preparing for a $135 million modernization of the plant constructed in 1967. The Reliability Improvement Project will replace or upgrade all major plant components and increase RWTP's treatment capacity from 80 to 100 million gallons of water a day while helping the District meet increasingly stringent standards for water quality, seismic stability and safety. This work will take place over the course of four years, beginning in 2015 and concluding in 2019.

## Water Quality Reporting in the Digital Age

The City of Mountain View is pleased to offer residents and water customers the option to receive the Annual Water Quality Report through e-mail. Sign up to receive this report and future water quality reports electronically by visiting *www.waterquality.mountainview.gov*.

photo: SCVWD

Anderson Reservoir

# Protecting Your 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. EPA/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 at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Quality Constituent Monitoring & Disinfection

**Nitrate**: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of an 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 certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health-care provider.

**Lead**: 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 water service lines and home plumbing. The City of Mountain View is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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. Keep a pitcher or small watering can nearby to collect this flush water and use it to water plants in your house or garden. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested independently. Testing can be done using an over-the-counter lead testing kit commonly available at local hardware stores. 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/safewater/lead*.

**Cryptosporidium and Giardia**: Cryptosporidium and Giardia are parasitic microbes found in most surface water supplies. If ingested, these parasites may produce symptoms of nausea, stomach cramps and headaches. The SFPUC and SCVWD test for Cryptosporidium and Giardia regularly in their source water and treated water supplies. In 2013, the SFPUC found very low levels of Cryptosporidium in the source water. The Cryptosporidium was removed through the treatment process prior to distributing the water to customers.

**Chloramine Disinfectant**: Drinking water provided to the City of Mountain View by the SFPUC and the SCVWD is disinfected using chloramine. Although people and animals can safely drink chloraminated water, chloramine must be removed or neutralized for some special users, including some business and industrial customers, kidney dialysis patients and customers with fish and amphibian pets. More information on chloramine is available at: *http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/mdbp/chloramines_index.cfm*.

## Drinking Water 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 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 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the CDPH regulate the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Quality Data

Water quality staff from the SFPUC, the SCVWD, and the City of Mountain View regularly collect and test water samples from reservoirs, wells and designated sampling points to ensure the water supplied to Mountain View customers meets State and Federal drinking water standards. This table provides an analysis of the results of water samples collected in 2013. The table contains the name of each substance found in the water sample, the highest level allowed by regulation, the amount detected, the usual sources of contamination and a key to the units of measurement. Sample results that are below detection limits are not listed. Please note that the presence of a substance does not necessarily indicate the drinking water poses a health risk. For additional details about this table, refer to the important definitions below and table key on Page 6.

### Important Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. 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 health risk. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

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

**Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (DLR)**: The designated minimum level at or above which a contaminant in drinking water must be reported to CDPH.

## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW SOURCE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR YEAR 2013 (1)

| Detected Contaminants | | Measurements | | | Water Source | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Primary Health Related Constituents** | **Units** | **DLR** | **MCL** | **PHG (or MCLG)** | **SFPUC Range** | **SFPUC Avg. or [Max]** | **SCVWD Range** | **SCVWD Avg. or [Max]** | **CMV Wells Range (2)** | **Typical Source in Drinking Water** |
| **Turbidity (3)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water | NTU | — | 5 | NS | 0.2 — 0.3 (4) | [3.6] (5) | — | — | — | Soil run-off |
| Filtered Water (turbidity) | NTU | — | TT (6) | NS | — | [0.98] | — | [0.06] | — | Soil run-off |
| Filtered Water (percentage of time) | — | — | TT (6) | NS | 99.9% | — | 100% | — | — | Soil run-off |
| **Microbiological** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Giardia lamblia | Cyst/L | — | TT | (0) | <0.01 — 0.04 | <0.01 | — | — | — | Naturally present in the environment |
| **Organic Chemicals** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) | ppb | 0.5 | 80 | NS | 38 — 55 | [48] (7) | 35 — 74 | 53.2 | — | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) | ppb | 1 | 60 | NS | 25 — 57 | [46] (7) | 15 — 28 | 18.6 | — | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Organic Carbon | ppm | 0.3 | TT | NS | 1 — 3.4 (8) | 2.2 (8) | 1.37 — 3.03 | 1.94 | — | Various natural and man-made sources |
| **Inorganic Chemicals** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aluminum | ppb | 50 | 1000 | 600 | ND — 52 | ND | — | ND | <50 — 78 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (9) | ppm | 0.1 | 2 | 1 | ND — 0.8 | 0.4 (10) | ND | ND | <0.1 — 0.16 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate (as NO3) | ppm | 2 | 45 | 45 | — | — | ND — 4 | [4] | <1 — 37 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Radionuclides** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Particle Activity | pCi/L | 3 | 15 | 0 | ND — 3.9 | ND | — | — | — | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Constituents with Secondary Standards** | Unit | DLR | SMCL | PHG | | | | | | |
| Chloride | ppm | NS | 500 | NS | <3 — 18 | 10.2 | 76 — 88 | 83 | 31 — 58 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Color | Unit | NS | 15 | NS | <5 — 6 | <5 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <5 | Naturally occurring organic materials |
| Manganese | ppb | 20 | 50 | NS | — | — | — | — | ND — 51 (11) | Leaching from natural deposits |
| Odor | TON | 1 | 3 | NS | — | — | 1 | 1 | <1 | Naturally occurring organic materials |
| Specific Conductance | µS/cm | NS | 1600 | NS | 29 — 258 | 169 | 522 — 593 | 558 | 590 — 790 | Substances that form ions when in water |
| Sulfate | ppm | 0.5 | 500 | NS | 0.8 — 33 | 16.6 | 47.8 — 84.2 | 60.5 | 29 — 39 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Total Dissolved Solids | ppm | NS | 1000 | NS | <20 — 109 | 71 | 274 — 358 | 307 | 330 — 450 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Turbidity | NTU | NS | 5 | NS | 0.1 — 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.06 | 0.06 | <0.1 — 0.78 | Soil run-off |
| **Other Water Constituents Analyzed** | Units | DLR | MCL | PHG | **SFPUC Range** | **SFPUC Average** | **SCVWD Range** | **SCVWD Average** | **CMV Wells Range (2)** | |
| Alkalinity (as CaCO3) | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 7 — 71 | 46 | 68 — 81 | 75 | 200 — 260 | Naturally occurring |
| Barium | ppb | 100 | 1000 | 2000 | — | — | — | — | 110 — 140 | Naturally occurring |
| Boron | ppb | 100 | NS | NS | — | — | 137 — 222 | 165 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Bromide | ppb | NS | NS | NS | 17 — 24 | 21 | <50 — 80 | <50 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Calcium (as Ca) | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 3 — 23 | 13 | 18 — 27 | 21 | 55 — 96 | Naturally occurring |
| Chlorate | ppb | 20 | NS | NS | 39 — 690 (12) | 303 (12) | 66 — 200 | 127 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Hardness (as CaCO3) | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 7 — 89 | 53 | 91 — 125 | 104 | 209 — 393 | Naturally occurring |
| Magnesium | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 0.2 — 8.3 | 5.3 | 13 — 15 | 13 | 17 — 37 | Naturally occurring |
| pH | — | NS | NS | NS | 6.5 — 9.4 | 8.4 | 7.6 — 7.8 | 7.7 | 2.7 — 7.9 | Naturally occurring |
| Phosphate | ppm | NS | NS | NS | — | — | 0.97 — 1.04 | 1.01 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Potassium | ppm | NS | NS | NS | — | — | 2.9 — 3.2 | 3.1 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Silica | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 4.8 — 5.2 | 5 | 9 — 13 | 11 | — | Naturally occurring |
| Sodium | ppm | NS | NS | NS | 3 — 18 | 12 | 62 — 70 | 67 | 30 — 37 | Naturally occurring |

| MOUNTAIN VIEW SYSTEM CONSTITUENTS | Units | DLR | MCL (SMCL) | PHG | Range or [Avg] | Typical Source in Drinking Water |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turbidity | NTU | — | (5) | NS | 0.0 — 0.5 | Soil run-off |
| **Organic Chemicals** | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) | ppb | 0.5 | 80 | NS | 38 — 78.9 | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) | ppb | 1 | 60 | NS | 15.6 — 56.6 | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| **Other Water Constituents Analyzed** | | | | | | |
| Fluoride (9) | ppm | 0.1 | 2 | 1 | [0.93] | Naturally occurring and added for treatment |
| Total Chlorine | ppm | — | MRDL=4 | MRDLG=4 | 1.0 — 3.51 | Water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Free Ammonia | ppm | NS | NS | NS | ND — 0.41 | Water disinfectant added for treatment |
| **Customer Tap Lead and Copper Sampling** | | | | | | |
| Lead (13) | ppb | 5 | (15) | 0.2 | 7.6 | Corrosion of household plumbing |
| Copper (14) | ppm | 0.05 | (1.3) | 0.3 | 0.1 | Corrosion of household plumbing |

**KEY**

| | |
|---|---|
| — | Non Applicable |
| < | Less Than |
| ND | Non-Detect |
| NS | No Standard |
| NTU | Nephelometric Turbidity Unit |
| Csyt/L | Cysts per Liter |
| ppm | parts per million |
| ppb | parts per billion |
| µS/cm | microSiemens/centimeter |
| TON | Threshold Odor Number |
| SMCL | Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level |
| CDPH | California Department of Public Health |
| CMV | City of Mountain View |
| SFPUC | San Francisco Public Utilities Commission |
| SCVWD | Santa Clara Valley Water District |

### Footnotes

(1) All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.

(2) CMV well data reflect the most current results from samples taken on a CDPH-approved water quality monitoring schedule.

(3) Turbidity is a water clarity indicator and also indicates the effectiveness of water treatment plants.

(4) Turbidity is measured every four hours. Values shown are monthly average turbidity values.

(5) The highest turbidity of the unfiltered water in 2013 was 3.6 NTU.

(6) There is no turbidity MCL for filtered water. The limits are based on the TT requirements in the State drinking water regulations, which require filtered water turbidity to be equal to or less than 0.3 NTU a minimum of 95 percent of the time.

(7) This is the highest locational running annual average value.

(8) Total organic carbon is a precursor for disinfection byproduct formation. The TT requirement applies to the filtered water from the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP) only.

(9) Fluoride occurs naturally in source waters from the SFPUC, SCVWD, and City wells. The City of Mountain View and SFPUC added fluoride in 2013 to meet CDPH required levels.

(10) The natural fluoride in the Hetch Hetchy supply was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in the SVWTP raw water are attributed to the transfer of the fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into the reservoirs.

(11) Manganese is regulated by a secondary MCL (SMCL) which is an aesthetic standard. One well sample exceeded the SMCL by 1 ppm. This does not pose a health risk.

(12) The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFPUC for water disinfection.

(13) One of the 34 water sample collected at the consumers taps had Lead concentrations above the Action Level.

(14) None of the 34 water sample collected at the consumers taps had Copper concentrations above the Action Level.

## Understanding the Water Quality Regulations

The EPA, CDPH, and water agencies work together to ensure water quality regulations are enforced.

### Primary Standards

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs and ground water wells.

The SDWA authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water.

The EPA has established National Primary Drinking Water Regulations that set mandatory water quality standards for drinking water contaminants. These enforceable standards, called "maximum contaminant levels" or "MCLs," protect the public against consumption of drinking water contaminants that present a risk to human health. An MCL is the maximum allowable amount of a contaminant in drinking water which is delivered to the consumer.

### Secondary Standards

The EPA established National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations that set non-mandatory water quality standards for 15 contaminants. The EPA does not enforce these "secondary maximum contaminant levels" or "SMCLs," which are guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

The EPA believes if these contaminants are present in your water at levels above these standards, the contaminants may cause the water to appear cloudy or colored, or to taste or smell bad, causing people to stop using water from their public water system even though the water is safe to drink.

Secondary standards are designed to give public water systems guidance on removing these contaminants to levels that are below what most people will find to be noticeable.

### Other Regulations

#### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

The SDWA amendments require that once every five years the EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The first Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 1) was published 1999, the second (UCMR 2) was published in 2007 and the third (UCMR 3) was published in 2012.

The EPA uses the UCMR to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water but that do not have health-based standards set under the SDWA to help determine if additional drinking water standards are needed.

The UCMR 3 includes a total of 28 chemical contaminants and two viruses for monitoring by some public water systems between 2013 and 2015. The UCMR 3 focuses on local distribution systems. Mountain View commenced testing in 2014.

#### Total Coliform Rule (TCR)

There are a variety of bacteria, parasites, and viruses which can potentially cause health problems if humans ingest them in drinking water. Testing water for each of these potential pathogens (disease causing agents) would be difficult and expensive, therefore water agencies measure total coliform levels. The presence of any coliforms in drinking water suggests that there may be a pathway for pathogens and/or fecal contamination to enter the drinking water distribution system (pipes, storage facilities, etc.).

Total coliforms are a group of closely related bacteria that are (with few exceptions) not harmful to humans. The EPA considers them a useful indicator of pathogens and general health of the system because total coliforms are present in water and respond to treatment in a manner similar to many pathogens.

In 1989, the EPA enacted the TCR to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination by establishing routine and repeat sampling requirements.

#### Groundwater Rule (GWR)

In 2009, the CDPH implemented the Federal GWR to test for the presence of microbial contamination in groundwater sources. Together with the TCR, these rules help monitor the health of the overall water system.

## Monitoring the System

The City has 40 water quality sampling sites located throughout the city to monitor the health of the system. Highly trained and certified operations staff conducts sampling with varying frequencies including daily, weekly and monthly monitoring. Operators routinely test the distribution system, reservoirs and water sources for disinfection residual, total coliforms, hardness, turbidity and other properties.

### Repeat monitoring requirements not met for Mountain View

The City is required to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis, including weekly tests for the presence of coliform bacteria, to determine whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The City routinely tests for total coliform bacteria, and on July 10, 2013 received a positive coliform test. On July 11, 2013, the City conducted repeat TCR samples for the distribution system but did not re-test all groundwater sources within 24 hours after coliform bacteria was found in one sample as required by Federal regulations, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

The lack of monitoring within the specified timeframe does not mean that contamination was present. The City reported the failure to sample groundwater sources to the CDPH and completed required resampling on August 1. The results of the repeat sampling indicated no coliform contamination in the water. All follow up and weekly samples indicate that no coliform contamination of the City's water exists.

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.

City of Mountain View
Public Services Division
231 North Whisman Road
Mountain View, CA 94043

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## To Contact Us

City of Mountain View
Public Services Division
231 North Whisman Road
Mountain View, CA 94043
(650) 903-6329

**Business Hours:**
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Ask Mountain View Online**
www.mountainview.gov

**Public Participation**
The Mountain View City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Second Floor. Members of the public are encouraged to attend. Contact the City Clerk's Office at (650) 903-6304 for more information.

For more information about this Consumer Confidence Report or your water service, please contact:

**Kerry Holeman**
Water Quality Technician
(650) 903-6241
waterquality@mountainview.gov

**Alison Turner**
Utilities Services Manager
(650) 903–6329

**Water Quality and System Operations (24 hours)**
(650) 903-6329

**Utility Account Status/Billing**
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(650) 903-6317

**Water Conservation Hotline**
(650) 903-6216
www.conservewater.mountainview.gov

**Suspicious Activities or Persons**
911

More information regarding drinking water, treatment, quality, and regulations is available at:

**Santa Clara Valley Water District**
(408) 265-2607
www.valleywater.org

**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission**
(415) 554-3289
www.sfwater.org

**California Department of Public Health Drinking Water Branch**
(510) 620-3474
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pages/ddwem.aspx

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline**
(800) 426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater

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