Educational Information

The California Department of Public Health requires the following language about nitrate, arsenic and lead to be used by water agencies that have traceable amounts of these substances in their water systems. These do not apply to the Water Agency's water systems; where found, the amounts do not exceed acceptable federal and state standards.

Additional information is provided about hardness to help answer customers' frequently asked questions.

It is important to realize that the majority of water quality issues apply to both tap and bottled water.

Want more information on contaminants and potential health effects?

- Call the USEPA's Safe
 Drinking and Water Hotline
 at (800) 426-4791
- Go online to www.epa.gov/ safewater/hfacts.html

Information for Sensitive Populations

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 at (800) 426-4791.

Nitrate: 'Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L 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 a 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 ask advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural

Arsenic: 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 costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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.

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 service lines and home plumbing. The Sacramento County Water Agency 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 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot 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 releasd 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. You should pursue radon removal for you 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 are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON).

For More Information

If you have questions about this report, or would like to request a complete list of tested constituents, please contact us at:

Sacramento County Water Agency (916) 875-RAIN (7246)

Dave Underwood Senior Civil Engineer underwoodd@saccounty.net

Sarah Grant
Supervising Engineering Technician
grantsa@saccounty.net

Aaron Wyley Senior Engineering Technician wyleya@saccounty.net

Visit our Web site at www.waterresources. saccounty.net/scwa

Get Involved!

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is the governing board of the Sacramento County Water Agency. The public is invited to attend the Board of Supervisors meetings at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday and the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Currently, night meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 6 p.m.

Meetings are held at:

Sacramento County Administration Center 700 H Street, Room 1450 Sacramento

Board meeting agendas are available at the County Administration Center or online at www.bos.saccounty.net.



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit No. 24

Sacramento County Water Agen

Phil Serna Jimmie Yee Susan Peters Roberta MacGlasha Don Nottoli

Information You Should Know About Water

rinking 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 (800) 426-4791.

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 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 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.



Arden Park Vista, Northgate, and Southwest Tract Water Systems

Managing Tomorrow's Water Today

2012 Water Quality Report



Important Water Quality Information Inside

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please have it translated or speak with someone who understands it.

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

Information included in this report is required by law to be provided to every water user. For a translation in Spanish, customers may call Juan Perez at (916) 875-6916. Para recibir esta información en español, llame a Juan Perez al (916) 875-6916.

Property owners, please share this information with your tenants.

A Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is a summary of the results of tests conducted to detect contaminants in your drinking water. This report educates customers about the Sacramento County Water Agency's water quality. The California Department of Public Health (DPH) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require all water agencies to provide this information each year.

Of the many tests conducted, only detected elements are listed in this report. The Consumer Confidence Report includes a comparison of the Water Agency's water to the standards set by the California DPH and the United States EPA.

Your water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.



How to Read the Water Quality Chart

- 1. Locate your water system on the water quality table.
- 2. Identify constituents in the left-hand column.
- 3. Compare the detection range to the state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or Public Health Goal (PHG), Action Level (AL), Notification Level (NL), and federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) standards.
- 4. Confirm your drinking water meets all federal and state drinking water health standards.
- 5. Contact Aaron Wyley, Senior Engineering Technician, at (916) 875-5815 or Sarah Grant, Supervising Engineering Technician, at (916) 875-6881, if you have any questions.

Making Your Water **Supply Our Top Priority**

The Water Agency provides water to over 50,000 households in 13 water systems throughout Sacramento County, including Laguna, Vineyard, Country Creek Estates, the Grantline area near Highway 99, Mather, Sunrise, Anatolia, Arden Park Vista, Northgate, Southwest Tract, Hood, East Walnut Grove and Delta Estates.

Approximately 85 percent of the Agency's water supply comes from groundwater (wells). Customers in certain parts of the Laguna and Sunrise water systems receive a portion of their drinking water from surface water (rivers, lakes and streams) from the Sacramento and

The Water Agency owns and operates 90 wells and 17 water treatment plants. Wells range from 140 to nearly 1,500 feet deep. Our shallowest well (140 feet deep) is located in the Hood water system and the deepest (1,517 feet deep) is located in the Laguna water system.

Source Water Assessment

To help protect the quality of existing and future groundwater supplies, the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) program calls for examining the vulnerability of drinking water sources to potential contamination. The Water Agency completed this comprehensive report in January 2008.

The Water Agency's report identified the following potential contamination results:

System	Well Vulnerability		
Hood, East Walnut Grove and Delta Estates	Most vulnerable to irrigated crops and septic systems		
Laguna, Vineyard, Country Creek Estates and Grantline	Most vulnerable to activities including automobile-gas stations; boat services/repair/refinishing; chemical/petroleum pipelines; dry cleaners; fleet/truck/bus terminal; grazing; historic waste dumps/landfills; leaking underground storage tanks; other animal operations; pesticides/fertilizer/petroleum storage transfer areas; plastics/synthetics producers; research laboratory; wells-agricultural/irrigation types; wells-oil, gas, and geothermal types; wood preserving/treating and sewer collection systems		
Arden Park Vista and Northgate	Most vulnerable to commercial types of activities such as the dry cleaning business, gas stations, a sewer collection system and a leaking underground storage tank, electronic manufacturers and photo processors		
Mather, Sunrise and Anatolia	Most vulnerable to commercial types of activities such as grazing, known contaminant plumes, low-density septic systems, sewer collection systems and wells-agricultural/irrigation types		

Please note that the Water Agency completed Drinking Water Source Assessments on new sources in 2008. The data ranges from levels of low to moderate. The complete water source assessment reports are available for review at the Water Agency's Facilities Operation and Administration Office. Please call (916) 875-6919 for an appointment to review this data.

An Explanation of Testing and Reporting Data

A state-certified laboratory regularly tests your water for more than 100 contaminants! The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Public Health (DPH) set the testing schedule. Tests may be done on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. Test results are then compared to state and federal standards to confirm your water meets all drinking water health standards.

We are required to report all contaminants at levels above the detection limit. In the water quality chart, we have only included each contaminant exceeding the detection limit, and the MCL and PHG, AL, NL, or MCLG as set by the California EPA.

Water Quality Definitions

Average: The annual average of all tests for a particular substance.

Detection Limit for Reporting: The limit at or above which a contaminant is detected.

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.

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 risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

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.

Range (Lo - Hi): The range between the lowest and highest values of a specific substance measured throughout the course of the year.

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

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

Weighted Average: This is an average of water quality samples in which each sample is assigned a weight. Each sample's contribution (or weight) is based on the amount of water the corresponding water source produces for the whole system. Instead of each of the sample results contributing equally to the final average, some of the results contribute more than others.

2012 Water Quality Chart See Note 1

Arden Park Vista, Northgate, and Southwest Tract **DETECTED PRIMARY STANDARDS - Mandatory Health-Related Standards** stablished by California Department of Public Health Services Arden Park Vista Northgate SW Tract (See Note 2) WEIGHTED RANGE WEIGHTED (MCLG) or MCL or CONSTITUENT MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS PPR Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes. 4 - 6 Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. Chromium (Total Cr) (100) Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits. ND ND ND - 13 ND ND - 18 Chromium Hexavalent Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits. ND - 4.6 2.2 5.8 - 10 9.5 ND - 5.4 1.1 n/a Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer Fluoride Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural Nitrate (as NO3) Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen (N) PPB REGULATED ORGANIC CHEMICALS Total Trihalomethanes (Total THM's) PPB n/a 80 Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. ND - 0.7 0.04 ND ND ND Trichloroethylene (TCE) Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories ND - 1.3 **RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS** pCi/l Gross Alpha Activity Erosion of natural deposits pCi/l 0.43 Erosion of natural deposits 0.5 - 6.3 Uranium Radium 228 pCi/l ND - 1.35 0.05 Erosion of natural deposit ND n/a **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM** Chlorine Residuals Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment. 1.12 0.8 - 1.37 1.08 0.38 - 0.69 Total Trihalomethanes Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. n/a 80 ND ND ND ND 17 17 PPB 6 Haloacetic Acids Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. ND ND ND ND 60 ND n/a **MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS** LEVEL FOUND 7 Total Coliform Bacteria >1 Naturally present in the environment. Northgate Arden Park Vista SW Tract SECONDARY STANDARDS - Aesthetic Standards RANGE WEIGHTED WEIGHTED RANGE RANGE WEIGH Aggressive Index n/a non-corrosive Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes. 11 - 12 11 - 12 11.67 Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected -1.3 - 0.2 -0.31 Corrosivity (Langelier Index at 60° C) -0.23 by temperature and other factors 8 Color Units Naturally-occurring organic materials. 0.2 ND - 20 ND - 5 n/a Units Soil runoff. ND - 3.2 0.2 0.05 - 0.65 0.09 ND - 3.7 0.4 9 Odor-Threshold Naturally-occurring organic materials. ND - 2 ND - 4 ND ND - 1 Units ND ND n/a PPM Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. 25-21 95 17 - 76 21.62 ND - 74 n/a 10 Iron PPR n/a Leaching from natural denosits: industrial wastes. ND - 390 ND ND - 240 73.5 Leaching from natural deposits. ND - 39 PPM Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes. 2.9 - 23 12.5 4.9 - 29 5.4 2.5 - 36 n/a 268 Specific Conductance (E.C.) umhos/cm Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence 86 - 430 278 84 - 720 Total Dissolved Solids PPM 185.1 50 - 450 n/a Runoff/leaching from natural deposit 183 176 - 490 OTHER CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED 7.8 - 8.1 7.88 6.6 - 8.3 Units n/a Total Hardness (as CaCO3) PPM n/a M0 Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. 33 - 190 118 68 - 350 78.1 33 - 330 Total Hardness (as CaCO3) Grains Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. 2 - 11 4 - 20.5 4.6 1.9 - 19.3 n/a Total Alkalinity (as CaCO3) PPM Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. 40 - 150 74 - 250 82.6 33 - 220 n/a Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. Bicarbonate (as HCO3) PPM 49 - 180 125 90 - 300 99 7 40 - 270 134 n/a 9.7 25.3 2 - 24 PPM n/a Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. 4 - 15 23 - 33 15.2 Calcium PPM n/a MO Due to chemicals naturally occurring in the soil below the earth's surface. 5.8 - 38 13 - 63 2.9 - 87 Magnesium Due to chemicals naturally occuring in the soil below the earth's surface. 9.8 1.4 - 36 9.7 n/a 8.6 - 47 PHG or **LEAD & COPPER** LEVEL (See Note 11) MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER (0.2) Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits. PPB ND Arden Park Vista PPM (0.3)Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. 2010 0.13 Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits. 2010 ND Northgate PPM (0.3)Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. 2010 0.46 (0.2)Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits. 2010 ND

Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

romethane is a chlorofluorocarbon halomethane (CFC), previously used as an

HEALTH EFFECTS

aerosol propellent, foaming agent and refrigerant.

Radon is a radionuclide and a naturally occurring radioactive gas.

5 TCP is a man-made chemical and cannot be found naturally occurring.

2010

Northgate

NR

RANGE | WTD AVG | RANGE | WTD AVG | RANGE | WTD AV

0.11 0

ND - 625

SW Tract

For more detailed water quality information, call (916) 875-5815.

PPM

PPT

(0.3)

2012

2012

Southwest Tract

UNREGULATED

CONTAMINANTS (See 12)

1,2,3-Trichloropropane

Dichlorodifluoromethane (Freon 12)

EXCEEDENCE: Last year, we conducted more than 40 test to analyze over 40 contaminants per test. The following contaminants exceeded the condary standards maximum contaminant level.

	CONTAMI- NANT	MCL	RESULT	SAMPLE DATE	LOCATION	QUALITY EFFECTS / SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
	Color	15 Units	20	5/15/2007	North Freeway Well (W-15)	Naturally occurring organic material.
	Odor	3 Units	4	5/15/2007	North Freeway Well (W-15)	Naturally occurring organic material.
	Iron	300 PPB	390	2/22/2012	Northrop Well	Leaching from natural deposits; industria

LEGEND							
ΑI	Aggressive Index	NR	Not Required				
AL	Regulatory Action Level	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units				
LI	Langelier Index	pCi/l	Pico Curies per liter				
MFL	Million Fibers Per Liter	PPB	Parts Per Billion (ug/L)				
MO	Monitored Only	PPM	Parts Per Million (mg/L)				
MPN	Most Probable Number	PPT	Parts per trillion, or Nanograms per liter				
NA	Not Analyzed	TOC	Total Organic Carbon				
n/a	Not Applicable	TT	Treatment Technique				
ND	Non Detectable	WTP	Water Treatment Plant				
NL	Notification Level						

- The state allows SCWA to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The 2012 Water Quality Data is based on data years 2006 thru 2012.
- Southwest Tract (SWT) receives its water from Fruitridge Vista Water Company. Data is reported by Fruitridge Vista Water Company for 2012. Please call Fruitridge Vista Water Company at (916) 443-2607 with questions regarding this
- Standard depends on temperature
- California Department of Public Health Services allows the measurement of gross alpha radiation as a surrogate for
- Total Trihalomethanes = sum of results for Chloroform, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane, &
- 6 Haloacetic Acids = sum of results for Bromochloroacetic acid. Dibromoacetic acid. Dichloroacetic acid. Monochloroacetic acid. & Trichloroacetic acid.
- 7 On Systems that collect less than 40 samples per month, the Total Coliform Bacteria MCL is no more than one (1) monthly sample return total coliform positive, per the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). A positive TC sample triggers collection of samples for E. coli at the source (i.e., groundwater wells) per the federal Ground Water Rule (GWR). In 2012, all samples taken per the GWR returned negative (absent) for E. coli.
- 8 Color exceeded the MCL of 15 Units. Colored drinking water usually does not itself represent any hazard to human health. Guidelines are often established for color in drinking water based on aesthetic criteria. Color generally indicates the presence of dissolved organic carbon, which is a precursor for the formation of disinfection Byproducts
- Odor exceeded the threshold of 3 Units. Odor itself does not represent a human health hazard. Although standards are established for odor in drinking water based on aesthetic criteria, odor can be indicative of water. contamination or problems with water treatment, which may have associated health concerns
- 10 Iron exceeded the MCL of 300 PPB on February 22, 2012. The weighted average for Iron in the Arden Park Vista water system is non-detect. Small quantities of iron are naturally found in some water sources. The presence of iron in drinking water may produce an undesirable taste, stain laundry and plumbing fixtures, and promote microbial growth in water distribution systems. Iron may promote the growth of certain microorganisms, which can cause the deposition of a slimy coating in water distribution pipes
- 11 SCWA Level for Lead & Copper is measured at the 90th percentile sampling of thirty (30) homes at the tap for Arden Park Vista (APV), eighteen (18) for Northgate & five (5) for Southwest Tract (SWT).
- Unregulated Contaminants monitoring helps the EPA and the California Department of Public Health to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated. For more information on the levels of unregulated contaminants found in Fruitridge Vista Water Company's samples, please call Fruitridge Vista Water Company at (916) 443-2607.
- 13 Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. For more information, see the educational information included or call Fruitridge Vista Water Company (916) 433-2607
- For more information regarding Fruitridge Vista Water Company water quality data, please call (916) 443-2607.