

ANNUAL  
WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT

*water testing performed in 2008*



CITY OF PASO ROBLES

PWS ID#: 4010007

## 2009 Annual Water Quality Report

The City of Paso Robles is once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report. This edition includes all testing completed from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. In cases where we are not required to monitor annually, the most current monitoring is used.

Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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.

### Source Water Assessment

The City of Paso Robles has completed an assessment of our drinking water sources. The assessment found our sources potentially vulnerable to agricultural drainage, auto repair shops, gas stations, home manufacturing, low-density septic systems, sewer collection systems, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, animal operations, agriculture and irrigation wells, and plastic and synthetics producers. If you would like to view the completed assessments or have questions regarding them, please contact Kelly Dunham at the Paso Robles Water Division, at (805) 237-3866.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles currently uses groundwater as its only source of water. In 2008, we pumped more than 2.5 billion gallons from the formation known as the Paso Robles Basin. Twelve wells pump from the deeper portion of the basin. Five of these wells are located south of Highway 46 East. Seven are north of Highway 46 East, primarily in the airport area. We also have seven wells that pump from the Salinas River underflow, four of which are south of town off of Ramada, two are south of Veteran's Memorial Bridge, and one is on South River Road. Water that is not immediately used in the system fills our water storage reservoirs. With a combination of both Golden Hills tanks and our west side reservoir, we have approximately 12 million gallons of storage.

We utilize arsenic removal equipment to treat water at our Sherwood wells. A mobile microfiltration plant is used to treat the Ronconi wells. This enables us to run these wells and meet or exceed the state and federal standards at all times.

## Summer 2009 Challenges

Paso Robles is anticipating a substantial water production shortfall this summer. In an attempt to overcome the anticipated production deficit, the City will be requiring that landscape irrigation be reduced by 50%. Meeting this challenge will require that all residents to do their part to conserve.

## Additional Monitoring

The City performed monitoring required by the U.S. EPA under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR). Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any detections are listed on the Sampling Results table.

## Substances That Could Be in 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State 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. 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

## Community Participation

We welcome your comments and concerns regarding your drinking water. We encourage you to directly contact the city's Utilities Department at (805) 237-3861, or you can voice your concerns at the City of Paso Robles city council meetings during the public comment portion. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall/Library Complex, 1000 Spring Street.

To view a copy of this report or get more information regarding the Water Division and or city council activities, visit the City of Paso Robles' Web site at [www.prcity.com](http://www.prcity.com).

## Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste from 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and appliances that use water. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Kelly Dunham at (805) 237-3866.

## Monitoring Violation

During the past year, our water system failed to monitor the required drinking water standards and, therefore, was in violation of the regulations. Even though this failure was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what we did to correct this situation, and what you should do.

### What You Should Do

*There is nothing you need to do at this time.*

### Our Violation

We are required to regularly monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During April 2008, we had one positive coliform sample and were required to collect three repeat samples. We collected one of the three required repeat coliform samples. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

### Corrective Action

Since April, the site in question has been sampled 15 times and all samples were good.

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.

For more information on this notice, please contact Kelly Dunham at (805) 237-3866 or [kdunham@prcity.com](mailto:kdunham@prcity.com)

## IDSE Sampling

We were required by the U.S. EPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system that have elevated disinfection by-product concentrations. Disinfection by-products e.g., HAAs and TTHMs, result from continuous disinfection of drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter that naturally occurs in the source water.

Since all of our disinfection by-product samples have been below 40/30, we were able to obtain a 40/30 waiver of this requirement using historical data.

## Lead and Drinking Water

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 your home's plumbing. We are 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 two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. 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 at (800) 4264791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

# Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

## REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2008	1	0.6	0.00405	ND–0.077	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic <sup>1</sup> (ppb)	2008	10	0.004	3.19	ND–7.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2008	1	2	0.06895	ND–0.25	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2008	[4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	1.0	0.9–1.2	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium (ppb)	2008	50	(100)	0.63	ND–12	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	2.0	1	0.36	0.17–1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2007	15	(0)	3.34	ND–11.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2008	60	NA	2.65	1.4–3.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2008	45	45	6.5	ND–36	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen (ppm)	2008	10	10	1.64	ND–6.60	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2008	50	(50)	4.42	ND–66	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2008	80	NA	16.95	10.1–23.8	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria (# positive samples)	2008	No more than 1 positive monthly sample	(0)	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>3</sup> (NTU)	2008	TT	NA	0.2	0.01–0.2	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2008	TT	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2007	20	0.43	2.3	ND–8.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community (lead was not detected)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	0.3	0.31	1/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2008	500	NS	64.89	35–150	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2008	15	NS	0.26	ND–5	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Manganese <sup>4</sup> (ppb)	2008	50	NS	2.99	ND–49	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor–Threshold (TON)	2008	3	NS	1.21	1–2	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2008	1,600	NS	822.63	600–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	500	NS	86.63	25–200	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2008	1,000	NS	517.89	370–740	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2008	5	NS	0.2	0.1–0.6	No	Soil runoff

## UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
N-Nitrosodimethylamine <sup>5</sup> (ppb)	05/20/2008	0.0034	0.0024–0.0048	Nitrosamines can form as intermediates and byproducts in chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and plastics.
Total Hardness(as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (grains/gal)	2008	14.8	2.6–25.7	NA

<sup>1</sup> Treatment plant effluent results used for Sherwood Wells.

<sup>2</sup> Third wells 10 and 13 are blended to achieve compliance.

<sup>3</sup> Filtration required on Ronconi wells only. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<sup>4</sup> Ronconi treatment plant effluent results were used. To achieve compliance, the Barney Schwartz well is blended with the Airport wells.

<sup>5</sup> UCMR2 Monitoring.

## Definitions

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

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

**grains/gal (grains per gallon):** Grains of compound per gallon of water.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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. EPA.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the customer's tap.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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. EPA.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

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

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TON (Threshold Odor Number):** A measure of odor in water.

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