



Water testing performed in 2004

PWS ID#: CA4010007

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 can 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) 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.

If you feel that you could be at risk, you may want to share these water quality results with your physician as a preventative measure.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles currently uses groundwater as its only source of water. The formation from which we draw our water is regionally known as the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin. In 2004, our 18 wells pumped approximately 7,500 acre-feet of water—that equals 2.4 billion gallons of water! This water is produced from 11 wells scattered throughout the east side of Paso Robles, and 7 wells that draw from the Salinas River underflow located just north and south of the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Water that is not immediately used in the system fills our water storage reservoirs. The December 22, 2003, earthquake seriously damaged two of these reservoirs we call the Golden Hills water tanks. We are pleased to report that both of these tanks have been repaired and are now back in service. Currently, with a combination of both the Golden Hills tanks and our west side reservoir, we have approximately 12 million gallons of water storage. We plan to add another 6 to 8 million gallons of storage within the next two years.

Plans are also in place to build a pipeline that will bring the much-needed Lake Nacimiento water to our area. The Nacimiento water will increase the reliability of our overall water supply and reduce our dependence on use of groundwater. We are in the early design of the Nacimiento project; water delivery is currently scheduled for 2009.

Este folleto cubre toda la información de que el agua ha sido analizada desde el mes de enero hasta diciembre del 2004. La Ciudad de Paso Robles se asegura de proveerles la mejor calidad de agua para tomar. Para mayor información favor de llamar al numero (805) 227-7231. Deje su nombre y numero de teléfono y un representante de la ciudad se comunicara con usted lo mas pronto posible.

Muchas gracias.

Atentamente el departamento de agua de Paso Robles

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2004. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Furthermore, we ensure this commitment by continuous monitoring of our system and by performing weekly water quality sampling.

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

Source Water Assessment

The City of Paso Robles has completed an assessment of our drinking water sources and has found these sources 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 Justin Ezell at the Paso Robles Water Division, at (805) 237-3866.

Community Participation

You are invited to voice your concerns about your drinking water at the Paso Robles City Council meeting during the public comment portion. The city council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall/Library Complex, 1000 Spring Street. For more information regarding city council activities, visit the City of Paso Robles Web site at www.prcity.com.

New Arsenic Regulation

Arsenic contamination of drinking water sources may result from either natural or human activities. Volcanic activity, erosion of rocks and minerals, and forest fires are natural sources that can release arsenic into the environment. Although about 90% of the arsenic used by industry is for wood preservatives, it is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals, and semiconductors. Agricultural applications, mining, and smelting also contribute to arsenic releases. Arsenic is usually found in the environment combined with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur (inorganic arsenic); or combined with carbon and hydrogen (organic arsenic). Organic forms are usually less harmful than inorganic forms.

Low levels of arsenic are naturally present in water -- about 2 parts arsenic per billion parts of water (ppb). Thus, you normally take in small amounts of arsenic in the water you drink. Some areas of the country have unusually high natural levels of arsenic in rock, which can lead to unusually high levels of arsenic in water.

In January 2001, the U.S. EPA lowered the arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) from 50 to 10 ppb in response to new and compelling research linking high arsenic levels in drinking water with certain forms of cancer. All water utilities are required to implement this new MCL starting in 2006.

Removing arsenic from drinking water is a costly procedure but well worth the expenditure considering the health benefits. For a more complete discussion visit the U.S. EPA's arsenic Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.html.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but also can save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home:	You can conserve outdoors as well:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.• Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.• Wash only full loads of laundry.• Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.• Take shorter showers.• Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.• Soak dishes before washing.• Run the dishwasher only when full.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.• Use mulch around plants and shrubs.• Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.• Use water-saving nozzles.• Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

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.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (Regulated in order to protect against possible adverse health effects.)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2004	15	NA	2.29	ND-8.93	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppb)	2004	1000	600	20.56	ND-140	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic ¹ (ppb)	2004	50	0.004	5.98	ND-44	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2004	1	2	0.03167	ND-0.26	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2004	50	(100)	0.89	ND-12	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2004	2	1	0.3	0.13-0.94	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as nitrate, NO₃) (ppm)	2004	45	45	5.21	ND-13	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2004	50	(50)	3.2	ND-18	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	2004	200	1.7	3	ND-55	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2004	80	NA	17.8	5.1-30	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2004	TT	NA	2.2	ND-2.2	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from 30 homes throughout the service area (lead was not detected at the 90th percentile)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90th%TILE)	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2004	1.3	0.17	0.54	2	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (Regulated in order to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb)	2004	500	NS	20	ND-50	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron (ppb)	2004	300	NS	95.56	ND-1,000	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2004	50	NS	10.11	ND-99	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor--Threshold (Units)	2004	3	NS	0.83	ND-1	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	2004	1,600	NS	770	580-1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2004	500	NS	85.5	27-190	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2004	1,000	NS	503.33	330-700	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2004	0.08	ND-0.64	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Water Hardness ³ (ppm)	2004	231.83	43-430	Hardness is caused by compounds of calcium and magnesium, and by a variety of other metals

Footnotes

¹ While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services 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.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of disinfectants.

³ Water hardness for the City of Paso Robles is 14 grains/gallon.

Table Definitions

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

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 (2nd MCL) 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NS: No standard

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

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

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs 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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

µmhos/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A measure of electrical conductance.

Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. CDHS 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 substances. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may 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.