

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2007



CITY OF PASO ROBLES

PWS ID#: 4010007

Meeting the Challenge

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, 2007 through December 31, 2007. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

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.

Current or Upcoming Projects

In 2007 we will be rehabilitating two wells, which includes pulling the well, inspecting, replacing components, and upgrading if necessary.

The Nacimiento pipeline project is moving forward with construction underway. The project 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 groundwater. Water delivery is currently scheduled for 2010, by which time the City plans to have a six MGD water treatment plant online. The plant is currently in the design stage.

We plan to refurbish the west side reservoir and potentially add another four to six million gallons of storage within the next five years.

Community Participation

We welcome your comments and concerns regarding your drinking water. We encourage you to directly contact the city Utilities and Billing 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 for more information regarding the Water Division and/or city council activities, visit the City of Paso Robles Web site at www.prcity.com.

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 facilities, 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, Paso Robles Water Division, at (805) 237-3866.

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 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. 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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles currently uses groundwater as its only source of water. In 2007, we pumped more than 2.6 billion gallons from the formation known as the Paso Robles Basin. Eleven 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.

During 2007 we installed and began use of arsenic removal equipment to treat water at our Sherwood wells. The equipment worked well and allowed us to run these wells during last year's long, hot summer. The water met state and federal standards at all times.

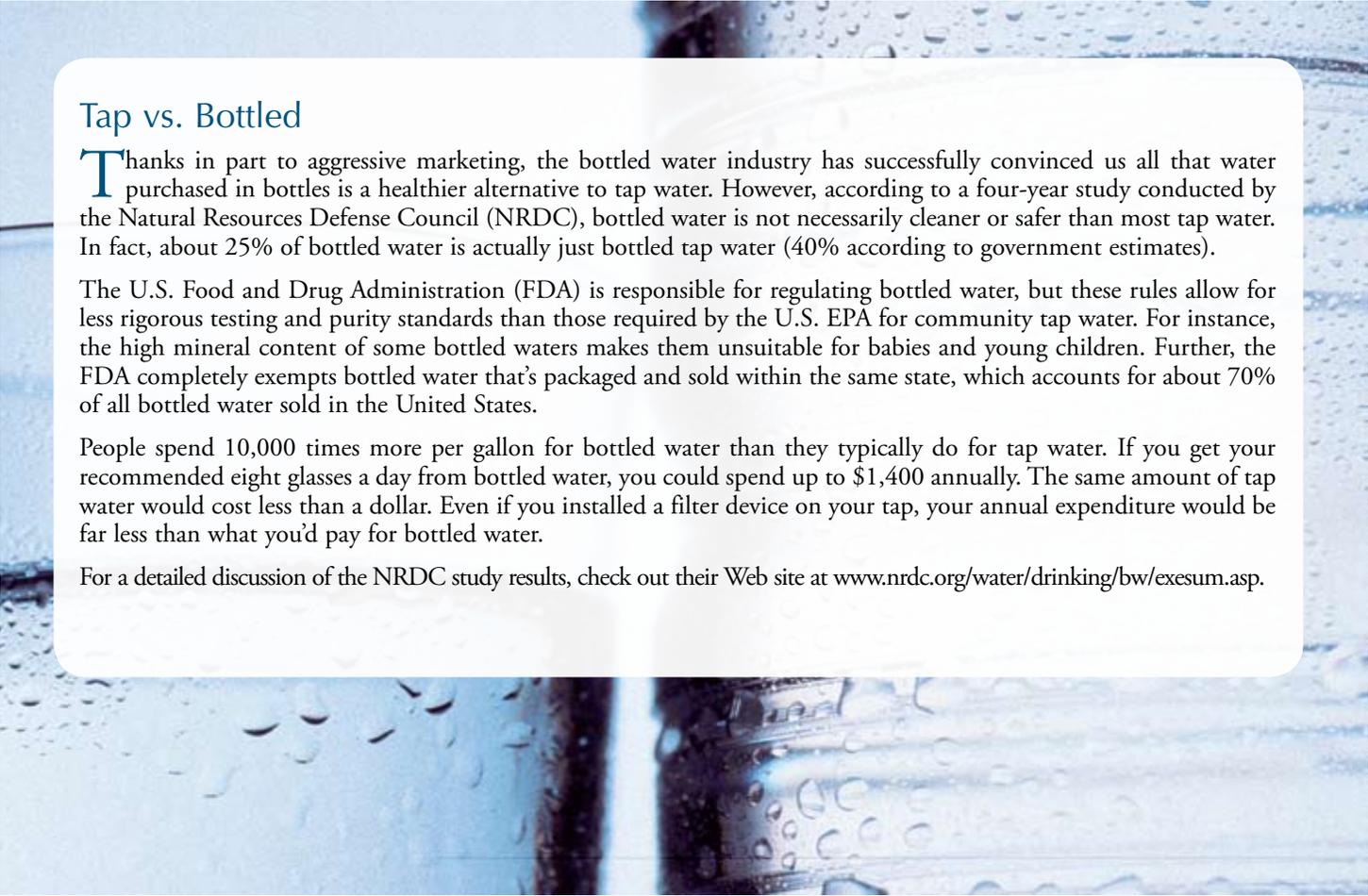
Our Ronconi wells have not been used in several years because they require additional treatment. However, to meet high demands in 2007, we leased a mobile microfiltration membrane treatment plant for several months. This plant enabled us to run these wells and meet high demand while we met all state and federal standards.

Sherwood 11 Arsenic Removal



Questions?

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



Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25% of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40% according to government estimates).

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70% of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost less than a dollar. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion of the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

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 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 15 gallons 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 the meter moved, you have a leak.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic ¹ (ppb)	2007	10	0.004	3.39	ND–9.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2007	1	2	0.06895	ND–0.00025	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2007	50	(100)	0.63	ND–12	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2007	2.0	1	0.35	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)	3.33	ND–11.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2007	45	45	8.31	ND–29	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate and Nitrite as Nitrogen (N) (ppb)	2007	10,000	10,000	1,616.32	ND–6,600	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks
Selenium ² (ppb)	2007	50	(50)	4.37	ND–27	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)	2007	80	NA	3.9	3.9–3.9	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU)	2007	TT	NA	0.06	0.02–0.06	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2007	20	0.43	2.56	ND–8.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected from 30 sample sites throughout the community. (Lead was not detected at the 90th percentile.)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	0.17	0.31	1	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)	2007	500	NS	86	35–430	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2007	15	NS	0.26	ND–5	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2007	300	NS	30	ND–470	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese ³ (ppb)	2007	50	NS	3.47	ND–39	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor–Threshold (Units)	2007	3	NS	1.05	1–2	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2007	1,600	NS	777.82	600–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2007	500	NS	85.58	25–200	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2007	1,000	NS	516.32	370–740	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2007	5	NS	0.17	0.1–0.4	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Boron (ppb)	2007	329.47	ND–990
Calcium (ppm)	2007	62.47	11–120
Magnesium (ppm)	2007	25.68	3.6–36
Potassium (ppm)	2007	2.05	ND–3.7
Sodium (ppm)	2007	89.63	39–170
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	2007	264.74	220–350
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) (grains/gal)	2007	14.8	2.6–25.7
Vanadium (ppb)	2007	14.89	ND–40

¹ Effective January 23, 2006, the federal arsenic MCL is 10 ppb. A new state MCL has not yet been adopted and remains as 50 ppb. Treatment plant effluent used for Sherwood Wells.

² Bird wells 10 and 13 are blended to achieve selenium compliance.

³ The Ronconi wells' treatment plant effluent results were used. The Barney Schwartz well is blended with the airport wells to achieve compliance.

Definitions

Action Level (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 consumer'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).

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