

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2006



Proudly Presented By:

CITY OF PASO ROBLES
WATER DIVISION

PWS ID#: 4010007

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

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 can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- 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.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.

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



New Tower Road Well

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. 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.

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

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.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles currently uses groundwater as its only source of water. In 2006 we pumped more than 2.4 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. Six 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 and one on South River Road. There are two wells north of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge that were not pumped in 2006. Tower Well, located on Tower Road, was completed in March 2007 and is currently contributing to the water supply.

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.

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 plastics 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.

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.

Current or Upcoming Projects

By the time you receive this report, installation of arsenic removal treatment will be well under way, if not complete, on the Sherwood 9 and 11 wells.

The Nacimiento pipeline project is moving forward with construction expected to begin later this year. 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.

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, the the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California State Department of Health Services (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.

Table 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

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).

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 allows 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)	2006	1	0.6	0.02313	ND–0.24	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic ¹ (ppb)	2006	10	0.004	7.04	ND–46	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2006	1	2	0.06625	ND–0.26	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2006	50	(100)	0.75	ND–12	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2006	2.0	1	0.33	0.22–0.94	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2006	15	(0)	4.2	ND–9.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2006	60	NA	1.6	1.6–1.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2006	45	45	9.05	ND–37	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sew-age; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate & Nitrite as Nitrogen(N) (ppb)	2006	10,000	10,000	1,465	ND–6,600	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sew-age; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium ² (ppb)	2006	50	(50)	5.24	ND–30	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)	2006	80	NA	7.4	6.2–8.6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria ³ (# positive samples)	2006	No more than 1 positive monthly sample	(0)	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Uranium ⁴ (pCi/L)	2006	20	0.43	4	3.4–4.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected from 30 sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2004	1.3	0.17	0.54	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)	2006	500	NS	61.94	34–140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb)	2006	500	NS	40	ND–20	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron (ppb)	2006	300	NS	32.5	ND–420	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese⁵ (ppb)	2006	50	NS	5.31	ND–39	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor–Threshold (Units)	2006	3	NS	0.94	ND–1	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2006	1,600	NS	790	650–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2006	500	NS	80.31	27–160	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2006	1,000	NS	492.5	410–700	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	2006	5	NS	0.48	0.1–2.2	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Boron (ppb)	2006	338.13	ND–1,000
Calcium (ppm)	2006	57.5	12–100
Magnesium (ppm)	2006	23.68	4.4–39
pH (Laboratory Units)	2006	7.6	7.4–8.1
Potassium (ppm)	2006	2	ND–3.7
Sodium (ppm)	2006	94.44	34–270
Total Alkalinity as CaCO₃ (ppm)	2006	253.75	200–350
Total Hardness as CaCO₃⁶ (grains/gal)	2006	13.35	2.5–22.8
Vanadium (ppb)	2006	13.91	ND–39

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. 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 TBird wells 10 and 13 are blended to achieve selenium compliance.

³ One positive sample in both April and May of 2006. All follow-up samples were negative.

⁴ The amount detected is the average of only four wells that were sampled for uranium in 2006.

⁵ The Barney Schwartz well is blended with three airport wells to achieve manganese compliance.

⁶ The amount detected is an average.