



ANNUAL
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Water testing performed in 2005

Proudly Presented By:
CITY OF PASO ROBLES
WATER DIVISION



PWS ID#: CA4010007

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

Este folleto cubre toda la información de que la agua ha sido analizada desde el mes de Enero hasta Diciembre del 2005. La Ciudad de Paso Robles se asegura de proveerles la mayor 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

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.

Working Hard For You

The heavy storms of January 2005 caused massive erosion along the Salinas River at our Thunderbird well field south of town. This erosion was severe enough that if left unattended it could have caused the loss of multiple wells at this site. Due to the quick work of city crews and local contractors and cooperation with the regulatory agencies, the erosion was stopped with the placement of large boulders for the entire length of the property. The response was quick and effective, and it saved some of

our most critical and best producing wells.



Thunderbird well field before and after

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again the City of Paso Robles is proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2005. We are pleased to inform you that the city's compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. We remain 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.

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.



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. For more information regarding the Water Division or city council activities, visit the City of Paso Robles Web site at www.prcity.com.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles currently uses groundwater as its only source of water. In 2005 we pumped more than 2.4 billion gallons from the formation known as the Paso Robles Basin. Eleven wells are scattered on the east side of town. Five wells are located south of Highway 46 East. Six wells 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 2005. We hope to have an additional well, which is located on Tower Road, online in 2006.

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 plan to refurbish the west side reservoir and potentially add another 4 to 6 million gallons of storage within the next five years.

Design is continuing on the Nacimiento pipeline project. 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. The design is approximately 30% complete and water delivery is currently scheduled for 2010.



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 U.S. EPA and the State Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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 can 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, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which 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.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



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:

- 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.

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.
- 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.

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 (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.

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.

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
Aluminum (ppm)	2004	1	0.6	0.02313	ND-0.24	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb) ¹	2005	50	0.004	5.92	ND-27	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2004	1	2	0.03563	ND-0.26	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	2005	50	(100)	0.75	ND-12	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and from chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	2004	200	1.7	55	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
Fluoride (ppm)	2003	2.0	1	0.32	0.16-0.94	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha particle Activity (pCi/L)	2005	15	(0)	3.77	ND-9.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2005	60	NA	3.8	2.6-5.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (as Nitrate, NO₃) (ppm)	2005	45	45	8.76	ND-35	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate+Nitrite (as Nitrogen, N) (ppb)	2003	10,000	10,000	1,107.5	ND-2,900	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2003	50	(50)	3.62	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)
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2005	80	NA	15.4	7.3-21.2	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity (NTU) ²	2005	TT	NA	0.4	ND-0.4	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2005	20	0.43	2.68	ND-4.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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	1	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	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2003	500	NS	62.19	33-140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb)	2003	500	NS	10	ND-30	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron (ppb)	2004	300	NS	95	ND-1,000	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb) ³	2005	50	NS	8.7	ND-77	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor--Threshold (Units)	2003	3	NS	0.94	ND-1	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	2003	1,600	NS	806.88	650-1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2003	500	NS	87.81	27-190	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2003	1,000	NS	532.5	430-700	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	2003	5	NS	0.55	0.1-2.2	No	Soil runoff

OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2003	305	240-430
Boron (ppb)	2003	351	ND-1,000
Calcium (ppm)	2003	65	12-140
Magnesium (ppm)	2003	28.6	4.4-50
pH [Laboratory] (Units)	2003	7.7	7.4-8
Potassium (ppm)	2003	1.9	ND-3.7
Sodium (ppm)	2003	95.38	34-270
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2003	250.63	200-350
Total Hardness (ppm) ⁴	2003	233.31	43-430
Vanadium (ppb)	2003	20.94	ND-50

Footnotes:

¹While 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.

²Turbidity 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.

³Barney Schwartz well has higher levels of manganese and must be run simultaneously with three airport wells to comply with a blending plan approved by the California DOHS.

⁴Total Hardness average = 14 grains per gallon