

North Coast County Water District Consumer Confidence Report for 2006

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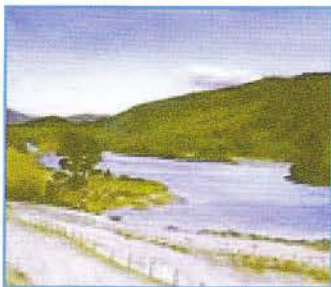
This annual Consumer Confidence Report is prepared to inform you, our customer, about the quality of your water. It is based on data compiled during Calendar Year 2006.

Where Our Water Comes From

All of the drinking water delivered by the North Coast County Water District (NCCWD) during 2006 was purchased from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Nearly all of the supply for NCCWD comes from Crystal Springs and San Andreas Reservoirs. All the water stored in the local reservoirs is filtered and disinfected at the Harry Tracy Filter Plant, located in Millbrae, prior to delivery to NCCWD. There, the water is tested and monitored to ensure that it meets the standards for clarity set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services.



The major source of water for the SFPUC originates from spring snowmelt flowing down the Tuolumne River and is stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. This pristine water source meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection, disinfection treatment, bacteriological quality and operational standards. For these reasons, the California Department of Health Services has granted this water source a filtration exemption. The District receives water from the Hetch Hetchy watershed located in Yosemite National Park and from rainfall and runoff captured in the 23,000 acre Peninsula Watershed, which is located in San Mateo County, and is stored in four reservoirs: Crystal Springs (Lower and Upper - pictured left), San Andreas, Pilarcitos and Stone Dam. Treatment processes at Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant include



ozonation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, disinfection, chloramination, fluoridation, and corrosion control treatment.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the North Coast County Water District to serve our customers by delivering a sufficient quantity of the highest quality water available in the most cost-effective, reliable and environmentally sensitive manner.

Furthermore, the Board, the staff and all employees of the District are committed to providing prompt, efficient and courteous customer service.



Ensuring the Highest Quality Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services (DHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. During 2006, NCCWD's Certified



Water Quality Laboratory collected and conducted thousands of water quality tests throughout the entire water distribution system. All compliance monitoring results met or exceeded federal and state drinking water regulations.

Typically, the sources of drinking water (both bottled and tap) 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 (in some cases radioactive material) and can pick up potential contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The water treatment process removes or reduces these contaminants to make the water safe.

The adjacent table lists all drinking water contaminants detected in 2006. Contaminants below detection limits, such as arsenic, perchlorate, MTBE, and others, are not listed. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the applicable drinking water standards or action levels, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected in water, the typical contaminant source and footnotes explaining the findings.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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, 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, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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Cryptosporidium and Giardia: are parasitic microbes found in most surface water supplies. The SFPUC tests for them regularly both in source and treated water supplies. If ingested, these parasites may produce symptoms of nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. Both were occasionally found at very low levels in the SFPUC's water in 2006.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or by calling the District at (650) 355-3462.

How to Read the Chart

NCCWD believes you have a right to know what is in your drinking water. A summary of the key results are presented on the following page. Here are a few definitions to make the charts easier to read.

Public Health Goal (PHG):

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 Environmental Protection Agency.



Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

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

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

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

North Coast County Water District - Water Quality Data for Year 2006 ⁽¹⁾

| DETECTED CONTAMINANTS | Unit | MCL | PHG or [MCLG] | Range | Average or [Max] | Typical Sources in Drinking Water |
|---|------|------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| TURBIDITY ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | |
| Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water, max 5 NTU | - | TT | N/A | 0.22 - 0.93 ⁽³⁾ | 4.4 ⁽⁴⁾ | Soil runoff |
| Filtered Water - Harry Tracy WTP, max 1 NTU | - | TT | N/A | - | 0.33 | Soil runoff |
| more than 95% of samples =< 0.3 NTU | - | TT | N/A | 99.3% ⁽⁵⁾ | - | Soil runoff |
| Filtered Water - Sunol Valley WTP, max 1 NTU | - | TT | N/A | - | 0.18 | Soil runoff |
| more than 95% of samples =< 0.3 NTU | - | TT | N/A | 100% ⁽⁵⁾ | - | Soil runoff |
| DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR (SFPUC Regional System) - for information only | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes | ppb | 80 | N/A | 22 - 57 | 38 ⁽⁶⁾ | Byproduct of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | ppb | 60 | N/A | 8 - 45 | 25 ⁽⁶⁾ | Byproduct of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Organic Carbon | ppm | TT | N/A | 1.1 - 2.9 | 2.4 | Various natural and man-made sources |
| DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR (North Coast County Water District) | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes | ppb | 80 | N/A | 25.4 - 35.2 | 30.55 ⁽⁶⁾ | Byproduct of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | ppb | 60 | N/A | 13.7 - 21.8 | 16.75 ⁽⁶⁾ | Byproduct of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Organic Carbon | mg/L | N/A | N/A | 1.1 - 2.4 | 2.2 | Various natural and man-made sources |
| MICROBIOLOGICAL (North Coast County Water District) | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform, highest % of positives detected in any month | % | ≤ 5 | [0] | 0 | 0 | Naturally present in the environment |
| INORGANIC CHEMICALS | | | | | | |
| Aluminum | ppb | 1000 | 600 | <50 - 71 | <50 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride | ppm | 2.0 | 1 | 0.1 - 1.5 | 1.0 | Water additive that promotes strong teeth |
| Chlorine (North Coast County Water District) | ppm | MRDL = 4.0 | MRDLG = 4 | 1.62 - 1.95 | 1.87 ⁽⁶⁾ | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |

| CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS | Unit | SMCL | PHG | Range | Average | Typical Sources in Drinking Water |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|---------|---|
| Chloride | ppm | 500 | N/A | 3 - 22 | 12 | Runoff / leaching from natural deposits |
| Color | unit | 15 | N/A | <5 - 10 | <5 | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| Specific Conductance | µS/cm | 1600 | N/A | 24 - 376 | 195 | Substances that form ions when in water |
| Sulfate | ppm | 500 | N/A | 0.8 - 44 | 20 | Runoff / leaching from natural deposits |
| Total Dissolved Solids | ppm | 1000 | N/A | 20 - 190 | 112 | Runoff / leaching from natural deposits |
| Turbidity | NTU | 5 | N/A | 0.08 - 0.45 | 0.21 | Soil runoff |

| LEAD AND COPPER (North Coast County Water District) | Unit | AL | PHG | Range | 90th Percentile | Typical Sources in Drinking Water |
|---|------|------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Copper | ppb | 1300 | 170 | 34.0 - 236.5 ⁽⁷⁾ | 68.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Lead | ppb | 15 | 2 | <1.0 ⁽⁸⁾ | <1.0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |

| OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS | Unit | NL | Range | Average |
|------------------------------------|------|------|-------------|---------|
| Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃) | ppm | N/A | 6 - 114 | 58 |
| Boron | ppb | 1000 | <100 - 161 | <100 |
| Calcium | ppm | N/A | 3 - 28 | 15 |
| Fluoride (source water) | ppm | N/A | <0.1 - 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Hardness (as CaCO ₃) | ppm | N/A | 6 - 146 | 66 |
| Magnesium | ppm | N/A | <0.2 - 11.5 | 6.3 |
| pH | unit | N/A | 7.6 - 9.7 | 8.9 |
| Potassium | ppm | N/A | 0.2 - 1.8 | 1.0 |
| Silica | ppm | N/A | 3.8 - 7.2 | 5.0 |
| Sodium | ppm | N/A | 2 - 24 | 14.3 |

| KEY: |
|---|
| < / ≤ = less than / less than or equal to |
| AL = Action Level |
| Max = Maximum |
| NL = Notification Level |
| N/A = Not Available |
| NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit |
| ppb = parts per billion |
| ppm = parts per million |
| TT = Treatment Technique |
| µS/cm = microSiemens/centimeter |

- (1) All results met State and Federal drinking water regulations.
- (2) Turbidity is the water clarity indicator; it also indicates the quality of the water and the treatment system efficiency.
- (3) Turbidity is measured every four hours. These are monthly average turbidity values.
- (4) This is a single, maximum measurement. This elevated turbidity was caused by the startup of the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct after shutdown for maintenance work. The turbid water was not served to customers.
- (5) This is the minimum percentage of time that the filtered water turbidity was equal to or less than 0.3 NTU.
- (6) This is the highest quarterly running annual average value.
- (7) Latest round of Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2004. 0 out of 33 residences were over the copper Action Level at consumer taps.
- (8) Latest round of Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2004. 0 out of 33 residences were over the lead Action Level at consumer taps.

Note: Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling the North Coast County Water District at (650) 355-3462 or visit our website at www.nccwd.com.
 Ang ulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon ukol sa iniinom ninyong tubig. Tumawag po lamang sa North Coast County Water District sa telepono (650-355-3462) kung kailangan ninyo ng tulong sa wikang tagalog.
 Este reporte contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que toma. Llame a (650-355-3462) si necesita ayuda en español.



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Special Health Needs

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water, including bottled water, than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater.



Record Dry Winter Calls on Pacificans to Reduce Water Use Voluntarily by 10%

Following the 4th driest winter on record, the NCCWD urges its customers to voluntarily conserve water by 10%. How?

There are lots of ways! Begin by replacing any high flow water guzzling toilets with new low-flow toilets. Also, if shopping for a new washing machine think about purchasing a low-flow machine. We can help! The District offers rebates on both these items. Simply review our "Rebate Programs" page on the District



website, www.nccwd.com.

Top 10 Water Saving Tips

1. Turn off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth or doing the dishes.
2. Take shorter showers. (Especially the teens in the home.) Each minute you cut saves 2.5 gallons.
3. Use a broom to clean sidewalks, driveways and pavement instead of using a hose.
4. Water only what your plants need. Water your lawn once a week and only at night.
5. This spring: plant drought tolerant plants!
6. Operate your clothes and dishwashers with full loads only, even if the machine has an adjustable load setting.
7. Stop leaks. To check for leaks turn off all water taps inside and outside your home. If the meter dial is moving, you may have a leak.
8. Install faucet aerators in your kitchen and bathroom faucets.
9. Replace your old toilet, the largest water user inside your home, with a low-flow toilet.
10. Replace your clotheswasher, the second largest user in your home, with a front loader.



For more water saving tips visit our website at www.nccwd.com.

Stay Informed!
Board Meetings are on the
3rd Wednesday of every
month at 7:00 P.M.