The Importance of Planning & Diversifying Our Water Supply

Above-average rainfall this year brought welcome relief from the extended drought conditions the City has been experiencing. In April 2019, City Council rescinded the Stage Three Drought Emergency and adopted a Stage One Water Supply Condition, encouraging voluntary conservation measures. The City extends a sincere thank-you to the community for making conservation a way of life, which has been crucial during the drought and will continue to be important going forward. While climate conditions have recently improved, our water supplies will take some time to fully recover from the driest seven consecutive years on record.

The City manages its water supplies according to its Long Term Water Supply Plan (LTWSP), which is a policy document that plans for extended drought periods. The planning policies established in the LTWSP successfully guided the City’s management of our water supplies to ensure our community’s water needs were met during this unprecedented drought.

Through the years, the City has invested in a diverse water supply portfolio, which includes surface water from Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir, State Water, groundwater, recycled water, and desalinated water. While all sources play an important role, one key source during the drought was the Desalination Plant, which was reactivated in summer 2017 and produces 3 million gallons of drinking water per day, which is about 30 percent of the City’s demand. The plant serves a critical role in providing a high-quality, local, drought-proof water supply, and it uses state-of-the-art technology and design practices to minimize energy demands and environmental impacts.

We know that Santa Barbara will face future droughts. As we plan for the future, the City remains committed to delivering safe and reliable drinking water to our customers. For more information about your water, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water. If you have questions about your water quality, please speak to our Water Laboratory staff at 805-568-1008.
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 people, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

U.S. EPA/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 at 1-800-426-4791.

To ensure safe drinking water, federal and state regulations limit the amount of certain contaminants in public water systems. Regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide protection for public health.

In 2018, the City of Santa Barbara’s water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. Before distribution, drinking water from our primary water sources is treated at the Cater Water Treatment Plant or the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant. Groundwater is treated at the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant or at the well site.

**Special Info Available**

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U.S. EPA/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 at 1-800-426-4791.

**Recommended Water Softener Settings**

Groundwater: 18-30 grains/gallon  
Surface Water: 19-28 grains/gallon  
Desal Water: 3-4 grains/gallon  
(1 grain/gallon = 17.1 milligrams per liter)

Desal water distribution map: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Desal
Limited Potential for Contamination

The City has evaluated the vulnerability of its water supplies. Gibraltar Reservoir’s remote location and restricted access limits opportunities for contamination. Water contact activities at Lake Cachuma are prohibited. The Desalination Plant and Cater Plant use advanced treatment technologies. City groundwater supplies are located deep beneath the surface. Nonetheless, contaminants from sources such as gas stations and dry cleaners could potentially reach City water supplies. All water sources are carefully monitored to ensure pollutants are absent at levels exceeding state and federal standards. For more information, call 805-568-1008.

Lead in Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City has no lead service lines in the water distribution system. The City is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. The City’s water lead and copper samples are at low levels. However, if your water has been sitting in your pipes for a number of days, you can minimize lead exposure before using the water for drinking or cooking by flushing your tap for 30 seconds. Additionally, if you are concerned about water that has been sitting in your pipes for a number of days, you can minimize lead exposure before using the water. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

To ensure the delivery of quality drinking water that is free of harmful bacteria, water quality tests are performed weekly at our 42 sample stations located throughout the water system. The results are submitted monthly to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. All water systems are required to comply with both the State Total Coliform Rule and the Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The new federal rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbes (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the number of required water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrence are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system.

The City’s highest nitrate level in 2018 was 7.1 mg/L. Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant’s blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Compliance with drinking water regulations requires continuous monitoring of filters for turbidity levels during the treatment process. On August 9, 2018, for a 24-hour period, the turbidity meter for one filter was not returned to service after maintenance, which is a violation of the regulations. As our customer, you have a right to know of this monitoring violation. During this period, turbidity levels for the combination of all operating filters were continuously monitored and met water quality standards.
### Definitions

**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 (CalEPA).

**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 (EPA).

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRLD)**
The level of a disinfecting chemical allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Regulatory Action Level (AL)**
The concentration of a contaminant above which a water system must follow a required process intended to reduce the contaminant.

**Aesthetic Standards Established by the State of California, Department of Public Health**
No adverse health effects from exceedance of standards.

### PRIMARY STANDARDS

#### Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs or MRDLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microbiological Contaminants</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>Highest % of Positives</th>
<th>Highest Single Measurement</th>
<th>Samples ≥0.3 NTU</th>
<th>Major Sources in Drinking Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Natural river sediment/salt runoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Lead/Copper Rule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal (mg/L)</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>System Wide Average</th>
<th>System Wide Range</th>
<th>Highest LRAA</th>
<th>Highest MRDL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>90th % Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Trihalomethanes (μg/L)</th>
<th>LRAA, 80</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Highest LRAA, 53</th>
<th>Highest MRDLB, 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halocetic Acids (μg/L)</td>
<td>LRAA, 60</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Highest LRAA, 24</td>
<td>Highest MRDLB, 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinfectant - Chlorine as Cl₂ (mg/L)</td>
<td>MRDL, 4.0</td>
<td>MRDLB, 4.0</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td></td>
<td>Highest LRAA, 24</td>
<td>Highest MRDLB, 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Brome (μg/L)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control of DBP Precursors - TOC (mg/L)</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>Surface Water Average</th>
<th>Surface Water Range</th>
<th>Groundwater Average</th>
<th>Groundwater Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCLG, 4.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.2 - 5.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRDLG, 6.0</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>ND - 3.21</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Radioactive Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>System Wide Average</th>
<th>System Wide Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCLG, 15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>MCLG, 0</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>ND - 0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRDLG, 20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>MRDLG, 20</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>ND - 0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Inorganic Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal (mg/L)</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>System Wide Average</th>
<th>System Wide Range</th>
<th>Highest LRAA</th>
<th>Highest MRDL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>ND - 0.06</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>ND - 0.45</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.27 - 0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>ND - 7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECONDARY STANDARDS

#### Regulated Contaminants with Secondary MCLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>PHG</th>
<th>Surface Water Average</th>
<th>Surface Water Range</th>
<th>Groundwater Average</th>
<th>Groundwater Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron (μg/L)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>ND - 21</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity, Laboratory (NTU)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>270 - 804</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Conductance (μmhos/cm)</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>550 - 1050</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride (mg/L)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33 - 140</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate (mg/L)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>2.3 - 335</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONTAMINANTS WITH NO MCLs

#### i.e., Unregulated Contaminants

| Boron (mg/L) | NL | NA | 0.85 | NA | 0.085 | NA|
| Hexavalent chromium, Cr VI (μg/L) | NA | NA | 0.022 | NA | 0.08 | ND - 0.16 |

### Legend

- **mg/L:** milligrams per liter (parts per million)
- **μg/L:** micrograms per liter (parts per billion)
- **μmhos/cm:** micromhos per centimeter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **pCi/L:** picoCuries per liter
- **ND:** Not Detected at testing limit
- **NA:** Not Applicable
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- **DBP:** Disinfection Byproducts
- **TOC:** Total Organic Carbon
- **LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average
- **ng/L:** as micrograms per liter (parts per trillion)

### Aesthetic Standards Established by the State of California, Department of Public Health
No adverse health effects from exceedance of standards.
Get the latest on Santa Barbara’s drinking water.

The City distributes this Annual Water Quality Report, a summary of last year’s water quality information, to customers as required by state and federal regulation.

For questions on water quality, call the Water Resources Laboratory at 805-568-1008.

For questions on the City’s water system, call 805-564-5387.

The City of Santa Barbara Water Commission meets at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Water Commission meetings are open to the public and are held in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room at 630 Garden Street. For more information on the Water Commission, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WC.

Let's Save Together!

- Receive a free Water Checkup appointment for your home or business.
- Adjust your sprinkler schedule based on the weather. Use the Watering Calculator & Watering % Adjust at our website.
- Landscape rebate available for water-wise plants, irrigation equipment, graywater systems, mulch and more. Pre-inspection is required before work is done.
- Check for and repair leaks inside and out.

For more information, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise or call 805-564-5460.

En Español

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si usted tiene preguntas acerca del agua de la ciudad, por favor llame a Jessica Ramirez-Duran a la oficina de Recursos del Agua, al teléfono 805-564-5415.

For More Information

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