Federally Required Information About Drinking Water & Potential Contaminants

Drinking water, including water from private sources, is reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of certain contaminants. Contaminants that are not contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contact Us
If you have questions about water quality, please contact our Water Quality Laboratory at 415-945-1550 or waterquality@marinwater.org.

Annual Water Quality Report

Covering the reporting period of January - December 2018

We are proud to report that in 2018 as in prior years, your water continued to meet or exceed all federal and state drinking water health standards. This report describes where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the state and federal drinking water standards. It also summarizes the results of the thousands of water quality analyses we conducted on your drinking water during 2018.

About Your Drinking Water

Where Your Water Comes From
As the principal water district to California, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is committed to providing high-quality drinking water since 1912. MMWD provides water to approximately 190,000 customers in central and southern Marin County.

Our primary water source originates from rainfall on 21,600 acres of protected watershed on Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. Panorama. These areas are either forested MMWD-owned lands or lands managed by California Department of Water Resources. These watersheds flow into MMWD’s seven reservoirs. Most of the water is treated before it is blended with MMWD’s reservoir water within our distribution system.

How We Maintain the Quality of Our Water
MMWD takes many steps to ensure that the high-quality water delivered to you meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards. These steps include carefully managing our watershed and septic systems.

Our primary water source originates from rainfall on 21,600 acres of protected watershed on Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. Panorama. These areas are either forested MMWD-owned lands or lands managed by California Department of Water Resources. These watersheds flow into MMWD’s seven reservoirs. Most of the water is treated before it is blended with MMWD’s reservoir water within our distribution system.

The tables in this report show the average level and range of each contaminant detected in the MMWD water supply in 2018. All water supplied to customers during 2018 met the regulatory standards set by the state and federal governments. Additional unregulated parameters, such as sodium levels and hardness, are also included in the tables.

The information in this report is provided in compliance with requirements established by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report includes a copy of the Marin Municipal Water District’s annual report to customers of the contents of their drinking water and new regulations. This report and additional water quality information is available on our website: marinwater.org.
that can be naturally occurring or can be the result
of human activity. Some people may be more vulnerable to
certain contaminants. Federal and state governments established limits for the presence of many contaminants in drinking water.

Federally Required Information About Drinking Water & Potential Contaminants

Drinking water, including bottled water that is consumed in a raw state, such as when it is ingested or used for oral hygiene, should meet federal and state drinking water standards. It also summarizes the results of the thousands of water quality analyses we conducted on your drinking water during 2018.

About Your Drinking Water

Where Your Water Comes From

As the first municipal water district in California, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has been providing high-quality drinking water since 1912. Today MMWD provides drinking water to 190,800 customers in central and southern Marin County.

Our primary water source originates from rainfall on 21,600 acres of protected watershed in rural areas, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, and infants, 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. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to reduce the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other enteric bacteria are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4790).

Public Meetings

MMWD’s Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the MMWD Board Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, unless otherwise notified. All board meetings are open to the public.

How We Maintain the Quality of Our Water

MMWD takes many steps to ensure that the high-quality water delivered to you meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards. These steps include carefully managing our watershed lands and reservoirs, treating the water, operating and monitoring a complex distribution system, and maintaining our facilities.

Every year MMWD conducts more than 120,000 water quality and process control tests from watershed to tap to ensure that your water is safe to drink. This includes ongoing process control testing at our treatment plants as well as laboratory testing. Many of these samples undergo chemical, bacteriological and viral analysis in the district’s water quality laboratory, which is certified by the California Department of Public Health and the Water Environment Federation Laboratory Accreditation Program. Other samples are sent to specialty labs for testing.

The tables in this report show the average level and range of each contaminant detected in the MMWD water supply in 2018. All water supplied to customers during 2018 met the regulatory standards set by the state and federal governments. Additional unregulated parameters, such as sodium levels and hardness, are also included in the tables.

The information in this report is provided in compliance with requirements established by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the State and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and, with the exception of certain contaminants in water provided from public water systems, does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.
Drinking Water Source Assessment

In April 2013 the California Department of Public Health conducted a Drinking Water Source Assessment of MMWD’s drinking water sources. The purpose of this assessment is to identify potential sources of contamination if any exist and to communicate the findings. The focus of the investigation was to determine potential sources of contamination that are or may become significant following any of the following: actions identified by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW), which is responsible for setting water treatment requirements.

MMWD’s drinking water is supplied by the North Bay Aqueduct, Nicasio Reservoir, and Soulajule Reservoir. The North Bay Aqueduct is a 47-mile-long project that delivers water from the Russian River to MMWD. It includes three reservoirs: Upper, Middle, and Lower Russian. Nicasio Reservoir is considered most vulnerable to historic mining activity. MMWD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of homes built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR. The EPA requires that 90% of the samples be below the action level of 15 parts per billion. The results of the District’s most recent sampling event, in 2018, revealed that 100% of the homes tested were below the action level. The next lead and copper sampling event will be in 2021.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

MMWD’s water treatment plants are essential to providing high-quality water for our customers. Our two primary treatment plants—then Geyserville and Ben Tomes—were constructed in the late 1950s and early 1960s. We are in the midst of a series of plant upgrades to the plants throughout the lifespan to improve the reliability of the treatment operations.

In 2018 the District completed $9 million in seismic upgrades to the filter basins at both plants, and over the next 10 years, we plan to invest an additional $16 million to upgrade the clarifiers and washwater basins. These important infrastructure projects will help ensure we can continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water, even in the event of a major earthquake.

Minimizing Potential Lead Exposure

MMWD’s drinking water is virtually lead free. Lead was not detected above the regulatory action level in the MMWD water supply system. When it is present in drinking water, usually comes from older plumbing fixtures or the solder that joins pipes. Water is naturally corrosive and in some cases can corrode pipes and lead used for household plumbing systems. Every three years, MMWD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of homes built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR. The EPA requires that 90% of the samples be below the action level of 15 parts per billion. The results of the District’s most recent sampling event, in 2018, revealed that 100% of the homes tested were below the action level. The next lead and copper sampling event will be in 2021.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may want to learn more about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize your exposure. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at: wwp.epa.gov/lead

Lead Testing of Drinking Water in Schools

In 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board directed all Water Districts to test drinking water at all public schools in California. June 2019, MMWD has assisted 50 public schools monitoring data can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/wwtv/ drinking_water/kidsampling/4schools.html

Key Water Quality Terms

- Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals [MCLG]) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which it is known or expected to have no detectable effect on health. MCLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that is believed to be without risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The level of a contaminant in drinking water, above which it is known or expected to have a detrimental effect on the health of the consumer. MCLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Maximum Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

What is iMGL?

One million grain per liter (1 mg/L) = one part per million
One part per million is equivalent to: 1 grain per 10,000
1 cent in $10,000
1 inch in 16 miles

Abbreviations

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
PHG = Public Health Goal
TT = Treatment Technique
MEET THE CHALLENGE: EXTENDING THE LIFE OF OUR WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

In 2018 the District completed $9 million in seismic upgrades to the filter basins at both plants, and over the next 10 years, we plan to invest an additional $16 million to upgrade the clarifiers and washwater basins. These important infrastructure projects will help ensure we can continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water, even in the event of a major earthquake.
Drinking Water Source Assessment

In April 2003 the California Department of Public Health conducted a Drinking Water Source Assessment of MMWD’s drinking water sources. The purpose of this assessment is to identify potential sources of contamination if any exist and to communicate the findings to customers.

For the five reservoirs in the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, Lagunitas, Bon Tempe, Alma, Kent and Pfeiffer Reservoirs, the surrounding watershed is described as “pristine and forested.” These sources are considered to be the most vulnerable to contamination from the area. However, no contaminants associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water.

For Nicasio Reservoir, the surrounding watershed is described as mostly rural and classified as agricultural and rural-residential. This source is considered most vulnerable to contamination from livestock feeding operations (i.e., local dairy operations). However, no contaminants associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water.

For Soulajule Reservoir, the surrounding watershed is described as mostly rural and classified as agricultural and rural-residential. This source is considered most vulnerable to contamination from livestock feeding operations. However, no contaminants associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water. Water in Soulajule Reservoir is held in reserve for use with this activity if necessary.

Assessment of MMWD’s drinking water sources for contaminants which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. The EPA requires that 90% of all samples from any one month be below the regulatory action level (AL). 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 service lines and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Lead is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variability of materials used in plumbing components. If your home has been water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for preparing food or cooking. If you do not wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to call your local public health authority for testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize lead in your water can be found at the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at: www.epa.gov/lead

What is Itm/l?  
One million liter per year = one part per million  
One part per million is equivalent to:  
1 cent to $30,000  
1 inch in 16 miles  

Key Water Quality Terms

To help you better understand this report, the following are key definitions of the water quality standards and goals used in the data tables:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (or PHGs) as is practicable and technologies or methods are not feasible. Secondary MCLs address aesthetic qualities of water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The highest level of a contaminant that the EPA believes is safe for public health. MCLGs are non-enforceable goals.

Primary Standard: A water quality standard for a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. Treatment techniques (TT) are a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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.

Secondary Standard: A water quality standard for a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. TT is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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Secondary Maximum Contaminant Limit (SMCL): A maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for an unregulated contaminant, or a level below which health is not believed to be a concern. The SMCLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximun Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment which may not be exceeded at the customer’s tap.  

MNMD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of homes built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR.

The EPA requires that 90% of the sample be below the primary MCL of 15 parts per billion. The results of the District’s most recent sampling event, in 2018, revealed that 100% of the homes tested were below the primary MCL level. The next lead and copper sampling event will be in 2021. If your elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from service lines and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Lead is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variability of materials used in plumbing components. If your home has been

Minimizing Potential Lead Exposure

MNMD’s drinking water is virtually lead free. Lead Testing of Drinking Water in Schools

In 2018, the District completed $9 million in seismic upgrades to the filter basins at both plants, and over the next 10 years, we plan to invest an additional $16 million to upgrade the clarifiers and washwater basins. These important infrastructure projects will help ensure we can continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water, even in the event of a major earthquake.

In 2016, MNMD maintained an active corrosion control program to reduce the potential for pipes to corrode and leak lead. MNMD regularly performs corrosion tests at the treatment plants and at points throughout the distribution system. Every three years, MNMD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of homes built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR. If your home has been water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for preparing food or cooking. If you do not wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to call your local public health authority for testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize lead in your water can be found at the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at: www.epa.gov/lead

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

MNMD’s water treatment plants are essential to providing high-quality water for our customers. Our two primary treatment plants—San Geronimo and Bon Tempe—were constructed in the 1950s and early 1960s. We are in the midst of a series of phased upgrades to the plants to improve the reliability of water treatment operations.

In 2018 the District completed $9 million in seismic upgrades to the filter basins at both plants, and over the next 10 years, we plan to invest an additional $16 million to upgrade the clarifiers and washwater basins. These important infrastructure projects will help ensure we can continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water, even in the event of a major earthquake.

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Primary Standard: A water quality standard for a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. TT is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment which may not be exceeded at the customer’s tap.

What is Itm/l?  
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Key Water Quality Terms

To help you better understand this report, the following are key definitions of the water quality standards and goals used in the data tables:

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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.
Drinking Water Source Assessment

In April 2003 the California Department of Public Health conducted a Drinking Water Source Assessment of MMWD’s drinking water sources. The purpose of this assessment is to identify potential sources of contamination if any exist and to communicate the findings to the community.

For the five reservoirs in the MMWD watershed, Bon Tempe, Alhambra, Kent, and Pye, the surrounding watershed is described as ‘rural’. These are considered to be the most vulnerable from recreational use in the area. However, no contaminants associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water.

For Nicasio Reservoir, the surrounding watershed is described as ‘grassy hills and classified as ‘agricultural and rural’. This source is considered most vulnerable to historic mining contaminations associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water.

For Soulajule Reservoir, the surrounding watershed is described as ‘grassy hills and classified as ‘agricultural and rural- residential’. This source is considered most vulnerable to historic mining contaminations associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water.

MMWD is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize your lead exposure by leaching the water by turning your tap on 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do not wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may want to have your water tested. Information on no-cost in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to have your water tested is available at the Safe Drinking Water Helpline (1-810-426-4791) or at: www.epa.gov/lead.

Key Water Quality Terms

To help you better understand this report, the following are key definitions of the water quality standards and goals used in the data tables:

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a contaminant 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.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLs) as is economically and technologically feasible.

**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 California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** The level at which a contaminant is found in drinking water which is known or expected to result in a health risk. PDWS are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

MMWD’s water treatment plants are essential to providing high-quality water for our customers. Our two primary treatment plants—San Geronimo and Bon Tempe—were constructed in the 1950s and early 1960s. We are in the midst of a series of phased upgrades to the plants that will extend the lifespan and improve the reliability of our water treatment operations.

In April 2003 the California Department of Public Health directed all permitted sources to communicate the findings to the community.

MMWD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of habitus built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR.

The EPA requires that 90% of the samples be below the action level of 15 parts per billion. The results of the District’s latest test in 2018, revealed that 100% of the hottest tap water exceeded the regulatory action level. The next lead and copper sampling event will be in 2021.

In response, MMWD maintains an active corrosion control program to reduce the potential for pipes to corrode and leach lead. MMWD regularly performs corrosion tests at the treatment plants and at points throughout the distribution system. Every three years, MMWD also conducts Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling for lead in a sample of habitus built before 1986—when plumbing fixtures like faucets and pipe solder were allowed to contain lead—in compliance with the USEPA LCR.

Minimizing Potential Lead Exposure

MMWD’s drinking water is virtually lead free. Lead, when it is present in the MMWD water supply. Lead, when it is present in the MMWD water supply. Lead is considered most vulnerable to historic mining contaminations associated with this activity were detected in the drinking water. MMWD’s drinking water is virtually lead free. Lead, when it is present in the MMWD water supply. Lead, when it is present in the MMWD water supply.
Special Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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, persons 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 for their health care providers. U.S. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4790).

Public Meetings

MMWD’s Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the MMWD Board Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, unless otherwise notified. All board meetings are open to the public.

Contact Us

If you have questions about water quality, please contact our Water Quality Laboratory at 415-945-1550 or waterquality@marinwater.org.

Annual Water Quality Report

Covering the reporting period of January - December 2018

We are proud to report that in 2018 as in prior years, your water continued to meet or surpass all federal and state drinking water health standards. This report describes where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the state and federal drinking water standards. It also summarizes the results of the thousands of water quality analyses we conducted on your drinking water during 2018.