City of Mountain View

Water Quality 2018

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT JUNE 2019

Tuolumne River

Your Water Quality

The City of Mountain View is committed to providing its customers with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. The City of Mountain View tests over 2,000 water samples each year to continuously monitor water quality and publishes a summary of water quality sampling results and other information about Mountain View's water system in its annual Consumer Confidence Report. This 2018 Consumer Confidence Report was prepared in accordance with Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) requirements. In 2018, Mountain View's drinking water met all Federal and State standards.

Protecting Your Water

The City of Mountain View works diligently with partner agencies to provide you with high-quality water. This report describes where your water originates and highlights some of the water supply and water quality challenges faced by water managers. This report also explains how drinking water can become contaminated and what protection measures, monitoring regimes, and treatment processes are used to protect your drinking water and provide a safe, reliable supply.

Read More Inside:

This report contains important information about your community's water quality. If necessary, please have the report translated or speak with a friend who understands it well.

Este reporte contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Si necesita entender su contenido en español, pida a un familiar o amigo que se la explique.

Это сообщение содержит важную информацию о качестве воды в нашем регионе. Если вам нужна помощь в переводе, поговорите с человеком, хорошо понимающим английский язык.

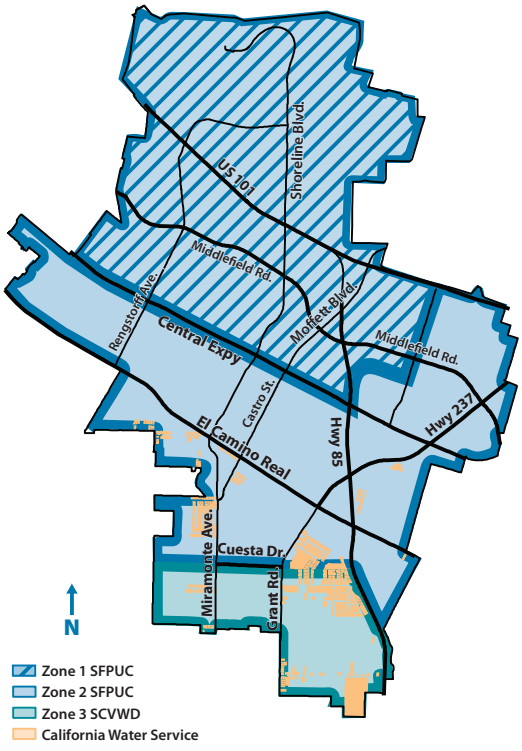
这份报告含有关于您社区饮用水质量的重要资讯。如果需要，请找可以为您翻译的人翻译或解释清楚

YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Mountain View supplies over 8.5 million gallons of water per day to nearly 18,000 metered customers through its interconnected system of reservoirs, pump stations, wells, and pipelines. The City obtains water from several sources to provide operational flexibility and reliability during system maintenance, changing water supply conditions, and emergencies. Mountain View's drinking water sources and treatments are described below.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

The City purchases approximately 87 percent of its drinking water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Regional Water System. Most of the SFPUC's water originates from Sierra Nevada snowmelt that flows into the Tuolumne River and is stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. Other sources of SFPUC water include rainwater collected from watersheds in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.



Prior to reaching Mountain View, water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is treated using ultraviolet light, chlorine and chloramine disinfection, pH adjustment for optimum corrosion control and fluoridation for dental health protection. Water captured from local watersheds is also treated for taste and odor removal.

Valley Water

Approximately 11 percent of the City's potable water supply is purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, now known as Valley Water. Surface water is imported mainly from the South Bay Aqueduct, Dyer Reservoir, Lake Del Valle, and San Luis Reservoir, which all draw water from the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta watershed. Valley Water's local water sources include Anderson and Calero Reservoirs. During 2018 Valley Water also used its SFPUC intertie to bring SFPUC water into Valley Water's system between January and March.

Valley Water's treatment plants provide multiple barriers for physical removal of contaminants and disinfection of pathogens including filtration and disinfection. Mountain View receives water from the Rinconada Treatment Plant in Los Gatos, which also provides treatment for corrosion control.

City Wells

Two percent of Mountain View's potable water supply comes from groundwater wells owned and operated by the City. Groundwater beneath Mountain View is present in two aquifers separated by natural clay formations. City wells are drilled deep into the lower aquifer where the clay formations and geology help protect the City's groundwater supply from contamination. Groundwater is blended with SFPUC water for distribution to City water customers. The City's wells also serve as a backup water supply during emergencies. Well water is treated with fluoride prior to entering the distribution system.

PROTECTING SOURCE WATERS

Drinking Water Source Assessments

A Drinking Water Source Assessment is a study performed by a public water system to define the watershed contributing to the system, identify possible sources of contamination that could affect the drinking water supply, and determine how susceptible the water supply is to this potential contamination. Utilities use these study results to reduce potential sources of contamination and protect drinking water. Studies have been conducted for all three City of Mountain View potable water supplies and are available for review at the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water District Office, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Second Floor, Richmond, California, 94804, 510-620-3474.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

The SFPUC conducts watershed sanitary surveys for the Hetch Hetchy source annually and for local water sources every five years. The most recent local sanitary survey was completed in 2016. The SFPUC also conducted a special watershed sanitary survey for upcountry non-Hetch Hetchy water sources in 2015 (e.g., Lake Eleanor, Lake Cherry, and parts of the Tuolumne River) as part of its drought response plan efforts. These surveys included an evaluation of sanitary conditions, water quality, potential contamination sources, and the results of the watershed management activities. Completed with support from partner agencies, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, the surveys identified wildlife, livestock, and human activities as potential contamination sources.

Valley Water

Valley Water's source waters are vulnerable to potential contamination from a variety of land use practices such as agricultural and urban runoff, recreational activities, livestock grazing, and residential and industrial development. Water from imported sources is also vulnerable to wastewater treatment plant discharges, saltwater intrusion, and wildland fires. Commercial stables and historic mining practices may be sources of contamination to Valley Water's local water sources. No contaminant associated with any of these activities has been detected in Valley Water's treated water.

City Wells

The source assessments of Mountain View's drinking water wells determined the City's groundwater is potentially vulnerable to contamination from auto repair shops and leaking underground storage tanks, but noted these potential impacts are likely to be confined to the upper aquifer.

WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Snowpack, drought, climate change, and water quality are all important factors for water managers to consider. Below is a summary of key water topics and their relevance to your drinking water.

Sierra Snowpack

Snowpack from the Sierra Nevada is the primary source of water for most of California. As snow melts in the Sierras it runs off into the State's river systems, refilling reservoirs and recharging

Performing the April snow survey photo: California DWR*

aquifers. To estimate how much water will be available each year, snow depths are measured at various locations throughout the winter and spring. The Sierra snowpack in early 2018 was approximately 54% of normal, setting the stage for a below-average 2018 water year. Near the end of 2018, however, major storms created an above average snowpack signalling the start of an unusually wet winter for the 2019 water year, which ended at 161% of normal. In comparison, Sierra snowpack reached a historic low of 5% just a few years ago in 2015. Experts anticipate increased fluctuations of the Sierra snowpack in the future due to climate change, and a continued recedence of the snowline over time.

Designing for Drought

To deal with fluctuating water availability from year to year, water agencies size their systems to hold enough water for multiple years, develop emergency supplies that are accessed during shortages, and implement conservation programs to reduce demand. Although State law requires water agencies to plan for droughts up to three-years in duration, the SFPUC's system is built for an eight-year design drought. One interesting and important component of the SFPUC's water supply portfolio is the ability to trade water with neighboring irrigation districts, depositing water when it is plentiful and withdrawing water when supplies are low. This virtual "Water Bank" holds over twice the volume of SFPUC's largest reservoir, Hetch Hetchy, and serves as an important supply reserve. Throughout most of 2018, SFPUC's Water Bank was full. Valley Water participates in a similar "banking" program through its agreement with Semitropic Water Storage District in Kern County.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

To help communities prepare for the effects of climate change State law- and policy-makers have developed a program called "Making Conservation a California Way of Life." This program establishes several levels of water efficiency standards that water suppliers must meet over the next decade. The first standard requires water suppliers to maintain average residential indoor water use below certain levels. Mountain View is poised to meet these new and developing standards, having already exceeded the residential requirements set for both 2020 and 2025.

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

The San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary is a complex series of rivers, wetlands, and bays that interact to carry fresh water from the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific Ocean. California's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, collect water from dozens of tributaries before combining near the City of Sacramento. Increased salinity, long-term declines in fish populations, and other factors recently prompted the State Water Board to adopt a new Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The new plan requires water agencies to reduce diversions from tributaries of the San Joaquin River during certain months. This action has sparked controversy throughout California and several lawsuits have been filed in opposition of the plan. Despite this conflict, officials are working to negotiate a voluntary settlement that will address the State's concerns in a manner acceptable to

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta photo: California DWR*

all parties. As these lawsuits and negotiations proceed, Mountain View continues to work closely with our suppliers to evaluate potential impacts and next steps.

Impacts to Mountain View

These topics are just a few of the factors that determine Mountain View's water availability each year (now and in the future). The City and its water suppliers develop long-term plans to address challenges caused by supply variability and changes in water quality to ensure safe, reliable and aesthetically pleasing water.

**California Department of Water Resources*

PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. Guidelines from the EPA and Center for Disease Control on ways to lessen the risk of infection from Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, 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 human activity. 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 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and the State Water Board regulate the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration sets standards for bottled water (based on EPA standards) to provide the same protection for public health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Water Quality Monitoring

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of an infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in 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 specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health-care provider. Nitrate levels in Mountain View's water do not exceed regulatory health levels.

Lead: To comply with State and Federal regulations, the City conducts lead testing every three years. Water samples are tested from representative homes throughout the City and the results are published on Page 5 of this report. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and home plumbing. If present in your household water, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The City of Mountain View is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water in its distribution system but does not control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested independently and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes after long periods of nonuse. Testing can be performed using an over-the-counter lead testing kit, commonly available at local hardware stores or through a certified drinking water laboratory. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/lead.

Cryptosporidium and Giardia: Cryptosporidium and Giardia are parasitic microbes found in most surface water supplies. If ingested, these parasites may produce symptoms of nausea, stomach cramps, and headaches. The SFPUC and Valley Water regularly test for Cryptosporidium and Giardia in their source and treated water supplies. In 2018, the SFPUC and Valley Water detected very low levels of Giardia and Cryptosporidium in their source waters (see table on Page 5). Water treatment removes Giardia and Cryptosporidium prior to distributing the water to customers.

photo: Emily Yarsinske

City Staff collecting a water sample

Chloramine Disinfectant: Drinking water provided to the City of Mountain View by the SFPUC and Valley Water is disinfected using chloramine. Although people and animals can safely drink chloraminated water, chloramine must be removed or neutralized for some special users, including some business and industrial customers, kidney dialysis patients, and customers with fish and amphibian pets. More information on chloramine is available at: www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/chloramines-drinking-water.

Water Quality Data

Water quality staff from the SFPUC, Valley Water and the City of Mountain View regularly collect and test water samples from reservoirs, wells and designated sampling points to ensure the water supplied to Mountain View customers meets State and Federal drinking water standards. This table provides an analysis of the results of water samples collected in 2018. The table contains test results for substances detected in the water, including the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation, the amount detected, the usual sources of each substance and a key to the units of measurement. Sample results that are below detection limits are not listed. The presence of a substance does not necessarily indicate the drinking water poses a health risk. For additional details about this table, refer to the important definitions below and the table key on Page 6.

Important Definitions

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

Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (DLR): The minimum detection level established by the State Water Board for purposes of reporting.

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 SMCLs are set to protect the smell, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs are set by the EPA.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Disinfection is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. PHGs are set by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. A detailed report of the City's PHG testing is available at www.waterquality.mountainview.gov.

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

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW SOURCE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2018 (1)

Detected Contaminants	Measurements				Water Source					
Primary Health Related Constituents	**Units**	**DLR**	**MCL**	**PHG or MCLG**	**SFPUC Range**	**SFPUC Avg. or [Max]**	**Valley Water Range**	**Valley Water Avg. or [Max]**	**CMV Wells Range (2)**	**Typical Source in Drinking Water**
Turbidity (3)										
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	—	5	NS	0.3 — 0.8 (4)	[1.8]	—	—	—	Soil run-off
Filtered Water (turbidity)	NTU	—	TT (5)	NS	—	[1]	—	[0.24]	—	Soil run-off
Filtered Water (percentage of time)	—	—	TT (5)	NS	99% —100%	—	100%	—	—	Soil run-off
Microbiological										
Giardia lamblia	Cyst/L	—	TT	0	0 — 0.24	0.03	ND — 0.1	ND	—	Naturally present in the environment
Cryptosporidium Oocysts	Oocyst/L	—	TT	0	— (6)	— (6)	ND — 0.1	ND	—	Naturally present in the environment
Organic Chemicals										
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0.5	80	NS	— (7)	— (7)	43 — 51	46.8	—	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA-5s)	ppb	1	60	NS	— (7)	— (7)	9 — 15	12.1	—	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	0.3	TT	NS	1.2 — 2.9	2.2	1.3 — 2.7	1.9	—	Various natural and man-made sources
Inorganic Chemicals										
Aluminum	ppb	50	1000	600	ND — 99	ND	ND	ND	68	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (8)	ppm	0.1	2	1	ND — 0.7	0.3 (9)	ND — 0.12	ND	<0.1 — 0.16	Erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium	ppb	1	NS	0.02	0.031 — 0.1	0.068	ND	ND	—	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	0.4	10	10	—	—	ND — 0.7	ND	ND — 6.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Radionuclides										
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	3	15	0	—	—	—	—	4.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Constituents with Secondary Standards	**Unit**	**DLR**	**SMCL**	**PHG**						
Chloride	ppm	NS	500	NS	<3 — 17	8.9	42 — 70	59	31 — 72	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
Color	Unit	NS	15	NS	<5 — 7	<5	<2.5	<2.5	7	Naturally occurring organic materials
Manganese	ppb	20	50	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	21	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor	TON	1	3	NS	ND	ND	1	1	<1	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	NS	1600	NS	29 — 221	154	340 — 511	445	630 — 800	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	0.5	500	NS	0.9 — 26	16	49 — 75	58	36 — 42	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	NS	1000	NS	<20 — 144	82	226 — 270	258	350 — 550	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	NS	5	NS	ND — 0.3	0.1	0.02 — 0.24	0.04	<0.1 — 2.0	Soil run-off
Other Water Constituents Analyzed	**Units**	**DLR**	**MCL**	**PHG**	**SFPUC Range**	**SFPUC Average**	**Valley Water Range**	**Valley Water Average**	**CMV Wells Range (2)**	
Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	ppm	NS	NS	NS	<3 — 132	51	45 — 88	68	230 — 280	Naturally occurring
Barium	ppb	100	1000	2000	ND	ND	ND	ND	120 — 150	Naturally occurring
Boron	ppb	100	NS	NS	ND — 104	ND	112 — 205	147	—	Naturally occurring
Bromide	ppb	NS	NS	NS	<5 — 27	7	<0.05 — 0.08	0.05	—	Naturally occurring
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	NS	NS	NS	2.9 — 18	11	12 — 24	18	71 — 90	Naturally occurring
Chlorate	ppb	20	NS	NS	42 — 230 (10)	124 (10)	65 — 88	77	—	Naturally occurring
Hardness (as CaCO3)	ppm	NS	NS	NS	15 — 68	47	58 — 117	92	260 — 361	Naturally occurring
Iron	ppb	NS	300	NS	—	—	—	—	170	Naturally occurring
Magnesium	ppm	NS	NS	NS	0.2 — 6.2	4	7 — 14	11	21 — 33	Naturally occurring
pH	—	NS	NS	NS	8.6 — 9.8	9.4	7.7 — 7.8	7.8	7.1 — 7.6	Naturally occurring
Phosphate	ppm	NS	NS	NS	ND	ND	1.09 — 1.55	1.27	—	Naturally occurring
Potassium	ppm	NS	NS	NS	0.2 — 1	0.6	1.8 — 3.4	2.7	1.2	Naturally occurring
Silica	ppm	NS	NS	NS	2.8 — 7.1	5	10 — 14	11	—	Naturally occurring
Sodium	ppm	NS	NS	NS	2.3 — 20	14	39 — 65	49	29 — 43	Naturally occurring
Strontium	ppb	NS	NS	NS	12 —199	99	—	—	—	Naturally occurring

MOUNTAIN VIEW DRINKING WATER (1)	Units	DLR	MCL [AL]	PHG	Range or [Avg]	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Turbidity	NTU	—	5	NS	0.0 — 0.9	Soil run-off
Organic Chemicals						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0.5	80	NS	34.9 — 50.8 (11)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA-5s)	ppb	1	60	NS	13.9 — 31.9 (11)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Other Water Constituents Analyzed						
Fluoride (8)	ppm	0.1	2	1	[0.70]	Naturally occurring and added for treatment
Total Chlorine	ppm	—	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	[2.35]	Water disinfectant added for treatment
Free Ammonia	ppm	NS	NS	NS	ND — 0.12	Water disinfectant added for treatment
Customer Tap Lead and Copper Sampling						
Lead (12)	ppb	5	[15]	0.2	7.7	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (13)	ppm	0.05	[1.3]	0.3	0.12	Corrosion of household plumbing

KEY

—	Non Applicable
<	Less Than
µS/cm	microSiemens/centimeter
CMV	City of Mountain View
Csyt/L	Cysts per Liter
EPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency
ND	Non-Detect
NS	No Standard
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
Oocyst/L	Oocysts per Liter
pCi/L	picocuries per liter
ppb	parts per billion (equal to micrograms per liter)
ppm	parts per million (equal to milligrams per liter)
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
SFPUC	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TON	Threshold Odor Number

Footnotes

(1) All results met state and federal drinking water health standards.

(2) CMV well sampling is conducted in accordance with regulatory schedules.

(3) Turbidity is a water clarity indicator and also indicates the effectiveness of water treatment plants.

(4) Turbidity is measured every four hours. Values shown are monthly average turbidity values.

(5) Turbidity limits are based on the TT requirements in the state drinking water regulations, which require filtered water turbidity to be equal to or less than 0.3 NTU a minimum of 95 percent of the time.

(6) Very low levels of Cryptosporidium were found in SFPUC source water during 2018. Water treatment removes Cryptosporidium prior to distribution.

(7) SFPUC results not shown. See Mountain View Drinking Water results below for relevant values.

(8) Fluoride occurs naturally in source waters from the SFPUC, Valley Water, and City wells. The City of Mountain View and SFPUC added fluoride in 2018 to meet State Water Board required levels.

(9) In May 2015, the SWRCB recommended an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 ppm be maintained in treated water. In 2018, the range and average of the SFPUC's treated water fluoride levels were 0.6 ppm - 1.0 ppm and 0.7 ppm, respectively.

(10) The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFPUC for water disinfection.

(11) The reported data for TTHMs and HAA-5s show the range of quarterly running annual averages. The MCLs apply to these averages.

(12) Value reported is the 90th percentile result. Mountain View's Lead and Copper Rule monitoring results for 2016, the most recently required testing, comply with the U.S. EPA health regulations. Three of the 34 water samples collected at the consumer taps had lead concentrations above the Regulatory Action Level.

(13) Value reported is the 90th percentile result. Mountain View's Lead and Copper Rule monitoring results for 2016 comply with the U.S. EPA health regulations. None of the 34 samples had copper concentrations above the Regulatory Action Level.

DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

Water suppliers such as Mountain View, the SFPUC, and Valley Water are required to maintain aggressive monitoring programs to ensure the quality of their drinking water and to protect public health. These programs are implemented through a combination of Federal and State laws with strict oversight by the EPA and the State Water Board. The Safe Drinking Water Act, which was passed by Congress in 1974 (and updated in 1986 and 1996), created the framework and requirements for protecting the quality of our nation's drinking water.

Protecting Public Health

Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA sets legal limits on the levels of certain contaminants in drinking water. The legal limits reflect both the level that protects human health and the level that water systems can achieve, taking into account technical and economic considerations. Some states, such as California, pass their own limits that are stricter than the Federal limits. Besides prescribing legal limits, the EPA also sets testing schedules, testing methods, and acceptable treatment techniques that water suppliers must follow. The EPA, the State Water Board, and local water agencies work together to ensure these water quality regulations are followed.

Primary Standards

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations set mandatory water quality standards for drinking water contaminants. These standards, called "maximum contaminant levels" or "MCLs," protect the public against drinking water contaminants that present a risk to human health. An MCL is the legal limit for the amount of a constituent allowed in water served by a public water system. In some cases, California has adopted MCLs that are more restrictive than the national MCLs.

Secondary Standards

Some contaminants are not primary health concerns but may cause aesthetic problems with drinking water, such as unpleasant tastes or odors. These contaminants do not have primary standards, however the EPA has established secondary standards for these contaminants based on aesthetic properties. These recommendations are set by the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations and called "secondary maximum contaminant levels" or "SMCLs."

Monitoring Unregulated Contaminants

The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water but that do not have primary or secondary standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Every five years, the EPA reviews the list of contaminants and issues a new list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The EPA uses this monitoring information to help determine if additional standards are needed.

The current rule (UCMR 4) was published in December 2016 and requires monitoring of 30 chemical contaminants between 2018 and 2020 using EPA-prescribed testing methods. Mountain View sampled for the required UCMR 4 constituents in 2018 and had no detections.

Water quality test equipment

LEAD MONITORING

Lead is seldom found in drinking water sources. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with home plumbing and water service lines. The City of Mountain View is responsible for providing high quality drinking water in its distribution system but does not control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. Regulatory standards included in the Safe Drinking Water Act developed during the last three decades have greatly reduced exposure to lead in drinking water, and California is at the forefront of these efforts with some of the strictest lead regulations in the country.

Corrosion Control

To prevent lead from leaching into drinking water from household plumbing materials, Mountain View's suppliers employ corrosion control programs. The SFPUC's program consists of maintaining optimal pH levels throughout the distribution system. Valley Water's program includes an added corrosion inhibitor and pH adjustment. Both the SFPUC and Valley Water programs are approved by the State Water Board. Mountain View staff also monitors pH and corrosion inhibitor levels on a regular basis.

Household Testing

The City performs triannual testing on select water samples from Mountain View homes to monitor for the presence of lead. Test results from the most recent sampling event met State and Federal standards for lead.

Risk Assessment

As required by the State Water Board, water suppliers must conduct an inventory of lead-containing service lines (the pipe between the City water main and your water meter) and develop a replacement schedule if any are found. Mountain View completed the required inventory in 2018 and found no service lines containing lead in the City's water service area.

School Testing

California law requires water suppliers to conduct lead sampling at all elementary, middle and high schools located on public land by July 1, 2019. Schools located on private property must be sampled if requested by the school administration prior to November 1, 2019. Mountain View has performed lead testing at all of the required and requested school sites. No requests for lead testing were received during 2018. Please contact your school administrator for information about lead testing and results for your local school.

City of Mountain View water operations and distribution staff

photo: Tammie Cravalho

Request a Paper Copy of This Report

This 2018 Consumer Confidence Report is posted online at www.mountainview.gov/CCR2018. Please call 650-903-6241 or email waterquality@mountainview.gov if you would like a paper copy of this report mailed to you.

City Contact Information

Water Questions

Public Services Division
231 North Whisman Road
Mountain View, CA 94043

Tel: 650-903-6329
Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (M-F)
Emergency Hours: 24 hours (7 days)

Water Quality Technician

Tel: 650-903-6241
Email: waterquality@mountainview.gov
Web: www.waterquality.mountainview.gov

Ask Mountain View Online

www.mountainview.gov/askMV

Billing Questions

Finance and Administrative Services
500 Castro Street, second floor
Mountain View, CA 94041

Tel: 650-903-6317
Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (M-F)

To report suspicious activities or persons, please dial 911

To Get Involved

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Mountain View City Council meetings to provide input on decisions that affect Mountain View's water. Information about meeting dates and agendas can be found online at www.mountainview.gov or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 650-903-6304.

City Council Meetings

City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, second floor
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

More Information

Public Health Goals Report

www.waterquality.mountainview.gov

Valley Water

408-265-2607
www.valleywater.org

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

415-554-3289
www.sfwater.org

State Water Resources Control Board

510-620-3474
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water

U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater