

San Miguel CSD
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San Miguel, CA 93451

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2007 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

TO OUR CUSTOMERS: The San Miguel Community Services District is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. We sincerely hope this report gives you the information you seek and have a right to know.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Your water comes from two groundwater wells located in San Miguel. The District is in the process of adding a third groundwater well, Terrace Well to the water supply system. The groundwater that is pumped and served to our customers is cleaned through a natural filtration process as it seeps down through the ground. This natural filtration process is an excellent mechanism for removing particles of matter from water but during this process, water may pick up minerals or contaminants found in the soil, either natural or man-made. Groundwater is normally very clean and is simply disinfected with chlorine to help minimize viral and bacterial contamination.

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants* which 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

GENERAL DRINKING WATER INFORMATION

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1(800) 426-4791.

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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

Additionally, the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water maintains a website with useful information on drinking water. The address is www.epa.gov/safewater/. Information can also be obtained by accessing the American Water Works Association's website at www.awwa.org, the DHS website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/default.htm, or by calling John Beaton, Water Quality Manager, at (805) 781-5111.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Barry Holmes, Utility Supervisor, at (805) 467-3388

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

Go to www.sanmiguelcsd.org

KEY TERMS and ABBREVIATIONS

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

CFU/mL: Colony Forming Units per milliliter

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

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

Micromhos/cm (Micromhos per centimeter): A measure of electrical conductance.

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

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not Applicable

ND (Not Detected): Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

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

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

RAA (Running Annual Average): Average data for last four quarters.

SDWS (Secondary Drinking Water Standards): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

TON: Threshold Odor Number

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

USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The SMCSD Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at their office located at 1150 Mission (fire station). The public is welcome to attend.

SMCSD Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Closed for lunch 12-1 pm. Closed following holidays: Jan 1, 3rd Monday in January, 3rd Monday in Feb., Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Friday after, Christmas Eve at noon, Christmas, New Years Eve at noon

OPERATIONS

All operators who work for the District are certified by the California Department of Health Services (CADHS). They are knowledgeable professionals dedicated to maintaining an excellent water system and providing you with the best quality water possible. Operators routinely inspect the wells, tanks, and distribution system in order to ensure safe and reliable water. In addition, the CADHS routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

WATER TESTING

Water analyses are contracted to the San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory (SLOC-WQL) by the District. The SLOC-WQL is certified by the CADHS as an environmental testing laboratory for bacteriological and chemical analyses. Federal and state requirements mandate that all regulatory analyses be performed by certified labs following approved procedures.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

The wells are routinely monitored for contaminants and the results are submitted to the California Department of Health Services. The findings are evaluated relative to the California Drinking Water Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Standards. In 2002, a source water assessment for the San Miguel CSD system was completed. The study was conducted to locate potential sources of contamination or contaminating activities in the watershed and assess their possible impact on the water system. The source assessment concluded that the wells continue to be most vulnerable to the following activities for which no associated contaminant has been detected in the water supply: sewer collection system. A copy of the complete assessment is available at:

Santa Barbara District	OR	San Miguel CSD
California Department of Health Services		1150 Mission Street
1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200		San Miguel, CA 93451
Carpinteria, CA 93013		

Telephone (805) 566-1326	Telephone (805) 467-3388
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ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES and SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The District is evaluating alternative water sources in order to maintain a reliable, adequate, and potable water supply for the future. In addition, District staff are pursuing funding to make storage and distribution improvements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To ensure drinking water quality, San Miguel CSD routinely tests the wells and distribution system for coliform bacteria and maintains an adequate level of disinfection of the water.

2007 Water Statistics

- **San Miguel CSD Water Production**
⇒ **92.049 million gallons**
- **Average Daily Demand**
⇒ **252,190 gallons**

WHICH IS BETTER - TAP WATER OR BOTTLED WATER?

Many people buy bottled water to drink because they believe it is better than tap water. Often this is not the case. Bottled water is required to meet standards that are different than those for tap water. Let's look at a few of the issues in the tap vs. bottled water debate.

Purity

Tap water is regulated by the USEPA and the State and must meet very strict standards to protect your health. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and does not have to meet the same strict standards as tap water. Several studies of bottled water have found contaminants including bacteria, arsenic, and toluene. Also, there is concern that chemicals from plastic bottles may leach into the water that they contain.

Safety

Tap water must be tested by certified laboratories. There is no such requirement for bottled water. Tap water testing results must be reported to State and Federal officials. There are no such requirements for bottled water. Water

system operators must be certified. Bottled water plant operators do not have to be certified. Water suppliers must issue reports like this one to the public. There are no public right-to-know requirements for bottled water.

Cost

Tap water costs less than 1 cent per gallon, while bottled water can cost up to \$4.00 per gallon.

Source

Bottled water labels often imply that the water comes from a spring, but in fact at least 25% of bottled water comes from a municipal tap. When the water does come directly from a spring or underground aquifer, bottling it for sale in another location often depletes the water supply for the community where the bottling plant is located.

So which do you think is better— tap water or bottled water?