



## CITY OF SIERRA MADRE 2018 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



Dear Residents,

The over drafting of Sierra Madre's groundwater aquifer has left tremendous challenges for our City. Despite a good rain year, our groundwater aquifer remains at a critically low level. Historically Sierra Madre has been able to serve its residents with local groundwater. Due to low groundwater levels the City must now import over 50% of its water supply.

The above average rain received this year helped the groundwater aquifer recover to 2018 levels. This year we were able to divert over 550 million gallons of stormwater into our recharge basins. Additionally, Sierra Madre purchased over 420 million gallons of water from the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for groundwater recharge. Our total contribution to the groundwater aquifer this year was nearly 1 billion gallons of water. In fiscal year 2017-18 producers combined to extract 1.3 billion gallons of water.

One thing has become very clear. We can not predict or rely on annual rain to restore our groundwater aquifer. To protect our groundwater supply, Sierra Madre residents must adopt a new lifestyle that makes conservation and efficient use of water a permanent way of life. The City must find better ways to manage the groundwater supply, continue to work with neighboring agencies, our Water District, and regulators to find new sustainable long term solutions.

For more information on water conservation please visit the City's website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) and the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's website at [www.sgvmd.org](http://www.sgvmd.org)

There you will find water conservation tips, rebate information, and links to other water conservation assistance.

**As a reminder the City allows for 3 days of outdoor watering.**

**Even-number addresses may water on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.**

**Odd-numbered and addresses ending in fractions may water on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.**

**No watering is allowed between the hours of 6AM and 6PM**

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.  
I can be reached at 626-355-7135.

Sincerely,  
Jose Reynoso  
Utilities Director

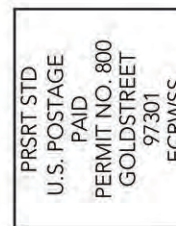


### INTRODUCTION

The City of Sierra Madre is committed to keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually and includes information about where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Our City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall at 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, California 91024. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.



POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Sierra Madre  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024



### QUESTIONS?

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Jose Reynoso at (626) 355-7135 ext 813.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información o traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Jose Reynoso. Telefono: (626) 355-7135 ext 813.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

## WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

During calendar year 2018, the water supply for the City of Sierra Madre came from two sources: (1) groundwater from wells in the East Raymond Basin and (2) natural spring tunnel located in our foothills. All water is treated with chlorine disinfection before it is delivered to your home.

## WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW are limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council, board of directors, and county board of supervisors).
- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **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.
- **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.

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water generally 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** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally-occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agriculture application and septic systems.

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 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).

Your drinking water is regularly tested using DDW approved methods to ensure its safety. The table in this report lists all the constituents detected in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated constituents and other constituents of interest are also included.

## ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER?

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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## LEAD IN TAP WATER

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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 of Sierra Madre 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 the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned

about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

## FLUORIDE VARIANCE

The City of Sierra Madre has been granted a Fluoride Variance from DDW. The City of Sierra Madre first requested the variance in 1994. On June 6, 1995, DDW conducted a public hearing in the City of Sierra Madre to determine if there was substantial public opposition to the City receiving a variance from the California drinking water standard for fluoride. DDW found that there is not substantial community opposition to the City receiving the variance from the California drinking water standard for fluoride.

In the meantime, DDW has raised the MCL for fluoride to 2 ppm with a PHG of 1 ppm. In 2018, the City on an average did not exceed the PHG of 1 ppm and the MCL of 2 ppm in water delivered to our customers. It should be noted that due to the fluoride concentration of our water, additional fluoride products are not necessary for children.

## COLIFORM BACTERIA

This Consumer Confidence Report reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2016. All water systems are required to comply with the state Total Coliform Rule. Effective April 1, 2016, all water systems are also required to comply with 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 microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system.

## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Sierra Madre was completed in November 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment is to promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality. The assessment concluded that City of Sierra Madre's groundwater wells generally are not vulnerable to contamination. However, wells are located within the proximity of gasoline stations, chemical and petroleum storage facilities, automobile repair shops, and areas of fertilizer/pesticide applications, which are possible sources of contamination. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Jose Reynoso at 626-355-7135 ext 813.

## QUESTIONS?

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2018 CITY OF SIERRA MADRE GROUNDWATER QUALITY <sup>[1]</sup>

Chemical	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violations?	Most Recent Testing	Typical Source of Contaminant
Primary Drinking Water Standards--Health-Related Standards							
Inorganic Chemicals							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.87	0.6 - 1.8	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	2.3	1.8 - 2.8	No	Quarterly	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks
Organic Chemicals							
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	0.06	0.6	ND - 2	No	Monthly	Industrial discharge
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	1.7	0.68	ND - 2.3	No	Monthly	Industrial discharge
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (ppt)	5	0.7	<5	ND - 5.9	Yes <sup>[2]</sup>	Quarterly	Discharge from industrial and agrichemical factories; byproduct of producing other compounds and pesticides; leaching from hazardous waste sites
Radiologicals							
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1.1	ND - 1.7	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards <sup>[2]</sup>							
Chloride (ppm)	500	n/a	48	12 - 68	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3	n/a	1	1 - 2	No	2018	Naturally present in the groundwater
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	n/a	636	350 - 760	No	2017	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	n/a	97	17 - 150	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	n/a	370	200 - 460	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	n/a	< 0.1	ND - 0.3	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Chemicals							
Alkalinity, total as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	138	130 - 150	n/a	2017	Run off / leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	80.7	44 - 99.9	n/a	2017	Run off / leaching from natural deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	283	166 - 339	n/a	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	16.6	9.7 - 19.9	n/a	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	19.8	13.7 - 25.7	n/a	2017	Run off / leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH Units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.6	7.4 - 7.8	n/a	2017	Hydrogen ion concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	1.5	1.2 - 2	n/a	2017	Run off / leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	21	15 - 27	n/a	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT <sup>[4]</sup>	n/a	0.36	ND - 0.59	n/a	Monthly	Naturally present in the groundwater

2018 CITY OF SIERRA MADRE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

Bacterial Quality	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly # of Positives	MCL Violations?	Most Recent Testing	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	1	No	Weekly	Naturally present in the environment

No more than one monthly sample may be positive for total coliform bacteria.

Chemical	MCL or (MRDL)	PHG or (MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violations?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	n/a	1.2	ND - 1.3	No	Quarterly	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	n/a	19	ND - 15	No	Quarterly	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4)	(4)	0.8	0.35 - 1.3	No	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.92	0.63 - 1.8	No	Quarterly	Erosion of natural deposits
Color (Color Units) <sup>[3]</sup>	15	n/a	0.1	ND - 5	No	Monthly	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (threshold odor number) <sup>[3]</sup>	3	n/a	1.1	1 - 2	No	Monthly	Naturally present in the groundwater
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>[3]</sup>	5	n/a	0.13	ND - 0.4	No	Monthly	Erosion of natural deposits

At-The-Tap Lead and Copper Testing	Action Level	PHG	90th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding Action Level	AL Violations?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.51	1 / 31	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	2 / 31	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

\*Every three years, at least 30 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2017. Lead was detected in three samples, two of which exceeded the lead AL. Copper was detected in 27 samples, one of which exceeded the copper AL. An AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded in more than 10 percent of the samples, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. The City of Sierra Madre complies with the Lead and Copper ALs.

TABLE DEFINITIONS

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level	ppb = parts-per-billion;	1] This table includes groundwater quality for water sampled at City of Sierra Madre’s wells and tunnel. Results are from the most recent testing performed pursuant to state and federal drinking water regulations.	1,2,3-Trichloropropane from Well 5 and therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ppm = parts-per-million;		
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	ppt = parts per trillion;		
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	TT = Treatment Technique		[3] Chemical is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).
n/a = not applicable	µmho/cm = micromho per centimeter;	[2] We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the calendar year 2018, we did not monitor for	
ND = not detected	pCi/L = picoCuries per liter;		
NTU = nephelometric turbidity units	< = detected but average is less than the required reporting limit		[4] A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.
PHG = California Public Health Goal			