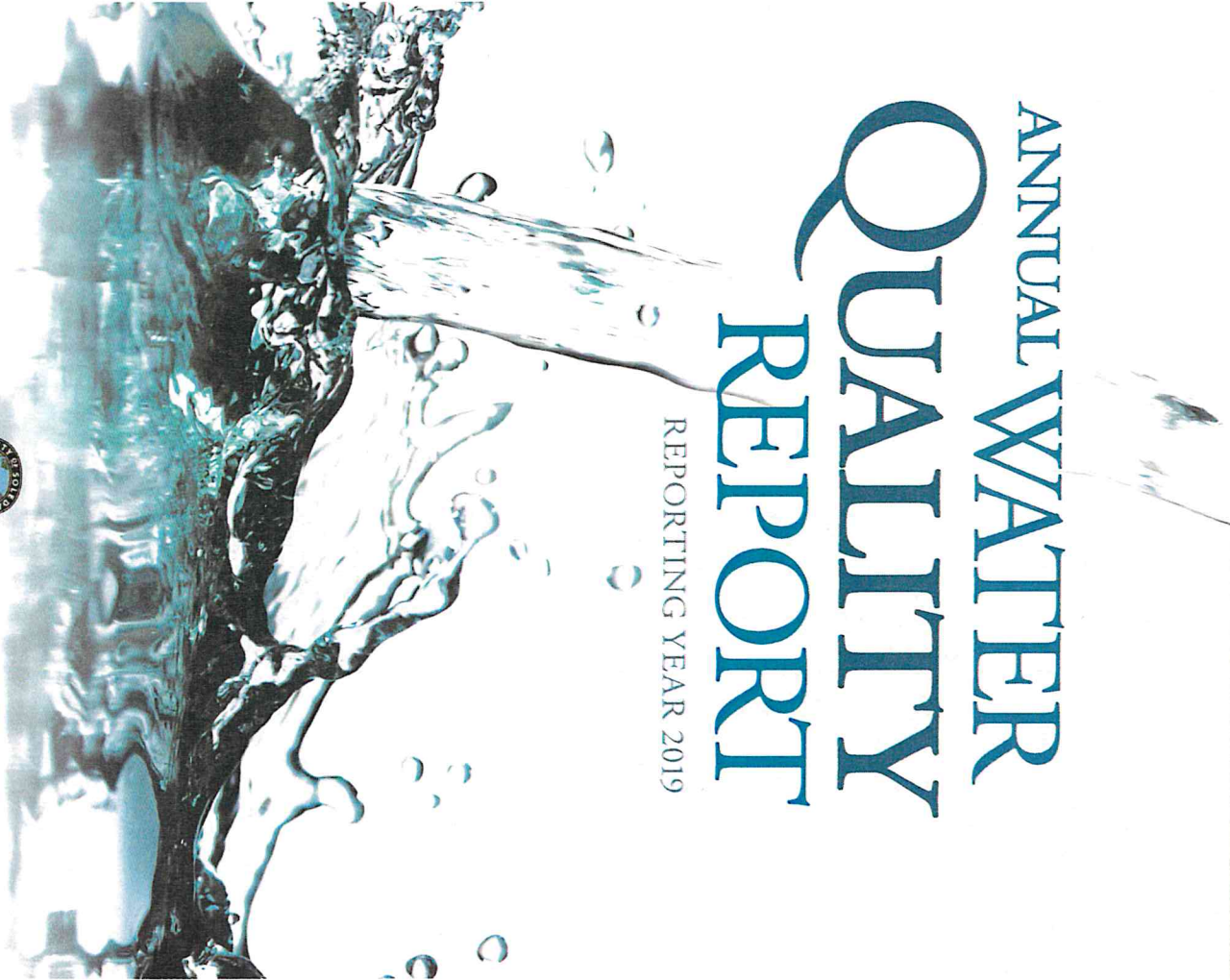


Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call Anthony Karl, Public Works Manager, at (831) 223-5190, or email at akarl@cityofsoledad.com.

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of "medium." If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please contact our office during regular office hours.

Substances That Could Be in 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) 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, 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.

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 can result from urban storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (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 at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2018	10	0.004	1.7	1.1–2.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2018	1	2	0.156	0.040–0.537	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium [Total] (ppb)	2018	50	(100)	5.88	3.7–8	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	2.0	1	0.16	0.10–0.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2017	15	(0)	5.2	3.9–6.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Halocetic Acids (ppb)	2019	60	NA	1.8	ND–3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2017	NS	0.02	3.3	ND–6.1	No	Discharge from electroplating factories; leather tanneries; wood preservation; chemical synthesis; refractory production; and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.42	0.1–0.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2018	50	30	2.8	2–6	No	Discharge from petroleum; glass; and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
TTTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	10.16	1–14	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	0.3	0.286	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2017	15	0.2	ND	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharge from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2018	500	NS	163	20–627	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2019	300	NS	88	ND–239	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2019	1,600	NS	1,733	35.43–2,599	Yes	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	500	NS	ND	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2019	1,000	NS	1,050	721–1,363	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES ¹							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Molybdenum (ppb)	2014	7.3	4.7–11	NA			
Sodium (ppm)	2019	110	28–376	“Sodium” refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring			
Strontium (ppb)	2014	655	410–930	NA			
Total Hardness (ppm)	2019	229	221–360	“Hardness” is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally calcium and magnesium. The cations are usually naturally occurring			
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	12	9.2–17	Health Effects Language: The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level of 50 ppb may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals			

¹Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (back-pressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 do so, you may 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 have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 U.S. EPA.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): 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 EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):

A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Soledad's residents were fortunate, during this past year, to enjoy an abundant groundwater supply from the City's wells. All five of these wells were active. The wells have a combined pumping capacity of about 4,788 gallons per minute. In 2018, these five wells pumped a total of more than 692 million gallons of clean drinking water. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to Surf Your Watershed at www.epa.gov/surf.

The water supply for the City of Soledad wells comes from aquifers that are continuously being replenished with releases of water from the San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs. The reservoirs are operated by the Monterey County Water Resource Agency. According to Monterey County Water Resource data, approximately 90.4 percent of the water from the Salinas Valley aquifers is consumed by agricultural operations. City populations consume about 9.6 percent of the groundwater supply.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend City of Soledad Council meetings and share your ideas and concerns about your drinking water. The Soledad Council meets the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 248 Main Street, Soledad, CA. Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.