



Presented By

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

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The City of Soledad
248 Main Street
Soledad, CA 93960

REPORTING YEAR 2020

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Special Education Information

Arsenic can enter the water supply from natural deposits in the earth or from industrial and agricultural pollution. It is widely believed that naturally occurring arsenic dissolves out of certain rock formations when groundwater levels drop significantly. Some industries in the United States release thousands of pounds of arsenic into the environment every year. While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Nitrate is a chemical found in most fertilizers, manure, and liquid waste discharged from septic tanks. Natural bacteria in soil can convert nitrogen into nitrate. Rain or irrigation water can carry nitrate down through the soil into groundwater. Your drinking water may contain nitrate if your well draws from groundwater. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant’s blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a 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 certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health care provider.

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 and third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall 248 Main Street, Soledad. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. See the Agenda link on our website, www.cityofsoledad.com or call (831) 223-5014 during business hours to obtain the meeting phone/ID number.

“We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water”

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 2020 these five wells pumped a total of more than 737 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.

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 two 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.

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>.



QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Moises Arizmendi, Public Works Manager, at (831) 223-5190 or email marizmendi@cityofsoledad.com.

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.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	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	No	
Barium (ppm)	2018	1		0.156	0.040–0.537	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No	
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	No	
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	2.0		0.16	0.10–0.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No	
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2017	15	(0)	5.2	3.9–6.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits	No	
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2020	60	NS ¹	0.02	ND–6.1	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing	No	
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2020	10		0.44	0.1–0.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewages; erosion of natural deposits	No	
Selenium (ppb)	2018	50		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)	No	
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2020	80		7.35	1–14	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL (MCLG)	PHG DETECTED	AMOUNT AL/TOTAL (90TH %ILE)	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	0.3	0.117	0/36	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	No	
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0.2	ND	0/36	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits	No	

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ²									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Chloride (ppm)	2018	500	NS	163	20–627	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	No	
Iron (ppb)	2020	300	NS	30	ND–239	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	No	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2020	1,600	NS	1,328	35.43–2,599	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	No	
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	500	NS	ND	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	No	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2020	1,000	NS	796	721–1,363	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	Yes	

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 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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.



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 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.

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 SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of “medium.” If you would like to review the SWAP, please contact our office during regular office hours.