

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

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ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

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We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

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 which were active. The wells have a combined pumping capacity of about 4,788 gallons per minute. In 2021, these five wells pumped more than 701 million gallons of clean drinking water. To learn more about our watershed, 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% of the water from the Salinas Valley aquifers is consumed by agricultural operations. City populations consume about 9.6% of the groundwater supply.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend City of Soledad Council meetings to 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, California. Our Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. The Zoom and Agenda links are on the city website, at www.cityofsoledad.com.

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 the Public Works Manager during regular office hours.

Safeguarding Your Water

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2021. These revisions add the requirements of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective since April 1, 2016, to the existing state Total Coliform Rule. The revised rule still protects 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 U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection because the 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. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.

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.

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 - Water Department, at (831) 223-5190, or email at 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. We are please to report that your drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

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.

The City of Soledad received a citation of noncompliance with California Health and safety code 116555(a)(2) and California code of Regulation, title 17, section 7584 and 7605, for failure to test all backflow preventers annually in 2017, 2018 and 2020. The City has implemented a computerized system that will ensure that future reporting requirements are performed in a timely manner.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Arsenic (ppb)	2021	10		0.004	1.8	1.3–2.3	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes	No	
Barium (ppm)	2021	1		2	0.105	0.047–0.280	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No	
Chromium [Total] (ppb)	2021	50		(100)	4.46	3.0–6.3	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits	No	
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	2.0		1	0.10	ND-0.10	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No	
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	15		(0)	8.4	3.4–13.3	Erosion of natural deposits	No	
HAAs [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60		NA	1.06	ND-2	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2021	10		10	0.38	0.1–0.9	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewages; erosion of natural deposits	No	
Selenium (ppb)	2021	50		30	2.2	2–3	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)	No	
THMAs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2020	80		NA	7.35	1–14	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL (MCLG)	PHG DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	AMOUNT DETECTED AL/TOTAL SITES ABOVE	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	

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL (MCLG)	PHG AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Chloride (ppm)	2021	500	NS	83.7	26–217	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	No	
Iron (ppb)	2021	300	NS	24	ND–130	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	No	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2021	1,600	NS	1,075	590–1,589	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	No	
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	500	NS	146	115–214	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	No	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	1,000	NS	564	402–742	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	No	
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2021	5	NS	0.47	ND–1.3	No	Soil runoff	No	

PCt/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.

¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectant. ² Unregulated 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.

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 and 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, 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.