

2021 Consumer Confidence Report

Whispering Pines Inn, CA3500810

June 8, 2022

Water System Information

- *Type, Name, and General Location of Water Source(s) in Use:* Whispering Pines Inn is served by one groundwater well and is located in an unincorporated area of San Benito County
- *Drinking Water Source Assessment Information:* An assessment was conducted for Well 01 in August 2002. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants; agricultural drainage, irrigated crops, and fertilizer/pesticide application. Many pesticide products are highly toxic and quite mobile on the subsurface; therefore, posing a potential risk to reach the groundwater supply.
- *For More Information, Contact:* MCSI Water Systems Management at (831) 659-5360

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Important Language in Spanish:

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse MCSI Water Systems Management a (831) 659-5360 para asistirlo en español.

Terms Used in This Report

| Term | Definition |
|--|--|
| 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. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. |
| 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS) | MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. |
| 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. |
| Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) | MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels. |
| Treatment Technique (TT) | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| ND | Not detectable at testing limit. |
| ppm | parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source 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, 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 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the 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.

About Your Drinking Water Quality (Drinking Water Contaminants Detected)

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report. (Table 5)

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing Detection for Lead and Copper

| Lead and Copper | Sample Date | No. of Samples Collected | 90 th Percentile Level Detected | No. Sites Exceeding AL | AL | PHG | No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| Lead (µg/L) | 10/2019 | 5 | ND | 0 | 15 | 0.2 | 0 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (mg/L) | 10/2019 | 5 | 0.115 | 0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | Not applicable | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

Table 2. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

| Chemical or Constituent (Reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected (Average) | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------|------------|--|
| Sodium (mg/L) | 12/2019 | (128) | 112 – 143 | None | None | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring |
| Hardness (mg/L) | 12/2019 | (252) | 223 - 282 | None | None | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring |

Table 3. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

| Chemical or Constituent (Reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected (Average) | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Arsenic (Source) (µg/L) | 2021 | (137) | 73 – 222 | 10 | 0.004 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes |
| †Arsenic (Treated) (µg/L) | 2021 | (9.3) | ND – 115 | 10 | 0.004 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (mg/L) | 12/2019 | 0.378 | -- | 1 | 2 | Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/L) | 09/2021 | 17 | -- | 80 | NA | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L) | 09/2021 | 12 | -- | 60 | NA | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| *Chlorine Residuals (mg/L) | 2021 | (1.07) | 0.23 – 2.15 | [4.0 as Cl ₂] | [4 as Cl ₂] | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| *Chlorine residuals are performed in the field in conjunction with Coliform Bacteria Monitoring using a field test kit | | | | | | |

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

| Chemical or Constituent (Reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | SMCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|------------|---|
| Chloride (mg/L) | 12/2019 | 126 | -- | 500 | NA | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| ^Color Units | 12/2019 | 25 | -- | 15 | NA | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| Iron (mg/L) | 11/2020 | 263 | -- | 300 | NA | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| **Manganese mg/L | 11/2020 | 152 | -- | 50 | NA | Leaching from natural deposits |
| Odor, (TON) Threshold Unit | 12/2019 | 3 | -- | 3 | NA | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 12/2019 | 1,045 | -- | 1,600 | NA | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| Sulfate (mg/L) | 12/2019 | 5 | -- | 500 | NA | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L) | 12/2019 | 596 | -- | 1,000 | NA | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| ^Turbidity (NTU) | 12/2019 | 9.1 | -- | 5 | NA | Soil runoff |

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 U.S. EPA'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. U.S. EPA/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-Specific Language: 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. Whispering Pines Inn 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 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Additional Special Language:

‡Arsenic – Systems with arsenic above 5 µg/L (50 percent of the MCL), but below or equal to 10 µg/L (the MCL)

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, 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. Environmental Protection Agency 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.

Citation No. 02_05_21C_003 – Whispering Pines Inn has failed to comply with the Arsenic MCL. **Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.** Whispering Pines treats for Arsenic and is working on optimization of its Arsenic Removal Plant, however the MCL of 10µg/L has been exceeded on several occasions. Whispering Pines Inn continues to work with the State Water Resources Control Board-DDW to evaluate the water supply and researching options to correct the problem.

Table 5. Violation of a MCL and TT

| Violation | Explanation | Duration | Actions Taken to Correct Violation | Health Effects Language |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|---|--|
| Arsenic MCL exceedance | Treatment Failures | 2021 | Whispering Pines Inn continues to evaluate the water supply and is researching options to correct the problem | Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. |

****Manganese** – The filtration system pretreats for Iron and Manganese. The results listed in this report are for the raw water (Source) and not the treated water. The notification level for Manganese is used to protect consumers from neurological effects. High levels of Manganese in people have been shown to result in effects of the nervous system.

^Color and Turbidity are secondary drinking water standards and are set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and the staining of plumbing fixtures and clothing while washing.