# 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

## Water System Information

Water System Name: Rancho Santa Teresa Mutual Water Company (RSTMWC)

Report Date: May 4, 2024

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater from two wells (Well 2 and Well 4)

Name and General Location of Source(s): Wells 1, 2, 3, and 4 are located on the north side of Rancho Santa Teresa Drive on Lots 21, 27, 28 and 35 respectively. Wells 1 and 3 is not in use.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: A Drinking Water Source Assessment has been completed for Well 1 and 2 of the Rancho Santa Teresa Mutual Water Company. RSTMW is planning to conduct the Drinking Water Source Assessment for well 4 in 2024.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: RSTMWC conducts its annual Shareholders’ meeting in May. The 2023 annual meeting was held on May 30th 2023.

For More Information, Contact: Ralph Mattern, (858) 354-5073

## 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, 2023 and may include earlier monitoring data.

## Importance of This Report Statement in Five Non-English Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Hmong)

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Rancho Santa Teresa MWC a (858) 354-5073 para asistirlo en español.

Language in Mandarin: 这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 Rancho Santa Teresa MWC以获得中文的帮助: (858) 354-5073.

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Rancho Santa Teresa MWC o tumawag sa (858) 354-5073 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Language in Vietnamese: Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ Rancho Santa Teresa MWC tại (858) 354-5073 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Language in Hmong: Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau Rancho Santa Teresa MWC ntawm (858) 354-5073 rau kev pab hauv lus Askiv.

## Terms Used in This Report

| **Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| Level 1 Assessment | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. |
| Level 2 Assessment | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions. |
| 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. |
| Regulatory Action Level(AL) | The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. |
| 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. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| 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) |
| ppt | parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L) |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) |

## 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, 4, 5, 6, and 8 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 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Complete if bacteria are detected.

| **Microbiological Contaminants**  | **Highest No. of Detections** | **No. of Months in Violation** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Typical Source of Bacteria** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *E. coli* | 0 | 0(b) | (a) | 0 | Human and animal fecal waste |

1. Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.
2. In October 2023 one sample tested positive for Coliform. Repeat samples were taken according to sampling plan and tested negative for Coliform and *E.coli*.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Complete if lead or copper is detected in the last sample set.

| **Lead and Copper**  | **Sample Date** | **No. of Samples Collected** | **90th Percentile Level Detected** | **No. Sites Exceeding AL** | **AL** | **PHG** | **Typical Source of****Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lead (ppb) | 2/16/2023 | 5 | 2.9  | 0 | 15 | 0.2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead(ppb) | 8/22/2023 | 5 | 3.5 | 0 | 15 | 0.2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (ppm) | 2/16/2023 | 5 | 0.435 | 0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Copper (ppm) | 8/22/2023 | 5 | 0.345 | 0 | 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL** | **PHG (MCLG)** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Sodium (ppm) | 8/22/2023 | 44 | 37-50 | None | None | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring |
| Hardness (ppm) | 8/22/2023 | 280 | 210-350 | None | None | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring |

**Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent****(and****reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL [MRDL]** | **PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Nitrate (mg/L) | 2023 | 9.1 | 4.6-**13\*** | 10 | 10 | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Uranium (pCi/L) | 2023 | 16 | 2.4-16 | 20 | 0.43 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (mg/L) | 2023 | 0.135 | 0.12-0.15 | 2.0 | 1 | Erosion of natural deposits; wateradditive which promotes strongteeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| GrossAlpha Particles (pCi/L) | 2022 | 99.15 | 18.3-180 a) | 15 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium 226 and 228 (pCi/L) | 2022 | ND | N/A | 5 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium (µg/L) | 8/22/2023 | 3.4 | 0-6.8 | 50 | 30 | Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive) |

1. These values are for the source (wells 2 And 4) prior to uranium removal. The treated water (while not officially required to be tested ) was tested in November 2022 and contained 5.15+/-1.53 pCi/L

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **SMCL** | **PHG (MCLG)** | **Typical Source****of****Contaminant** |
| Chloride (mg/L) | 8/22/2023 | 57 | 40-74 | 250 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 8/22/2023 | 750 | 600-900 | 1,600 | N/A | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| Manganese (µg/L)\* | 2023 | **76**\* | 0-**110\*** | 50 | N/A | Naturally occurring or residue from mining and industrial discharges |
| Sulfate (mg/L) | 8/22/2023 | 49 | 27-71 | 250 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L) | 8/22/2023 | 435 | 340-530 | 1,000 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| Turbidity (NTU) | 8/22/2023 | 0.14 | 0.12-0.16 | 5 | N/A | Soil runoff |
| Zinc (mg/L) | 8/22/2023 | 40 | 12-67 |  5 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |

Table 6. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **Notification Level** | **Health Effects**  |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

### 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. Rancho Santa Teresa MWC 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. [Optional: 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 for Nitrate, Arsenic, Lead, Radon, and *Cryptosporidium*:

*Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.*

State Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR): N/A

### Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Table 7. Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT or Monitoring Reporting Requirement

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Violation** | **Explanation** | **Duration** | **Actions Taken to Correct Violation** | **Health Effects Language** |
| Nitrate MCL Exceedance, failure to collect additional samples, and failure to notify the public immediately | Nitrate values in well 2 and blended water exceeded the MCL of 10 mg/L from August through November 2023. Nitrate values from Well 4 exceeded the MCL in October 2023. The first occurrence was on samples collected August 22. While the laboratory report was not available until September 21, an email was sent out by the laboratory to notify RSTMWC of the exceedance. This email and possibly a phone call were missed by RSTMWC. Based on regulations RSTMWC should have collected another sample immediately after being notified of the first exceedance on August 28th 2023 and within 2 weeks of the first occurrence and should have immediately issued a notification to affected customers | August 28th 2023 through November 2023 | In the last quarter of 2023, a weekly testing regiment of source and blended were implemented. Notifications were sent to the affected community on a monthly basis. Additional RSTMWC contacts were given to the analytical laboratory in the event of future exceedances. Long-term solutions to reduce nitrate levels, such as treatment, well modifications, etc. are being investigated. | Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant’s blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women. |
| Manganese MCL Exceedance and failure to collect 4th quarter sample | Manganese values in well 2 have exceeded the MCL of 50 ug/L in 2023. RSTMWC failed to collect a sample for 4th quarter testing as required.  | Since 2020 | In the last quarter of 2022, a quarterly testing regiment was implemented to establish a base line. Due to human error, the 4th quarter sample was not taken and the testing resumed in the 1st quarter 2024. However, quarterly notifications were sent out to consumers to alert them of the exceedance.  | Manganese occurs naturally in many surface water and groundwater sources and in soils that may erode into these waters. It may also be introduced through industrial pollution.Manganese exposures resulted in neurological effects. High levels of manganese in people have been shown to result in adverse effects to the nervous system. |
| Failure to provide bacteriological results before the 10th day of the following month | Bacteriological samples are tested on a monthly basis according to a sampling plan. The results must be submitted to authorities by the 10th day of the following month. By placing the bacteriological test on the same chain of custody form as all other monthly tests the results are not reported until all other analyses are complete and in September the bacteriological results were not reported until September 20th for the August samples collected on August 22nd | September 2023 | The samples for bacteriological and chemical analyses are now being taken earlier in the month and the bacteriological samples are ordered on a separate chain of custody form to ensure that the results are published as soon as they are available without any delays caused by other pending results | None – the sample was processed and negative for any growth. |

### For Water Systems Providing Groundwater as a Source of Drinking Water

Table 8. Sampling Results Showing Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Samples

| **Microbiological Contaminants (complete if fecal-indicator detected)** | **Total No. of Detections** | **Sample Dates** | **MCL [MRDL]** | **PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *E. coli* | 0 | quarterly | 0 | (0) | Human and animal fecal waste |
| Enterococci | N/A | N/A | TT | N/A | Human and animal fecal waste |
| Coliphage | N/A | N/A | TT | N/A | Human and animal fecal waste |