

## 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

### Water System Information

Water System Name: Irish Hills Mutual Water Co

Report Date: May 23, 2024

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name and General Location of Source(s): Well A – 225 Via Laguna Vista, Well B – 425 Via Laguna Vista, Well 4 – 625 Via Laguna Vista, Well 5 – 715 Via Laguna Vista, Well 7 – North Kilarney Court, Well 8 – South of Los Osos Valley Road.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: A source water assessment was conducted on Wells A, B, 4, 5, 7 for the Irish Hills MWC water system in December 2002. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at Environmental Health Services, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: N/A

For More Information, Contact: Kealoha Ghiglia, Compliance Manager for Nviro, 805-801-1087.

### 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 Irish Hills Mutual Water Co a 805-801-1087 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 Irish Hills Mutual Water Co 以获得中文的帮助: 805-801-1087.

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Irish Hills Mutual Water Co o tumawag sa 805-801-1087 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 Irish Hills Mutual Water Co tại 805-801-1087 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 Irish Hills Mutual Water Co ntawm 805-801-1087 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 <i>E. coli</i> 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, 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
<i>E. coli</i>	(In the year) 3	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or the 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*.

**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 Sample s Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	9/17/2022 9/18/2022 9/20/2022	5	7.3	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/17/2022 9/18/2022 9/20/2022	5	0.199	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)	11/21/2022	58	18 - 93	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	11/21/2022	383	170 - 710	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the

						water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring
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**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
Barium (mg/L)	11/21/2022	0.114	0.036 - 0.210	1	2	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	11/21/2022	0.54	0.21 - 0.98	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	12/16/2019	0.67	ND - 1.96	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	6/27/2023 7/19/2023	3	ND - 6	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (µg/L)	11/21/2022	1.07	ND - 3.4	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	7/26/2023	0.36	ND - 1.7	10 (as N)	10 (as N)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from

						septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	12/29/2006	0.46	ND - 1.51	5	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (µg/L)	11/21/2022	1.97	ND - 5.5	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)
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/L)	6/27/2023 7/19/2023	42	11 - 73	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

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)	11/21/2022	188	53 - 530	500	—	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
*Iron (µg/L)	2023 (various)	479	400 - 520	300	—	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
*Manganese (µg/L)	2023 (various)	65	52 - 73	50	—	Leaching from natural deposits
*Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	11/21/2022	1125	720 - 2100	1600	—	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	11/21/2022	23	18 - 28	500	—	Runoff/leaching from natural

						deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L)	11/21/2022	560	390 - 1000	1,000	–	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	11/21/2022	0.83	0.15 - 1.80	5	–	Soil runoff
Zinc (mg/L)	11/21/2022	0.025	ND - 0.15	5.0	–	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

### 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. Irish Hills Mutual Water Co 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>.

**State Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR):** Although *E. coli* was detected, the system was not in violation of the *E. coli* MCL. Please see below for more information.

**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
Iron – Wells A & B	Iron levels in Wells A & B exceed the Secondary MCL	Ongoing	Water from these wells is typically blended with water from other wells with no detections of iron. Monthly samples are taken from the tank (blended water) to monitor iron levels going into distribution. The running annual average of detections does not exceed the MCL. Additionally, filter repairs were completed in December of 2023. All treated water since that time has come back non-detect for iron.	There is no mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents. Secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetics. The iron MCL was set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects (e.g. color, taste, and odor) and the staining of plumbing fixtures and clothing while washing.
Manganese - Well 4	Manganese levels in Well 4 exceed the Secondary MCL. Wells A & B have detections of manganese, but levels are below the MCL.	Ongoing	Water from this well is typically blended with water from other wells with no detections of manganese. Monthly samples are taken from the tank (blended water) to monitor iron levels going into distribution. Additionally, filter repairs were completed in December of 2023. All treated water since that time has come back non-detect for manganese.	There is no mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents. Secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetics.

Specific Conductance - Well 8	Specific conductance ("conductivity") in Well 8 exceeded the Secondary MCL.	Ongoing	Water from this well is typically blended with water from other wells that have levels detected below the SMCL for specific conductance, and the annual average for all wells is below the SMCL limit.	There is no mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents. Secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetics.
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### 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
<i>E. coli</i>	3	1/18/2023 1/20/2023	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste

### Summary Information for Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Samples, Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies, or Violation of a Groundwater TT

#### **Special Notice of Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Sample:**

As previously notified on January 2023, *E. coli* was detected in the source water for samples taken on 1/18/2023 at Well 8 and on 1/20/2023 at Wells 5 and 7. *E. coli* was not detected during this same sampling event in the treated water. *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. The contamination was addressed as prescribed by the requirements of the GWR on January 19, 2023; specifically the wells were temporarily taken out of service. Each Well was treated and re-tested and confirmed to be non-detect of *E. coli* on 2/1/2023.