2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: **Cuesta La Honda Guild 4110012** Report Date: 9/30/2020

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, 2019 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Cuesta La Honda Guild a 120 Scenic Drive, La Honda, CA 94020 para asistirlo en español.

Type of water source(s) in use: Source water: Creek(s), Spring(s), Reservoir(s), Well

Name & general location of source(s): Upper Woodhams Creek, Lower Woodhams Creek, Mindego Creek, and Bobcat Well; San Mateo County, La Honda, California

Drinking Water Source Assessment information:

- A "Sanitary Survey" assessment of drinking water infrastructure and source(s) for Water System # 4110012, Cuesta La Honda Guild was completed on February 11th, 2019 by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). No outstanding levels of any constituents were discovered that warranted testing requirements to be amended during the survey. Next survey is 2022.
- Lower Woodhams, Upper Woodhams and Mindego Creek comprise Cuesta of its Surface Water Supply which renders it vulnerable to contaminants such as but not limited to: agricultural practices, recreational activities and storm water runoff. In accordance with this, the DDW requires the completion of a 24-month source water monitoring period for Cryptosporidium (Crypto) under the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). This increased monthly source monitoring will continue into 2021 until the 24-month tern has been completed upon which the results will determine the need for any future upgrades to treatment process if necessary.
- Additional monitoring for bacteriological E-coli will continuing indefinitely and monthly for all the source waterways to ensure safety and that regulatory standards are met. Keeping pets and wildlife out of our watershed waterways will assist in reducing potential bacteriological contamination. Please be mindful and respectful of Cuesta La Honda Guilds water system.
- Upper Woodhams Creek raw water is tested quarterly for Aluminum and Iron because the constituents detected were above their respective Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCL). Treated water (post filtration) samples tested below SMCL's for Aluminum and Iron.
- 2019 CCR values have met and continued to meet regulatory compliance for Disinfection By-Products (DBP) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) basis dating back to October 2014. The Guild no longer operates under a violation and the former citation (No. 02-17-12C-005) has been lifted. Sampling frequency for DBP's has been restored to a quarterly basis from prior monthly basis in accordance with diligent reservoir management, optimized treatment protocols, improved distribution system maintenance, and the Post Treatment Aeration (PTA) system put in service in 2009. These operational changes have aided in the production of high-quality drinking water being delivered to all consumers supplied by Cuesta.
- The raw water storage reservoirs accumulate organic debris over time and these debris have been identified as a contributing factor to Total Organic Carbon (TOC) which makes nutrients available for algal growth. When algal conditions persist, they act as a precursor and reactions occur with the disinfectant Chlorine creating DBP's which have been observed at times with high HAA5 water quality test results. Thus, keeping reservoirs clean with low TOC levels correlates to low DBP values. Bobcat reservoir and Lower Reservoir were both cleaned in 2019. Granny Flats Reservoir water was utilized since being re-contoured and lined and will be refilled and placed back into operation when seasonal allocations permit.
- Source Water assessments are available at Real Manage Office upon request; (www.realmanage.com. Go to resident portal>contact us> service request, or call 866 473-2573).

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Cuesta La Honda Guild Clubhouse.

For more information, contact: Chief Water Operator (CWO) Garrett Morris
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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.

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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 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.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

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).

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.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	**Highest No. of Detections**	**No. of Months in Violation**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Typical Source of Bacteria**
Total Coliform Bacteria (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In a month) 0	0	1 positive monthly sample[(a)]	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or *E. coli* (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or *E. coli* positive	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste
E. coli (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	(b)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Two or more positive monthly samples is a violation of the MCL
(b) 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*.

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	**Sample Date**	**No. of Samples Collected**	**90th Percentile Level Detected**	**No. Sites Exceeding AL**	**AL**	**PHG**	**No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb) (Monitoring required every three years. 2020 results avail 2021. Every nine years if reduced monitoring)	10/6/17	11	N/D	0	15	0.2	1	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) (Monitoring required every three years. 2020 results avail 2021. Every nine years if reduced monitoring)	10/6/17	11	0.12	0	1.3	0.3	1	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)	10/15/19	28.6	25 - 30	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	10/15/19	373.66	326 - 446	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**
Fluoride (ppm) (*NOTE* Cuesta Does NOT add Fluoride. This is Source Water results only)	10/15/19	0.36	0.34 – 0.38	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Aluminum (ppm) (Post Filtration)	10/15/19	N/D	N/D	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb) (Source Water)	10/15/19	3.4	3.1 – 3.8	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Gross Alpha Particle Activity – (Source Water) (pCi/L)	10/15/19	2.06	1.02 -2.72	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226 & 228 – (Source Water) (pCi/L)	10/15/19	0.28	0.26 – 0.30	5	(0)[3]	Erosion of natural deposits.
Strontium-90 – (Source Water) (pCi/L)	10/15/19	0.18	.02 – 0.32	8	0.35	Decay of natural and man-made deposit

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**
Potassium (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	2.6	2.4 – 3.0	N/A	N/A	Potassium in nature occurs only in ionic salts
Iron – (ppb) (Post Filtration FTP)	Quarterly	N/D	N/D	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits. Industrial wastes.
Iron – (ppb) (Source Water Only)	Quarterly UW Creek	305	170 - 630	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits. Industrial wastes.
Aluminum (ppb) (Post Filtration)	Quarterly	N/D	N/D	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Aluminum (ppb) (Source Water Only)	Quarterly UW Creek	340	N/D – 530	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Manganese – FTP Effluent (ppm) (Post Filtration)	Quarterly	N/D	N/D	0.5	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits.
Total Dissolved Solids - TDS (ppm) (Post Filtration)	10/15/19	543	470 - 630	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Specific Conductance (umhos/cm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	797	740 - 890	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.
pH (Source Water)	10/15/19	8.21	8.14 – 8.25	N/A	N/A	pH is a measure of how acidic/basic water is. pH range is 0-14, with 7 being neutral. pH < 7 indicate acidity, pH > 7 indicates a base.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	280	240 - 320	N/A	N/A	Alkalinity refers to the capability of water to neutralize acid
Calcium (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	82	66 - 94	N/A	N/A	Calcium (& Magnesium) define "Hard Water." Hard water is high in dissolved calcium minerals. When hard water is heated (home water heater) solid deposits of Calcium Carbonate can form.

Magnesium (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	41	33 – 52	N/A	N/A	Magnesium (& Calcium) define "Hard Water." Hard water is high in dissolved magnesium minerals. When hard water is heated (home water heater) solid deposits of Magnesium can form.
Sulfate as SO4 (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	140	89 - 180	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Bicarbonate (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	280	110 - 380	N/A	N/A	Bicarbonate is the dominant form of dissolved inorganic carbon in most fresh waters (and sea water).
Chloride (ppm) (Source Water)	10/15/19	16	13 - 19	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Tank A	Quarterly	38.6 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	36.9, 35.8, 29.5, 38.6 ppb	60 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) SMCO Hydrant	Quarterly	40.7 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	38.5, 37.6, 30.4, 40.7 ppb	60 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) 211 Redwood Dr.	Quarterly	45.0 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	39.1, 41.4, 35.1, 45.0 ppb	60 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Tank A	Quarterly	39.0 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	33.1, 31.9, 32.4, 39.0 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) SMCO Hydrant	Quarterly	37.3 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	36.3, 34.3, 32.3, 37.3 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) 211 Redwood Dr.	Quarterly	40.2 ppb (LRAA end of 2019)	32.9, 33.7, 36.9, 40.2 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

For Systems Providing Surface Water as a Source of Drinking Water

TABLE 8 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES	
Treatment Technique [(a)] (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Micro Filtration (0.1 Micron Membrane)
Turbidity Performance Standards [(b)] (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.10 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed 0.10 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed 0.10 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.03
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	None

(a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

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).

Arsenic-Specific Language: 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 cost 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.

Fluoride-specific Language: The first and most basic thing to know about fluoride is that not all fluoride is created equal. Fluoride is a double-edged sword. There are naturally occurring and synthetic types that you will come across while researching water. The natural version of fluoride is called calcium fluoride and is usually found in soil. With any sort of spring or natural source of water there will always be trace amounts of calcium fluoride. Of course, like anything else consumed in extreme excess, this type of fluoride does have the potential to cause health problems. Consumption of water with elevated levels of calcium fluoride have been shown to be related to skeletal fluorosis, or a calcification of the joints that can cause discomfort and deformity.

The other most common type of fluoride is sodium fluoride. This is a synthetic, industrial version and has been shown to be far more harmful. While there is common misconception that small amounts of fluoride are beneficial there is still much speculation surrounding the topic and its negative counterparts. Research has pointed out that the sodium fluoride that is found in consumer products, pesticides, and drinking water contains cancer-causing properties. In its purest form, sodium fluoride is actually capable of eating through concrete. Although sodium fluoride was the first compound to be used within our country's tap water system staring in 1945, (coincidently timing with post war situational stipulations), since that time Fluoride had fallen under many guises and often goes by a different compound name called fluorosilicic acid.

Of worthy interest to note is that according to Flouridealert.org, on the international front 97% of Western Europe is using non-fluoridated water. Tooth decay has declined in the past 50 years in Western Europe just as it has in the United States for those not adopting fluoridation. Additionally, the European Union has banned the use of fluoridation in tap water and the incidence of disease has decreased. Once fluoride is put in the water, it is impossible to control the dose each individual receives. This is because some people, for example, manual laborers, athletes, diabetics, and peoples with kidney disease, drink more water than others. In addition, the average person receives fluoride from sources other than the water supply such as fluoridated oral hygiene products, food, beverages (sodas) processed with fluoridated water, mechanically deboned meat, teas, etc. Even for the usage of preventive topical and systemic fluoride, the benefits and the risks must be thoroughly weighed. Adopting the precautionary principle categorizes fluoridation of a community drinking water supply as an unreasonable risk. Therefore, given that there is really no way of knowing any of the potential consequences or lack thereof until it's too late, Cuesta does not fluoridate its water due to the stated potential causes of serious health problems related to elevated levels. With just trace levels occurring in our source waters we invite you to take a look at the safe and acceptable levels of our water analysis compared to the maximum contaminant levels of other varying sources and bottled water companies.

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. Cuesta La Honda Guild 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.

Our goal here at Cuesta is to avoid the unnecessary addition of chemicals with unknown side effects by moreover directing a focus on aiming to remove them.