



TGW 2021 Newsletter

& 2020 Consumer Confidence Report

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co. 90 Victoria Lane Aptos, CA 95003 Ph:831-662-3204 www.troutgulchwater.org



TGW has been working through the Covid 19 Pandemic and has kept your water safe and flowing!! During this time, we had converted our Independent Contractors to TGW employees in order to be compliant with the new California AB5 law. We kept most of the employee hours flexible where possible and implemented a Covid Prevention Program, so we were all able to stay safe during this time.

TGW Board is partnering with Gavilan College seeking an intern for TGW. Gavilan College has a Water System Operator program for individuals who are interested in a water operations career. We will be utilizing the company Manpower for the temporary hiring of the intern and hope to have an intern over the summer.



This year, TGW has focused on Operations and Maintenance. In 2021 TGW Operations has achieved the following:

- ◆ *Resealed bottom of Norman Tank to prevent corrosion.*
- ◆ *Purchased Tank Climbing Safety Harnesses.*
- ◆ *Repainted the Upper Creek Crossings to prevent corrosion*
- ◆ *Replaced 6 manual meters and 1 defective meter.*
- ◆ *Upgraded the Meter Reading Equipment & Software*
- ◆ *Installation of new Sonic Level indicator for 60 Gallon Cl tank to monitor the level of the Chlorine solution.*
 - *Implemented a Chlorine solution storage & dechlorination drainage system in order for the Cl analyzer discharge water can be stored and dechlorinated effectively.*
 - *Implemented a New Cl solution process to ensure better mixing and safety.*

FY2021/2022 OUTLOOK

TGW system upgrades has been a smart investment for the next 40 years to keep us in good physical shape. TGW has 5 miles of pipeline that outweigh the number of members by 3x more pipeline per household which affects the economy of scale. TGW board directors and staff are diligent at keeping costs down though we have the same requirements as larger systems. PGE has changed their Peak Use time to 4pm-9pm therefore we are not pumping during those hours and ask members to avoid any unnecessary water use during that time. TGW is monitoring the drought as it unfolds since the past winter has been a dry one which may have an impact on the tier rate structure in the future.

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KEEPING YOUR LEAKS IN CHECK DURING THE DROUGHT

We have had a dry winter this year and it's up to all of us to do our part to save water. Here are a few ways to keep your leaks in check:

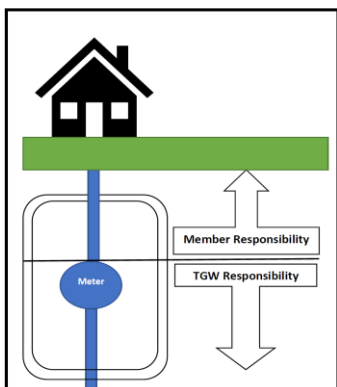
- ☐ *Have your irrigation and fire suppression checked for leaks. TGW is noticing that homes with irrigation older than 25 years are starting to leak. You may want to consider having a professional check to see if your irrigation and/or fire suppression lines are in need of replacement.*
- ☐ *Check your hose and hose connection to make sure they are turned off.*

How to check with your water meter for leaks:

- ☐ *Turn off all the water in your house and yard, then check the meter to see if it is spinning. You can use a large screwdriver to lift the lid. Watch out for spiders. Also, gophers may have dug up dirt around the meter which may need to be cleared off the meter top.*
- ☐ *If the meter has a dial spinning, then you have a leak. Follow your water line and look for wet soil or patches of green grass or weeds. Plants may grow faster if there is a leak in the area.*
- ☐ *Check your landscape irrigation system for leaks when the irrigation is on. These tend to be intermittent leaks therefore the irrigation system needs to be on.*
- ☐ *Reread the meter gauge to determine if any water has been used. If a leak is detected, likely culprits are toilets and irrigation systems.*

How to check your toilets for leaking:

- ☐ *Check your toilets to see if they are running. Jiggle the handle to see if that makes it stop. Check the inside of the tank to see if the float and flap are working properly.*
- ☐ *To see if your toilet tank is leaking into the bowl while it is not flushing, use approx. 25 drops of food coloring or dye tablets placed in the toilet tank. In about 15 minutes, check the toilet bowl to see if the dye shows up. In this case, most likely the toilet needs to be fixed or replaced.*



Reminder; member responsibility is after the meter.

For tips on Conversation go to our website at: www.troutgulchwater.org

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company (TGW) is a non-profit, member-owned and operated mutual benefit corporation in business solely to provide its members with water-related services including safe drinking water, irrigation, fire protection and more. The Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of each month at the local fire station on Soquel Drive near Mar Vista Elementary School. All members are welcome (and encouraged) to come. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. A Typical meeting will last 2 hours. Members are welcome to join. Please seek more information & Covid 19 updates, go to the company website at: www.troutgulchwater.org

TROUT GULCH MUTUAL WATER CO. 2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

TGW Water Source information

TGW service area largely sits above the Purisima Aquifer where TGW pulls water from 3 active groundwater wells and 1 standby well. The 3 active groundwater wells are located in the Meadow Ranch area. All 3 wells feed through a single pipe called the EPTDS "Entry Point Distribution System" where a water sample port has been installed.

TGW is regulated by the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health and Safety (SCEHS) under the Drinking Water Regulatory Program. In 2018 the County of Santa Cruz EHS performed a site survey at TGW. A copy can be made available by contacting Patricia at tgw.staff@gmail.com.

A Consumer Confidence Reports is an annual water quality report or a drinking water quality report, provides information on your local drinking water quality.

Terms Used in this Report

In the following tables, you will find detailed information about the water that comes from your tap. Your water is regularly tested for many chemicals and other substances, as well as radio-activity. Generally, only substances that are detected in the water are listed in the tables. The below information is being provided to help you understand the terms used in this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

DEFINITIONS

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 or 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. 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.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at MCL levels. **Regulatory Action Level (AL)** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

ACRONYMS

AL - Regulatory Action Level

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

mg/L - Milligrams per Liter or Parts per Million (ppm)

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

NA - Not Applicable

ND - Not Detectable at testing limit

ng/L - Nanograms per Liter or Parts per Trillion

NL - Notification Level

pCi/L - Picocuries per Liter

PHG - Public Health Goal

RAA - Running Annual Average

µg/L - Micrograms per Liter or Parts per Billion (ppb)

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

The general 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. It can also 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.

2020 Microbiological Contaminants

TGW samples for Fecal coliform/*E.coli* & Coliform monthly at 2 sample sites

Microbiological Contaminants (State Total Coliform Rule)	Number Collected in 2020	Highest Number of Detection in a month	Number of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	0	Footnote 1	0	Naturally present in the environment

1 One positive monthly sample

Fecal Coliform or <i>E.coli</i>	0	0	0	Footnote 2	0	Human and animal fecal waste
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2 A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or *E. coli*. positive.

Residential Tap Monitoring for Lead and Copper (Samples Taken in August 2020)

Contaminants	No. Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	5	0.195	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	5	ND	0	ND	ND	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Additional information for Lead

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. Trout Gulch Mutual Water 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 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

2020 Sodium and Hardness Sampling Results

Well Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Contaminants (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	3/27/20	26	NA	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	3/27/20	210	NA	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

2020 Radioactive Contaminants

Wells Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Contaminants (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL TT, as noted	PHG, (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	3/27/20 & 8/17/20	1.12	0.33-1.91	15	(0)	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Disinfection Byproducts (Tested at lowest point of system)

Contaminants (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL or (MRDL)	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (µg/L)	8/20/20	ND (Highest)	NA	80	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (µg/L)	8/20/20	2.2 (Highest)	NA	60	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Disinfection Residual (Tested Monthly)

Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	2020	0.19 (Highest RAA)	0.03-0.48	(4.0) as Cl ₂	[4] as Cl ₂	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
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Disinfection Information

TGW primary water source is from ground water wells. The water from the wells is disinfected as it enters the distribution system. TGW uses an NSF approved chlorine, Multi-Chlor, a 12.5% solution of Sodium Hypochlorite disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Chlorine levels are monitored closely to ensure they are within safe limits provided by the Safe Drinking Water Standards. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

2020 Inorganic Contaminants Wells Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Fluoride (mg/L)	3/27/20	0.12	NA	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate+Nitrite as N (mg/L)	3/27/20	0.28	NA	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

All other Inorganic Contaminants tested on 3/27/2020 at the EPTDS port were reported as ND for Non-Detect

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Wells Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

including Pesticides and Herbicides

All Synthetic Organic Contaminants tested on 4/21/2020 at the EPTDS port were reported as ND for Non-Detect. A susceptibility waiver based on California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 64445(d)(2): has been granted by County of Santa Cruz EHS for no monitoring required from 2020-2022.

1,2,3 - Trichloropropane [TCP] (ng/L)	Wells 1,2,3: 3/6/18 Well 4: 6/18/18	ND	NA	5	0.7	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as a cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent; byproduct during the production of other compounds and pesticides.
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A 1,2,3 Trichloropropane susceptibility waiver for no monitoring for the above listed contaminant is required from 2020-2022 based on California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 64445(d)(2).

Volatile Organic Contaminants Wells-Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

All Volatile Organic Contaminants tested on 4/21/2020 at the EPTDS port were reported as ND for Non-Detect

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS DRINKING WATER STANDARDS**Wells-Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)**

Contaminants (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron (µg/L)	3/27/20	92	NA	300	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (µg/L) EPTDS	3/27/20	120	NA	*50	Leaching from natural deposits. See Variance & Exceptions below.
Manganese (µg/L) Wells & MR Tank	2020 Qtrly	57.2 (Avg)	0-160	*50	Leaching from natural deposits. See Variance & Exceptions below.

***Manganese Variance and Exemptions**

TGW is operating under a 9-year waiver issued on March 28, 2013, by the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Service. The Manganese (Mn) Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) is set at 50 parts per billion (ppb or µg/L). With the approval of the TGW membership water distributed may be as high as 150 ppb. TGW samples all source wells and the primary supply tank quarterly. For the latest Manganese levels, go to www.troutgulchwater.org

Turbidity (units)	3/27/20	0.95	NA	5	Soil runoff; flushing of water mains
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L)	3/27/20	310	NA	1,000	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH Units)	3/27/20	7.6	NA	6.5-8.5 (U.S. EPA)	Measure of the acidity or alkalinity
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	3/27/20	520	NA	1,600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/L)	3/27/20	42	NA	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	3/27/20	43	NA	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS Wells-Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Bicarbonate as HCO ₃ (mg/L)	3/27/20	220	NA	--	
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	3/27/20	180	NA	--	
Magnesium (mg/L)	3/27/20	36	NA	--	
Potassium (mg/L)	3/27/20	2.1	NA	--	



For more information about the CCR Report, please contact:



Contact Name: Patricia Newby
Address: 90 Victoria Lane Aptos, CA 95003
Phone: 831 854-3177
E-Mail: tgw.staff@gmail.com

Visit our website at: www.troutgulchwater.org