TGW 2025 Newsletter & 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co. 90 Victoria Lane Aptos, CA 95003. Ph:831-662-3204 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 Wednesday of each month. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. A Typical meeting will last 2 hours. See the TGW website for location or Zoom information at: www.troutgulchwater.org All members are welcome and encouraged to come!!

Board Director Election Results

- ✓ Frank Busalacchi
- ✓ Gordon Cummings
- ✓ Mike Van Lienden

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

The California State Water Resources Control Board requires TGW to have a Cross Connection Control Program. The TGW program consists of a Plan, Policy and Procedures that ensures protection from contamination of the water supplied by TGW.

- *Members are responsible to ensure they have the proper Backflow Prevention device at their residence.*
- *Members with testable backflow Prevention devices need to ensure the device is tested annually and reported to TGW.*

FY2024/25 TGW Operations and Maintenance highlights:

- *Meadow Ranch yard: Cleaned the Chlorine solution tank and replaced piping for the Chlorine Injection system.*
- *Norman Tank: Drained, cleaned and tested the Interior tank floor structure. Cut and removed underground tree roots and repaired the severely cracked asphalt*
- *Skyward Tank: Drained and cleaned interior of the tank. Repaired a small leak at the top of the tank & small spot weld on flooring.*
- *Skyward Booster Pump station: Improved the functioning of the energy-saving time clock. Adjusted the Bypass valve allowing more efficient filling of the Norman tank from the Skyward tank*
- *Distribution: Flushed 29 fire hydrants and exercised 27 street valves*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Did you know TGW has 5 miles of pipeline !!

That is 26,400 feet which equals to 89.2 feet per member!!
Remember to call 811 before you dig!

Water Rate Increases

In accordance with the fiduciary responsibility stated in the TGW bylaws (section 11.03), the TGW board of directors have reviewed the Water Rates and determined another increase of the Service Charge and Water Usage is required. TGW & Soquel Creek Water District have entered a new 5-year agreement where SCWD requires TGW members to pay $1 per month for the Intertie ($2 per billing).

TGW has set up a credit card payment option at www.troutgulchwater.org

FY2025-26 WATER RATES effective July 1, 2025

RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES

METER SIZE	SERVICE CHARGE	2024-2025	2025-2026	Increase
5/8" - 1"		$202.00	$211.00	$9.00
2"		$212.00	$221.00	$9.00

INCLUDES $2 SCWD INTERTIE SERVICE FEE

Service Charges are prorated for 2 months (July-Aug) increase starting in the July Bill.

TIER WATER USAGE RATES

TIER	UNITS	UNITS PER TIER	2024-2025	2025-2026	Increase
1	0-10	10	$7.50	$8.50	$1.00
2	10.1 - 22	12	$9.00	$10.50	$1.50
3	22.1 - 34	12	$12.75	$14.50	$1.75
4	34+		$17.00	$19.00	$2.00

July-Aug Water Usage increase will be reflected in Sept. bill.

LANDSCAPE WATER RATES

METER SIZE	SERVICE CHARGE	2024-2025	2025-2026	Increase
5/8" - 1"		$15.50	$16.00	$0.50
2"		$212.00	$221.00	$9.00

Service Charges are prorated for 2 months (July-Aug) increase starting in the July Bill.

TIER WATER USAGE RATES

TIER	UNITS	TOTAL UNITS	2024-2025	2025-2026	Increase
1	0 - 100	100	$7.50	$8.50	$1.00
2	100.1 – 210	110	$9.00	$10.50	$1.50
3	210.1 – 320	110	$12.75	$14.50	$1.75
4	320.1+		$17.00	$19.00	$2.00

July-Aug. Water Usage increase will be reflected in Sept. bill.

SKYWARD PUMPING FEES

CHARGES PER 1 UNIT	2023-2024 RATES	2024-2025 RATES	Increase
EXAMPLE: 4 UNITS = $4.00 APPLIED	$1.00	$1.00	$0

TROUT GULCH MUTUAL WATER CO. 2024 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

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 Meadow Ranch 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. TGW test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring period of January 1 to December 31, 2024 and may include earlier data.

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 radioactivity. 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
Ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
Ppt – parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
Ppq – parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L
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.

2024 Microbiological Contaminants

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

Microbiological Contaminants (State Total Coliform Rule	Number Samples Collected in 2024	Highest Number of Detection in a month	Number of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	24	0	0	Footnote 1	0	Naturally present in the environment

1 One positive monthly sample

Fecal Coliform or *E.coli*	24	0	0	Footnote 2	0	Human and animal fecal waste

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 (Sample Period 2023)

10 Samples are now required, 5 samples taken in 2022 for above sample period.

Contaminants	No. Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	10	0.31	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	10	0	0	15	0.2	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.

Sodium and Hardness Sampling Results

Wells 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)	3/7/23	27	NA	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	3/7/23	190	NA	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Radioactive Contaminants

Wells Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Contaminants (Reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG, (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	3/27 & 8/17/20	0.333	0.333±0.844	15	(0)	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	4/20/22	0	NA	5	PHG 0.019	Erosion of natural deposits Public Health Goal, No MCL.

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)	8/26/24	10 (Highest)	0-10	80	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (µg/L)	8/26/24	2.1 (Highest)	0-2.1	60	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Disinfection Residual (Tested Monthly)

Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	2024	0.21 (Highest RAA)	0.14-0.32	(4.0) as Cl2	[4] as Cl2	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

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.

Inorganic Contaminants Wells Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Chromium ug/L	3/7/23	1.6	NA	50	NA	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	3/7/23	0.10	NA	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate NO3	9/18/24	ND	NA	10	NA	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate+Nitrite as N (mg/L)	3/7/23	0.80	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.

1,2,3 - Trichloropropane [TCP] (ng/L)	Wells 1,2,3,4 3/6-3/18/18	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.

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
Manganese (µg/L) EPTDS	2024 Qtrly	56 (Avg)	36-69	*50	Leaching from natural deposits. See Variance & Exceptions below.
***Manganese Variance and Exemptions** TGW is operating under a 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 ug/L). With the approval of the TGW membership water distributed may be as high as 150 ppb or ug/L. TGW samples all source wells and the primary supply tank quarterly. For the latest Manganese levels, go to www.troutgulchwater.org					
Turbidity (units)	3/7/23	0.50	NA	5	Soil runoff; flushing of water mains
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L)	3/7/23	340	NA	1,000	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH Units)	3/7/23	7.4	NA	6.5-8.5 (U.S. EPA)	Measure of the acidity or alkalinity
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	3/7/23	540	NA	1,600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/L)	3/7/23	45	NA	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	3/7/23	39	NA	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS Wells-Entry Point Distribution System (EPTDS)

Color (units	3/7/23	3.0	NA	15	
Bicarbonate as HCO3 (mg/L)	3/7/23	180	NA	--	
Total Alkalinity as CaCO3 (mg/L)	3/7/23	150	NA	--	
Calcium	3/7/23	23	NA	--	
Magnesium (mg/L)	3/7/23	32	NA	--	
Potassium (mg/L)	3/7/23	1.7	NA	--	

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).

For more information about the CCR Report, please contact:

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