2022 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: **Fircrest Mutual Water Company** Report Date: 6/24/23

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, 2022 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Fircrest Mutual Water Company a PO Box 426, Sebastopol, CA 95472 para asistirlo en español.

Type of water source(s) in use: 2 Ground Water Wells

Name & general location of source(s): Company operates two wells: Upper Well located on St. Helena Ave and Lower Well on Fircrest Ave, Sebastopol, CA

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Completed and available on request

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Yearly Shareholders Meeting held in available public meeting room(s) in Sebastopol, CA

For more information, contact: Tyler Judson, Weeks Water Treatment Phone: (707) 823-3184

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).

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.

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.

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)

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.

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	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	0	Human and animal fecal waste
E. coli (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) 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)	08/29/21	5	ND	0	15	0.2	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8/29/21	5	0.43	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	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)	5/20/20	20	17-23	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	5/20/20	105	101-109	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)	2022	3.7	0.65-6.4	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion from natural deposits.
Aluminum(mg/L)	5/20/20	0.033	0-0.066	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Cadmium(ug/L)	5/20/20	2.2	0-4.3	5	0.04	Internal corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating and industrial chemical factories, and metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ug/L)	5/20/20	23	0-45	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mill and chrome plating, erosion from natural deposits.
Chlorine (mg/L)	2022	0.40	0.20-1.20	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl_2)]	[MRDLG = 4 (as Cl_2)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCI/L)	04/24/22	0.65	0-1.29	50	(0)	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

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
Aluminum (µg/L)	5/20/20	33	0-66	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
***Iron (µg/L)**	5/20/20	4000	0-8000	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	5/20/20	195	180-210	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
***Manganese (µg/L)**	5/20/20	550	0-1100	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (Micromhos)	5/20/20	330	320-340	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions in water, seawater influence.
Sulfate (ug/L)	5/20/20	8.6	7.1-10	500	N/A	Runoff/leachates from natural deposits. Industrial waste.
Chloride (mg/L)	5/20/20	18	16-20	500	N/A	Runoff/leachates from natural deposits, seawater influence.
***Color (units)**	5/20/20	30	0-60	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper (mg/L)	5/20/20	0.24	0-0.470	1.0	N/A	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
***Turbidity (Units)**	5/20/20	18	0-36	5	N/A	Soil Runoff

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	PHG	Health Effects Language
*Hexavalent Chromium (ppb) Distribution Water	2017	6.7	6.5-7.6	0.02	Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of 10 ppb over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

*There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb by State of California was withdrawn on September 11, 2017. There is no federal standard at this time. (Canada adopted a Standard of 50 ppb in 2018.) During 2017 testing our Upper Well was found to have hexavalent chromium levels above the previous state MCL (13-18ppb.) Our water company continues to rely on the Lower Well as our primary production well and uses Upper Well water only during peak demand periods. During 2017 testing, Lower Well and water entering the distribution system met or exceeds the former California MCL. For additional information regarding hexavalent chromium, you may go to the State Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water /certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.shtml.

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).

WATER USAGE (DROUGHT): We are currently in a drought condition. The State Water Board has issued statewide proscriptions against wasteful water practices such as washing down driveways but we can do much more to conserve our limited water resources. There are some great websites that offer other tips such as www.saveourwater.com. Please continue to do your share to help conserve and protect our Sonoma County water resources.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REMINDER: We know from available public reports that areas to the south and east of our wells have shown Nitrate levels that would be of concern. Inadequate or failing septic systems are a major contributor to the problem. While our wells meet all State standards, we continue to monitor our wells quarterly and ask that individual property owners do their part to ensure their septic systems are in good working order. Experts recommend that at a minimum septic tanks should be visually examined yearly; and pumped and thoroughly inspected once every 3-5 years. Drainage fields should be inspected yearly and you should protect your drain line(S) from damage from heavy equipment, large trees, or excavations which can disrupt the system. New requirements and standards are out for public comment at the State Water Board. Please do your part to protect our water.

METERS AND HOME PLUMBING: As a reminder, every property owner is required to have and maintain a functioning, accessible water meter for their property. In addition, water distribution lines extending from the meter to irrigate the property and connect to home plumbing are the sole responsibility of the homeowner. Many of the homes on our system were built in the 1940's through 1960's. This means some of the piping may be 60-70 years old. An occasional check of your water meter when you are sure all the water is off to make sure you have no water leaks in piping and watching for a drop in pressure at some locations on your property may be signs that you have excessive scale buildup, corrosion, or broken pipes needing replacement.

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. Fircrest Mutual Water Company 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.

Fircrest Mutual Water System is operated under contract with Weeks Water Treatment of Sebastopol.
To inquire about the system or to report a problem, please call (707) 823-3184.
In 2020 Well 01 exceeded the MCL for Secondary Standards for Iron, Manganese, Color and Turbidity.
Secondary standards are set for aesthetic reasons, to protect the taste, odor and appearance of drinking water.

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

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT				
Violation	**Explanation**	**Duration**	**Actions Taken to Correct the Violation**	**Health Effects Language**
None				

For Water Systems Providing Ground Water as a Source of Drinking Water

TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER 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	(In the year) 0		0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste
Enterococci	(In the year) 0		TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliphage	(In the year) 0		TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste

Summary Information for Fecal Indicator-Positive Ground Water Source Samples, Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies, or Ground Water TT

SPECIAL NOTICE OF FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLE				
NONE				
SPECIAL NOTICE FOR UNCORRECTED SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES				
NONE				
VIOLATION OF GROUND WATER TT				
TT Violation	**Explanation**	**Duration**	**Actions Taken to Correct the Violation**	**Health Effects Language**
NONE				