

Our Mission Statement

Deliver professional, environmentally sound, economic, and compliant services that meet District customer needs for drinking water, wastewater management, fire protection and rescue, parks and recreation, and community facilities.

Making Great Water Better



We are here to help you. For more information, please contact us.

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2008 Water Quality Report



Photo by Robert Clark, SFPUC Engineer

The Source of Your Water

GCS D obtains all of its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy Reservoir supply by pumping from a deep conveyance tunnel southeast of town, known as the Mountain Tunnel. The water originates in Yosemite National Park as snow melt from a large pristine watershed in the High

Sierra. With controlled human contact and granite-type geology, the mineral content of this water is lower than most bottled water, and the bacterial counts approach zero. Because of the high quality of our source water, the District obtained a Filtration Avoidance permit (no filtration process required) on April 22, 1998, and during 2007 began using disinfection-by-chloramination to kill any pathogens that may be present in its surface water supply.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

The District treats its raw water at two locations, the Big Creek and Second Garrote plants. Each of these plants was upgraded in 2007 to replace chlorination disinfection with chloramines and ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection. This change in process has resulted in the decrease of disinfection byproducts to well below the regulatory maximum limit during 2008. The District received approval from the California Department of Public Health in April of 2008 to begin using its UV disinfection units at its water plants. This allows the District to meet current and future regulatory requirements for the inactivation of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* organisms that may be present in our water supply.

Conserve Water

California is in its third year of drought conditions. Fortunately the Groveland area rainfall was near normal. However, because the District receives its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy system, SFPUC is asking its water users for a voluntary 10 percent water conservation. You can do your part by checking for leaks, upgrading your toilet (if your home was built before 1992 and your toilet has never been replaced, you most likely do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet), running water only when using it (not while brushing teeth or shaving), taking shorter showers, and by using a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk (this could save 80 gallons every time you clean your driveway). Please do your part and conserve water wherever possible.

You're Invited

You are invited to attend GCS D's bi-weekly Board of Directors meetings. These meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month. GCS D's board meetings are an excellent way to learn about water and wastewater issues that directly affect you and everyone in the Groveland, Big Oak Flat, and Pine Mountain Lake areas. Your participation is appreciated.

2008 WATER QUALITY DATA
Groveland Community Services District, Groveland, California

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Substance or Parameter	Unit	MCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
CLARITY						
Turbidity – Raw Source Water	NTU	5	NS	0.12 – 6.0	0.35	Primarily related to soil runoff (erosion) which is made up of suspended mater that interferes with light
Turbidity – Finished Water	NTU	5	NS	0.05 – 1.15	0.39	Primarily related to soil runoff (erosion) which is made up of suspended mater that interferes with light
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform – Raw Water	#	(a)	0	<2 – 26‡	3.6	Naturally present in the environment from decomposition of organic matter; may be an indication of fecal waste
Fecal Coliform – Raw Water	#	(b)	0	<2 - 2‡	<2	Related to human and animal fecal waste
ORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80	NS	15.6 – 26.7*	19.4	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection using chlorine, upgrades to the treatment process have reduced TTHMs to below MCL's
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	ppb	60	NS	14.0 – 65.0*	37.5	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection using chlorine, upgrades to the treatment process have reduced HAAs to below MCL's
INORGANIC CHEMICAL						
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.17	0.0 – 0.057	0.0335‡	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural rock/soil deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	15	2	0.0 – 15	4.8	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural rock/soil deposits, discharges from industrial manufacturers

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Substance or Parameter	Unit	SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Color	unit	15	NS	No Range	9	From naturally occurring organic materials such as leaves, needles, and wood
Odor	unit	3	NS	No Range	<1	From naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	NS	NS	37 – 143	90	From naturally occurring dissolved solids that form ions in water; an indication of the dissolved mineral content of water
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L	1,000	NS	12	12	From runoff and leaching from natural deposits (soil and rocks)
Sulfate	mg/L	205	NS	0.5 – 7.9	4.3	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

OTHER

Substance or Parameter	Unit	MCL/SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L	NS	NS	3 – 20.5	5.6	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L	NS	NS	ND – 3.0	1.5	From naturally occurring dissolved substances (Ca ²⁺ , Mg ²⁺ , Sr ²⁺ , Fe ²⁺ , Mn ²⁺) that come in contact with water
Sodium	mg/L	NS	NS	4.1 – 5.0	4.5	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Calcium	mg/L	NS	NS	<1 – 1.2	0.60	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Potassium	mg/L	NS	NS	0.3 – 3.9	2.5	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
pH	unit	NS	NS	5.7 – 7.2	6.5	Affected by alkaline sources, atmospheric CO ₂ , organic matter, and acidity from mineral sources – distilled water has 7.0 pH
Bicarbonate	mg/L	NS	NS	17 – 42.7	29.8	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Aluminum	mg/L	NS	NS	ND – 35	11.6	From the erosion of natural deposits, residue from some surface water treatment systems

The tables above list all of the drinking water substances and parameters that were detected in 2008.

Terms and Abbreviations Used Above:

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

NS = No Standard

ppb = parts per billion, or ppm = parts per million

µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter

PHG = Preliminary Health Goal (set by the California EPA)

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCL's for Total and Fecal Coliform[†]

(a) – For 40 samples/month: No more than 5.0% of monthly samples may be positive; for <40 samples/month: no more than 1 positive sample

(b) – A routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive

[†] Results for total and fecal coliform are for raw water sources; they do not represent the drinking water concentrations of these substances

MCLG = MCL Goal (set by the California EPA)

SMCL = Secondary MCL

Water Hardness Classification

0 – 75 mg/L = Soft

75 – 150 mg/L = Moderately hard

150 – 300 mg/L = Hard

>300 mg/L = Very hard

*Results for TTHM and HAA samples are averaged over four quarters. Results indicate levels below the MCL during 2008. GCSD recently modifying its water treatment plants provide disinfection by chloramines rather than chlorine. This process has greatly reduced the TTHM and HAA levels in your drinking water. Some people who use water containing TTHMs 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. Some people who drink water containing HAAs in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

‡20 samples were collected by the GCSD (the minimum required). 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. GCSD 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 waer, 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..>

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA'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 advise about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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 information specifically related to the GCSD please call Aaron Randi at 209 962-7161, ext. 24.