

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

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## 2011 Water Quality Report



### Water Conservation

You can do your part in reducing water consumption and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less water whenever you can. Here are a few tips:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you could save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ◆ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



The tunnel outage demonstrated that should an emergency situation occur, the AWS treatment plant is capable of providing a safe drinking water supply to all of GCS D's customers, on a restricted basis.

The Pall trailer (shown below) is known as the Alternative Water Supply treatment plant or AWS, and is capable of producing up to 700 gallons per minute. During the tunnel outage, GCS D water treatment plant operators worked expertly to provide our customers with a clean and safe alternative water supply.

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### Community Participation

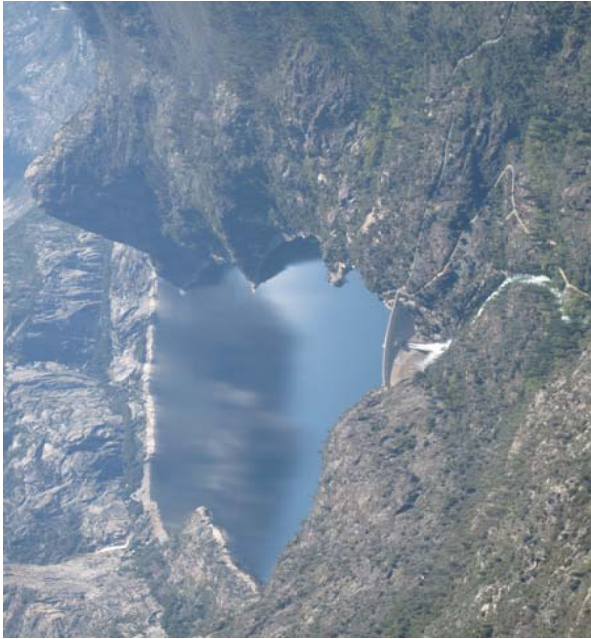
You are invited to attend our regularly scheduled Board meetings held on the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Groveland Community Services District boardroom, at 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland, California. GCS D's Board meetings are an excellent way to learn about water and wastewater issues that directly affect you and everyone in the Groveland, Big Oak Flat, and Pine Mountain Lake areas. Your participation is appreciated. Current information is available on our Web site: [www.gcsd.org](http://www.gcsd.org).



### Sampling Results

The District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. The results contained in this report are for the monitoring period of January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011.

This report contains results from laboratory testing, excluding contaminants that were not detected, or that were detected at a level below the state's detection level for the purposes of reporting (DLR). This information has been compiled in the tables on the back of this pamphlet to show what these contaminants were.



### Where Your Water Comes From

GCS D obtains the majority of its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy Reservoir 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 and 2008 began using disinfection-by-chloramination and ultraviolet disinfection to kill any pathogens, including *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, that may be present in its surface water supply.

### Definitions

- Action Level (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.
- MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.
- MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.
- ND (Not Detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- NS: No standard**
- NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements
- PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.
- ppb (parts per billion)** One part of substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).
- ppm (parts per million):** One part of substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).



**2011 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/MRDL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
<b>CLARITY</b>						
Turbidity – Raw Source Water	NTU	5	NS	0.11 - 1.69	0.34	Primarily related to soil runoff (erosion) which is made up of suspended matter that interferes with light
Turbidity – Finished Water	NTU	5	NS	0.01 - .960	0.42	Primarily related to soil runoff (erosion) which is made up of suspended mater that interferes with light
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>						
Total Coliform – Raw Water	#	(a)	0	<2 - 50	2.73	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
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80	NS	12.8 – 21.4*	16.2	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	27.5 – 46.1*	34.8	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection using chlorine; upgrades to the treatment process have reduced HAAs to below MCL’s
Chlorine (Raw water)	ppm	4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	4.0	1.05 – 3.29 <sup>▲</sup>	2.49	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chloramines (Finish water)	ppm	4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	4.0	0.51 – 1.91*	1.08	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICAL</b>						
Copper (September 2009)	ppm	1.3	0.17	0.10	0.10 <sup>‡</sup>	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural rock/soil deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (September 2009)	ppb	15	2	ND	ND <sup>‡</sup>	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	12	From naturally occurring organic materials such as leaves, pine needles, and wood
Odor	unit	3	NS	No Range	1.3	From naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	NS	NS	No Range	42	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	No Range	28	From runoff and leaching from natural deposits (soil and rocks)
Sulfate	mg/L	205	NS	No Range	2.49	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

**OTHER**

Substance or Parameter	Unit	MCL/SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	NS	NS	No Range	19.3	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	NS	NS	No Range	10	From naturally occurring dissolved substances (Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> ) that come in contact with water
Sodium	mg/L	NS	NS	No Range	0.7	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Calcium	mg/L	NS	NS	No Range	3.5	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
Potassium	mg/L	NS	NS	No Range	0.53	From natural sources and dissolved minerals
pH	unit	NS	NS	No Range	6.45	Affected by alkaline sources, atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> , organic matter, and acidity from mineral sources – distilled water has 7.0 pH
Aluminum	mg/L	1	0.6	No Range	0.3	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 2011, except for lead and copper. Lead and copper were sampled in September 2009. Lead and copper testing is conducted every 3 years, due 9/2012.

Terms and Abbreviations Used Above:

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

NS = No Standard ND= Not Detected

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

µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter

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

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

# = Number

MCL’s for Total and Fecal Coliform<sup>†</sup>

(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

<sup>†</sup> 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

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Water Hardness Classification

0 – 75 mg/L = Soft

75 – 150 mg/L = Moderately hard

150 – 300 mg/L = Hard

>300 mg/L = Very hard

<sup>‡</sup> Results for TTHM and HAA samples are averaged over four quarters. Results indicate levels well below the MCL during 2011. 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.

<sup>▲</sup>Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

\*Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia.

‡ 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 home plumbing. GCS D 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 it 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 advice 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 GCS D please call Jon Sterling at 209 962-7161, ext. 24.