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Mount Hermon Association, Inc.

2008 Consumer Confidence Report

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water Conservation:

Did you know that landscape watering and toilets use the largest amount of water in your home? We are now in the third year of below normal rainfall. Please make an effort conserve water wherever you can.

What is this report?

This is an annual water quality report prepared by the Association to inform the Mount Hermon community about the quality of their drinking water. This report provides a summary of last year's water quality monitoring. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it measures up to state and federal drinking water standards.

Where does your water come from?

Three deep ground water wells (two active and one on standby), reaching into the Lompico Aquifer, work together to provide Mount Hermon with the water it needs. Mount Hermon's wells are located along the eastern boundary of Mount Hermon, and are designated MH-1, MH-2, and MH-3.

How does drinking water get contaminated?

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, which 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which 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, USEPA and the state Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Are the Mount Hermon wells vulnerable to contamination?

Water suppliers are required to conduct vulnerability assessments of their water sources. The assessment is designed to identify nearby activities which could potentially release contaminants that may reach our water supply sources. Examples of potential contaminant sources are: automobile service stations, construction activities, confined animal facilities, commercial and industrial operations, and septic systems, just to name a few.

The only potential source of contaminant for the Mount Hermon water system was identified as the septic system located at the County of Santa Cruz Juvenile Probation Center, and was ranked very low.

The definitions below are provided to help you interpret the information provided 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 (USEPA).

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 level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs or 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 which a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MFL: million fibers per liter

ND: not detectable at testing limit

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)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Tables 1-7 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 Department 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.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a mo.)	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In the year)	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	10	4.5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	10	0.67	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household water 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)	6-13-08	72	14-130	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	6-16-08	52.5	45-60	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

*Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

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
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/L)	2-13-08 6-4-08 12-10-08	2.23	1.4 - 2.8	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation.
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2-13-08 6-4-08 12-10-08	0.8	0.6 - 1.23	5	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	6-13-08	0.38	0.35-0.42	2	1	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth.

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
pH (pH units)	6-13-08	7.5	6.5-8.6	-	-	
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	6-13-08	400	170-630	1600	-	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	6-13-08	255	130-380	1000	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	6-13-08	30.5	12-49	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

Sulfate (ppm)	6-13-08	47	11-83	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
*Iron (ppm)	6-13-08	0.7	0-1.4	0.3	-	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	6-13-08	49	45-53	50	-	Leaching from natural deposits
Threshold Odor (T.O.N)	6-13-08	2	0-4	-	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials

TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Health Effects Language

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

During the month of June, 2008 water from Mount Hermon's well #2 produced a higher than normal level of iron. This created a very undesirable taste and odor problem. Iron is commonly found in ground water and some surface water sources. Excessive amounts of iron will cause taste, odor and staining issues, but is not hazardous to your health. This seems to have been an isolated incident. Iron levels from this well have returned to normal, which is below the states maximum contaminant level (MCL).

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 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).

If you have any questions, please contact us for answers.

For information about this report, source Water Assessments, or your water quality in general, please contact Dale Pollock at 831-430-1204. General information about Mount Hermon's water system is frequently discussed at the Mount Hermon Community meeting held during the Spring and Fall of each year.