

2021 Consumer Confidence Report



mount hermon

Mount Hermon Association, Inc.

Contact: Dale Pollock, 831-430-1204

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Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Favor de comunicarse a Mount Hermon Association, Inc.

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para asistirlo en español

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. The Stand by well was not used during this period.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board 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. Most recent assessment was in March 2007. A copy can be made available by calling 831-430-1204. 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.

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.

Variations and Exemptions: State Board permission 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 ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

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 Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations 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 *	(In a mo.) 2	1	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) 1	1	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
<i>E. coli</i> (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 1	1	(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	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	9/16/2020	10	ND	0	15	0.2		Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Copper (ppm)	9/16/ 2020	10	0.075	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
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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)	2/10/21	120		none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally 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) [MRDL G]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	2/10/21	0.10	0.10-0.11	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	6/14/17	0.493	0-0.493	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	2/10/21	0.12		10	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226-228 (pCi/L)	6/5/19	0.725	0-0.725	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs (ppb)	9/1/21	9	6.9 - 11	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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
Chloride (mg/L)	2/10/21	7.95	7.3-8.6	500		Produced water from gas and oil wells, wastewater from water softening,

						industries and municipalities
Iron (ppb)	2/10/21	190	ND-380	300		Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
pH (pH units)	2/10/21	6.9				<i>low pH</i> : bitter metallic taste; corrosion <i>high pH</i> : slippery feel; soda taste; deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	2/10/21	140		1600		Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2/10/21	16	12-20	500		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Total Dissolved solids (TDS) (ppm)	2/10/21	310		1000		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	2/10/21	0.15		5		Soil runoff

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Bicarbonate as HC03	2/10/21	52			
Boron(ppm)	2/10/21	0.670		1	Boron exposures resulted in decreased fetal weight (developmental effects) in newborn rats.
Total Alkalinity as Ca C03	2/10/22	42			

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).

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. [Mount Hermon Water System] 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>.

**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
E. coli maximum contaminate level violation and Notification violation.	On Saturday, November 13, 2021, the Mount Hermon water system was notified of a positive repeat test result for E. coli at one of its designated sampling stations, following a total coliform-positive routine sample. When a public water system has a sample which tests positive for E. coli, it is required to contact the State Water Board by the end of the day on which the system was notified of the positive test results. Following the E. coli positive, Mount Hermon sent an email to the State Water Board. However,	November 2021	Immediately following the positive test result for E. coli, 35 additional samples were collected from the water system and tested. Locations included production wells, all storage tanks, all sampling stations, and various residential locations within the community. None of these 35 additional samples tested positive for E. coli. State Water Board also performed their own on-site assessment. This investigation found no evidence that E. coli bacteria was currently in the water system. Therefore, the	Fecal coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

	<p>this form of communication was not sufficient and was not in accordance with the established emergency notification plan.</p>		<p>conclusion was made that the bacteria was isolated to sampling station #2 or that the sample became contaminated after being collected and transferred to the lab. Following the incident, sample station #2 was taken offline, completely rebuilt and thoroughly disinfected. Since the maintenance on sample station #2, there have been no detections of E. coli in the water system.</p>	
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Level 2 Assessment Requirement Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we had an *E. coli* positive repeat sample following a total coliform positive routine sample in our water system. In addition, we were required to take **Four** corrective actions and we completed **Four** of these actions.
