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# San Lorenzo Valley Water District



## Water Quality Report 2005

### Southern Distribution System

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#### Your Water Passes All Tests

Once again, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District is pleased to report that our water quality met or surpassed all State and Federal criteria for public health protection. For additional information regarding water quality, please contact the San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Director of Operations, Rick Rogers, at (831) 430-4624 or e-mail to [rogers@slvwd.com](mailto:rogers@slvwd.com).

#### Sources of Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 including, radioactive material, and other substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

#### Where Does Your Water Come From?

All water comes in the form of precipitation. Surface water accumulates mainly as a result of direct runoff from precipitation in the form of streams. Part of the precipitation that falls infiltrates the soil. Water drains downward (percolates) below the soil surface reaching a level at which all of the openings or voids in the ground are filled with water. This zone of saturation is referred to as groundwater. The District utilizes groundwater sources located from within the Southern Distribution system. All wells conform to State construction standards.

#### Public Involvement

The Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District invites you to attend its meetings to express your views and opinions. The Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at the District's Operations Building, 13057 Highway 9, Boulder Creek. Agenda information for the Board of Director's meetings can be obtained from the District at 831-430-4636 or [www.slvwd.com](http://www.slvwd.com).

**In an effort to provide this report to everyone, the District encourages landlords to provide a copy of this report to their tenants.**

#### Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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 (800-426-4791) or on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

*"Our mission is to provide our customers and all future generations with reliable, safe and high quality water at an equitable price; to create and maintain outstanding customer service; to manage and protect the environmental health of the aquifers and watersheds; and, to ensure the fiscal vitality of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District."*

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## Possible Contaminants

Contaminants that may be in the water prior to treatment may 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 agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

## State Standards and Monitoring

Individual water suppliers do not arbitrarily decide what constitutes “safe” drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Department of Health Services require all public water suppliers to meet stringent quality standards. Compliance is mandatory for public water utilities.

In California, drinking water standards (also called Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) are established for two categories. Primary Standards are set for the protection of public health. Secondary Standards are set only for aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor and color, but do not represent any threat to health.

The District maintains a monitoring program to sample and test all water sources in accordance with State and Federal standards. Should the District fail to monitor, or the District’s water exceed the MCLs allowable in the Primary Standards, it is required by law to notify all customers of the nature of the problem and any possible health effects. Some contaminants that are routinely monitored by the District are bacteria, turbidity, inorganic chemicals, metals, general minerals, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), disinfection by-products (THMs), and radiation.

The table on the next page shows our test results for 2005. Once again, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District is

pleased to report that our water quality met or surpassed all State and Federal criteria for public health protection. For additional information regarding water quality, please contact the San Lorenzo Valley Water District at (831) 338-2153.

## Is The Water Safe For Everyone to Drink?

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 from their health care providers about drinking water. 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 800-426-4791 or on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Notice About Arsenic

Arsenic above 5ppb up through 10 ppb: While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Arsenic above 10 ppb up through 50 ppb: Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Water Conservation

Water conservation has become a key part of California's overall water management strategy for allocating an increasingly scarce resource among a steadily growing population. There are many steps homeowners can take to reduce landscape water use. Options range from the simple to the elaborate.

**SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS FOR 2005**

**Southern Distribution System**



**GROUNDWATER**

<b>PRIMARY STANDARDS</b>	Meas.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date	Notes	Source
Nitrate	ppm	45	45	< 1.0 - 1.4	1.1	2004	(1)	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories.
Arsenic	ppb	50	N/A	< 2 - 15	4	2005		Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS</b>	Meas.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date		Source
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	22 - 23	22	2003	(1)	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits. See Note 1.
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	91 - 430	261	2004	(1,2)	Leaching from natural deposits.
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	7.2 - 7.7	7.2	2004	(1)	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits. See Note 1.
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	90 - 120	85	2004	(1)	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits. See Note 1.
Manganese	ppb	50	N/A	15 - 26	20	2004	(1)	Leaching from natural deposits.

**ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED**

Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	15 - 17	16	2003	(1)	Generally naturally occurring.
Total Hardness	ppm	N/A	N/A	27 - 56	28	2003	(1)	Hardness is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium.
Total Phosphorous	ppm	N/A	N/A	2.1 - 8.9	4.7	2005	(2)	

**MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS**

	Meas.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date		Source
Total Coliform	P/A	5% of Samples Positive in any one month	0	N.D.	N.D.	2005		Naturally present in the environment.

**DISINFECTION RESIDUAL**

	Meas.	MRDL	MRDLG	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date		Source
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.3 - 0.7	0.4	2005		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.

**DISINFECTION PRODUCTS BY-**

	Meas.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date		Source
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	N/A	2.0 - 5.5	3.2	2005		By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids)	ppb	60	N/A	N.D.	N.D.	2005		By-product of drinking water chlorination

**PRIMARY STANDARDS REGULATED AT TAP**

	Meas.	AL	PHG (MCLG)	SLVWD Range of Detection	SLVWD Water Average	Sample Date		Source
Lead Number of Sites Sampled = 2	ppb	15	2	N.D. - 2.5	90th Percentile = 2.5 Number of sites above AL = 0	2005		Corrosion of household plumbing, discharges from industrial manufacturers, erosion of natural deposits
Copper Number of Sites Sampled = 2	ppb	1300	170	80 - 280	90th Percentile = 280 Number of sites above AL = 0	2005		Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives

Notes: 1) The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. 2) District Pasatiempo Well 6 periodically exceed the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Iron. Secondary MCL's are set for aesthetic reasons only, and do not cause adverse health effects. Iron can cause discolored water and staining. To offset this effect, the District adds phosphate, which acts to keep the Iron in solution and help prevent problems associated with this mineral.

San Lorenzo Valley Water District 13060 Hwy 9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006 (831) 338-2153 www.slvwd.com

**Definitions, Terms and Abbreviations used in table:**

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. MRDLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCL's and MRDL's for contaminants that effect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's or (MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's are set to protect the odor, taste and

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

N.D.: Not Detectable at testing limit      ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter      ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

P/A: Presence /Absence      N/A: Not Applicable

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

San Lorenzo Valley Water District  
13060 Highway 9  
Boulder Creek, CA. 95006-9119

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