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# PCWA UPDATE

*Placer County Water Agency*

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## Annual Water Quality Report Shows PCWA Water is Safe, Healthy

**T**he Placer County Water Agency is proud to supply good, safe and healthy water.

We are pleased to report this year - as we have reported each year since 1991 - that the drinking water supplied to you meets or exceeds state and federal public health standards for drinking water quality and safety.

California water retailers, including PCWA, are required by law to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. The results of PCWA's testing and monitoring programs of 2005 are reported in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.



**Applegate Service Area**

## The Source of Your Water Supply

**Y**our water originates in the Sierra snowpack. Surface water runoff from the Yuba and Bear river watersheds flows through Lake Spaulding into the PG&E and PCWA delivery systems. This is supplemented with American River water. The water is treated at the water treatment plant listed in this report.

PCWA has completed a Sanitary Survey and Source Water Assessment of the Yuba-Bear river watershed as well as for the American River watershed. It was found the watersheds were vulnerable to contaminants from highways, roadways and railroads near rivers and canals, septic tanks, utility pipelines crossing canals, upstream recreation, historic and active mining operations, utility operations, and timber harvest. Contaminants associated with these activities that could post a threat to source water include but are not limited to sediment, bacteria, viruses, parasites, pesticides, herbicides and trace metals. Historically, contaminant levels have been very low in the watersheds. Full details of the Source Water Assessments may be seen at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center in Auburn.

# Placer County Water Agency

## Consumer Confidence Report for 2005 (Reported in 2006)

### APPLEGATE Water System

## Primary Drinking Water Standards

Constituent	Units	State MCL (or MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (or MRDLG)	Level (Range)	Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity						
<i>Highest yearly value:</i>	NTU	TT=5	None	0.08		Soil Runoff
<i>Percentage of samples &lt;0.3</i>	NTU	TT=<0.3	None	100%		Soil Runoff
<i>Turbidity is a measurement of clarity or the level of suspended matter in the water. In reporting turbidity, the highest single measurement and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits are specified.</i>						
Lead (at the tap; 90th percentile)	ug/L	RAL=15	2	ND	-	Internal corrosion of household plumbing
<i>Ten sites were sampled for lead, one site was above the RAL. Tested in 2004.</i>						
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/L	80	None	64.6	-	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids	ug/L	60	None	29.6	-	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	mg/L	{4}	{4}	0.55-1.1	0.83	Drinking water disinfectant
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	TT=RAL<2	None	0.8-1.4	1.2	Various natural and manmade sources

## Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	None	50	-	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	umho/cm	600	None	55	-	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride	mg/L	500	None	5.1	-	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	mg/L	500	None	0.56	-	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Color	Units	15	None	5	-	Naturally occurring organic materials

## DEFINITIONS: Understanding Your Water Quality Report

**MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level.** 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 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. Set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at a 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. MRDLG's are set by the USEPA.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard.** MCL's 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. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**RAL: Action Level.** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units.** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

**TT: Treatment Technique.** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**mg/L: milligrams per liter.**

**ug/L: parts per billion**

**pCi/L: picocuries per liter.** A measure of radiation.

**umho/cm: Micromhos per centimeter.** Measurement of water's ability to conduct electrical current.

**<: Less Than**

**ND: Non-Detected**

**NA: Non-Applicable**

## Monitoring of Unregulated Substances

Constituent	Units	State MCL (or MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (or MRDLG)	Level (Range)	Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	mg/L	None	None	7.2	-	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Hardness	mg/L	None	None	10	-	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits

## About 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Safe Drinking Water Hotline \(1-800-426-4791\)](tel:1-800-426-4791).

## Ensuring Your Safety

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the state Department of Health Services prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## Note to At-Risk Water Users

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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

## Environmental Influences on Drinking 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 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 salt and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides or 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 by-products 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.

### Applegate System Lead Sampling Explained

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population.

It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home plumbing.

If you are concerned about elevated lead levels, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water.

Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Ten sites on the Applegate system were sampled for lead in 2004. One site was above the Regulatory Action Level (RAL).



**PLACER COUNTY  
WATER AGENCY**

144 Ferguson Road  
(P.O. Box 6570)  
Auburn, California 95604

**Annual Water Quality Report to  
PCWA Customers**

**Applegate  
Treated Water System**

**2005 Testing Results**

Measurements reported here were collected in 2005 (*unless otherwise noted*). In accordance with federal regulations, data is from the most recent tests. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

***Public Meetings***

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. The public is welcome.

***[www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net)***

This newsletter is published as a public service of the  
**PLACER COUNTY  
WATER AGENCY**

144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570)  
Auburn, California 95604  
(530) 823-4850  
(800) 464-0030

General Manager: David A. Breninger  
Newsletter Editor: Dave Carter

**FOR INFORMATION** on water quality or questions about this report, PCWA customers are invited to contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.