

50 Years of Public Service: 1957-2007

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Water Quality Report

**Martis Valley
Water System**



**PCWA
UPDATE**

Placer County Water Agency

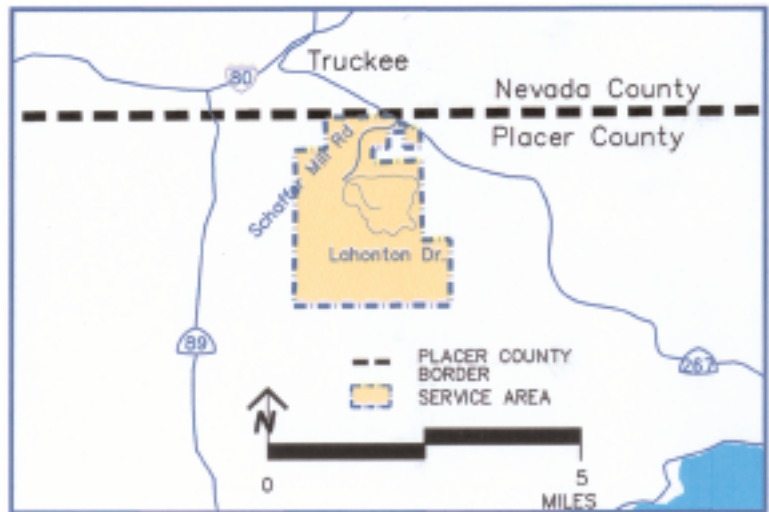
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Water Quality Testing Program Shows PCWA Water is Safe, Healthy

The Placer County Water Agency is proud to supply safe and healthy water. We are pleased to report this year - as we have 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 2006 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.



Martis Valley Service Area

About Drinking Water

Dinking 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**

The Source of Your Water Supply

The source of water for PCWA customers in the Martis Valley of eastern Placer County is the Martis Valley aquifer. Groundwater is drawn from two wells about 900 feet in depth, located adjacent to Lahontan Drive and Schaffer Mill Road. Water is distributed to customers via pipeline.

2006 Testing Results

Measurements reported here were collected in 2006 (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.

Placer County Water Agency

Consumer Confidence Report for 2006 (Reported in 2007)

MARTIS VALLEY Water System

Primary Drinking Water Standards

| Constituent | Units | State MCL or {MRDL} | PHG (MCLG) or {MRDLG} | (Range) Average or *HRAA | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|--|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Arsenic | ug/L | 10 | 0.004 | (2.6-7.4) 5 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Vanadium (Sampled 2001) | ug/L | AL=50 | None | (ND-5) 2.5 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Hexavalent Chromium (Sampled 2001) | ug/L | None | None | (ND-1.1) ND | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (at the tap; 90th percentile) (Sampled in 2004. Five sites were sampled for copper. No sites were above the AL) | mg/L | AL=1.3 | 0.17 | 0.106 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Chlorine | mg/L | {4} | {4} | (0.2-0.65) 0.42 | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |

* HRAA is the Highest Running Annual Average

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|------|------|-------------------|---|
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/L | 1000 | None | 120 | Runoff, leaching from natural deposits |
| Specific Conductance | umho/cm | 600 | None | 190 | Substances that form ions when in water |
| Chloride | mg/L | 500 | None | (1.1-1.6) 1.4 | Runoff, leaching from natural deposits |
| Sulfate | mg/L | 500 | None | (0.78-1.4) 1.1 | Runoff, leaching from natural deposits |

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 and MRDL'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.

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

mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)

uS/cm: MicroSiemens per centimeter.

HRAA: Highest Running Annual Average

<: Less Than

ND: ND or Non-Detected: An analysis result below detectable levels.

NA: Non-Applicable

Monitoring of Unregulated Substances

| Constituent | Units | State MCL (or MRDL) | PHG (MCLG) (or MRDLG) | (Range) Average | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Sodium | mg/L | None | None | (8.2-12) 10.1 | Runoff, leaching from natural deposits |
| Hardness | mg/L | None | None | (67-79) 73 | Runoff, leaching from natural deposits |
| Radon 222 (Sampled 2001) | pCi/L | None | None | (930-1600) 1198 | Erosion of natural deposits |

Martis Valley System

About Your Water Supply Note on Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the current EPA 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 known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Note on Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering a home through soil, radon entering through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon is 4 pCi/L or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem. For information, call the USEPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

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 potable. 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 and herbicides, that 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, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Ensuring The Safety of Your Drinking Water

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.



**PLACER COUNTY
WATER AGENCY**

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

Annual Water Quality Report to PCWA Customers

**MARTIS VALLEY
Groundwater System**

Public Meetings

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m. at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The public is welcome.

www.pcwa.net

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**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

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