

IN THIS ISSUE: **WATER QUALITY REPORT**
APPLEGATE WATER SYSTEM for 2010 (Reported in 2011)

PCWA Delivers Safe and Healthy Water

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 2010 are reported in this newsletter.

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



Applegate Service Area

About Your 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

Sierra Snowpack

The Source of Your Water Supply

Your water originates in the Sierra snowpack. Surface water from the Yuba and Bear River watersheds and Lake Spaulding flows into the PG&E and PCWA delivery systems. The water is treated at the water treatment plant listed in this report. PCWA has completed and updated a Sanitary Survey and Source Water Assessment of the Yuba-Bear River watershed (Feb. 2007). It was found the watershed was 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 pose 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 source water and watershed. Full details of the Source Water Assessment may be seen at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.



APPLEGATE Water System

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Turbidity Performance Standards (a)
(that must be met through the water treatment process)
Turbidity of filtered water must: 1) Be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month, and 2) Not exceed 1 NTU at any time.
(a) 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.

Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.1
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

Constituent	Units	State MCL or {MRDL}	PHG (MCLG) or {MRDLG}	Range and Average or (HRAA)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (1) ug/L	ug/L	80	None	85.0-100.0 (100)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids	ug/L	60	None	36.0-59.0 (59.0)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	mg/L	{4}	{4}	0.40-1.02 (0.78)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	TT=AL<2	None	0.76-1.4 (1.09)	Various natural and manmade sources

(1) Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are a byproduct of drinking water disinfection. Routine monitoring during 2010 revealed that we had elevated levels of TTHMs at times throughout the year. Previous years had not shown TTHM levels this high. More frequent monitoring was initiated immediately, and methods for reducing the levels of TTHMs were immediately initiated. Our first samples collected in 2011 have shown a significant reduction in TTHMs as we continue to provide healthy and aesthetically pleasing drinking water to our customers.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	None	30	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1600	None	54-55 54.5	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride	mg/L	500	None	4.8	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	mg/L	500	None	0.76	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Odor	units	3	None	1-1 1	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 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.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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.

AL: 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	7	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits
Hardness	mg/L	None	None	9.3	Runoff, leaching from natural deposits

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.

Applegate Water System

What You Should Know About Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in most surface waters throughout the U.S.. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Placer County Water Agency tested the untreated source water for Cryptosporidium from 2008-2010. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water in ranges from non-detected to 0.711 organisms per liter. Again, these results are for the untreated, raw water. The design of the EPA study conducted here did not call for treated water samples. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks; however, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

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 Public Health 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.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o 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.

Note to At-Risk Water Users

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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.



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

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

**Annual Water Quality Report
to PCWA Customers (For 2010)**



**APPLEGATE
Treated Water System**

2010 Testing Results

Measurements reported here were collected in 2010 (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. at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.
The public is welcome.

Contacting Your Elected Directors

- DISTRICT 1: Gray Allen
- DISTRICT 2: Alex Ferreira
- DISTRICT 3 & 2011 Board Chair: Lowell Jarvis
- DISTRICT 4: Mike Lee
- DISTRICT 5: Ben Mavy

If you would like to contact a member of the board, please call the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030. We will be pleased to put you in touch with the elected representative from your area.

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

www.pcwa.net