



**CITY OF SOUTH GATE
WATER DIVISION**

**CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE REPORT
For The Year Of
2008**

CITY OF SOUTH GATE 2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Since 1991, California water utilities have been providing information on water served to its consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.



Where Does My Tap Water Come From?

Your tap water comes from local, deep groundwater wells that supply our service area shown on the adjacent map. The quality of groundwater delivered to your home is presented in this report.

How is My Drinking Water Tested?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians in state-certified laboratories.

What Are Drinking Water Standards?

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the USEPA's. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the Federal ones.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are nonenforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?

Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. Following are columns that list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, if appropriate. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water.

To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedence of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. If test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.

Why Do I See So Much Coverage in the News About the Quality Of Tap Water?

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, including 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, which 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, which 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. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

- www.epa.gov/OGWDW (USEPA's web site)
- www.cdph.ca.gov (CDPH web site)

Should I Take Additional Precautions?

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. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment

The City of South Gate conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2003. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to water supply wells. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by contacting South Gate Water Division Manager, John Chambers at (323) 563-5779.

How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water Issues That Affect Me?

The public is welcome to attend City Council and Water Authority meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, South Gate City Hall at 8650 California Avenue, South Gate, CA 90280.

How Do I Contact My Water Agency If I Have Any Questions About Water Quality?

If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact John Chambers, South Gate Water Division Manager, at (323) 563-5779.

Some Helpful Water Conservation Tips

- Fix leaky faucets in your home – save up to 20 gallons every day for every leak stopped
- Save between 15 and 50 gallons each time by only washing full loads of laundry
- Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn/garden, not the sidewalk/driveway – save 500 gallons per month
- Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation – save hundreds of gallons a year

Visit us on the web at: www.cityofsouthgate.org

CIUDAD DE SOUTH GATE

INFORME DE CONFIANZA DE CONSUMIDOR de 2008

Desde 1991, las agencias proveedoras de servicios públicos del Agua de California han emitido información sobre el agua que se provee a sus consumidores. Este informe es una copia del informe sobre la calidad del agua potable que le proveímos el año pasado. Incluimos detalles sobre el origen del agua que toma, cómo se analiza, que contiene, y cómo se compara con los límites estatales y federales. Nos esforzamos por mantenerle informado sobre la calidad de su agua, y proveerle un abastecimiento confiable y económico que cumpla con todos los requisitos regulativos.

¿De Dónde Proviene mi Agua potable?

Su agua de la llave proviene de pozos profundos subterráneos que abastecen nuestra área local de servicio que muestra el mapa adjunto. La calidad del agua que llega a su hogar se presenta en este informe.

¿Cómo Se Analiza Mi Agua que Tomo?

El agua que toma se analiza regularmente para asegurarnos de que no halla niveles altos de sustancias químicas, de radioactividad o de bacteria en el sistema de distribución y en las tomas de servicios. Estos análisis se llevan a cabo semanal, mensual, trimestral, y anualmente o con menos frecuencia, dependiendo de la sustancia analizada. Bajo las leyes estatales y federales, se nos permite analizar algunas sustancias menos que un periodo anual porque los resultados no cambian frecuentemente. Todos los análisis de calidad de agua se llevan a cabo por técnicos entrenados especialmente en laboratorios certificados estatales.

¿Cuales Son Las Normas del Agua Potable?

La Agencia federal de Protección al Medio Ambiente (USEPA) impone los límites de las cantidades de ciertas sustancias permitidas en el agua potable. En California, el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de la Salud Pública (CDPH) regula la calidad de agua del grifo haciendo cumplir límites que son al menos tan rigurosos como el USEPA'S. Históricamente, los límites de California son más rigurosos que los Federales.

Hay dos tipos de límites conocidos como normas. Los normas primarias lo protegen de sustancias que potencialmente podrían afectar su salud. Las normas secundarias limitan las sustancias que afectan la calidad estética del agua. Las normas establecen los Niveles Contaminantes Máximos (MCL, en inglés) que se permite tipo primario o secundario en el agua. El MCL es el nivel mas alto de sustancia permitida en su agua potable.

Las Metas para la Salud Pública (MSP [o PHGs, en inglés]) son establecidas por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de California (EPA). Las PHGs proveen más información con respecto a la calidad del agua potable a clientes, y son similares a los reglamentos equivalentes federales nombrados Metas para Los Niveles de Contaminante *Maximos* (MNCM [o MCLGs, en inglés]). Las PHGs y MCLGs son metas a nivel recomendable que no se pueden hacer cumplir. Ambos niveles PHG y MCLG son concentraciones de una sustancia en las que no hay riesgos a la salud aún conocidos.

¿Cómo Interpreto Mi Tabla de Información de Calidad del Agua?

Aunque analizamos más de 100 sustancias, las normas nos requieren que reportemos solo aquellas que se encuentran en su agua. La primer columna en la tabla de la calidad de agua muestra la lista de las sustancias detectadas en el agua. Las siguientes columnas muestran la lista de la concentración promedio y el rango de concentraciones que se hallan encontrado en el agua que usted toma. En seguida están las columnas del MCL y el PHG o MCLG, si estos son apropiados. La última columna describe las probables fuentes y origen de las sustancias detectadas en el agua potable.

Para revisar la calidad de su agua de beber, compare la concentración más alta y el MCL, (mínimos y máximos y el Nivel Contaminante Máximo). Revise todos los químicos que se encuentran por encima del MCL (Nivel Contaminante Máximo). Si los químicos sobrepasan el Nivel Contaminante Máximo no significa de inmediato que sea detrimental a la salud. Más bien, se requiere que se realicen análisis más frecuentemente en el abastecimiento del agua por un corto periodo. Si los resultados continúan mostrando sobrepasar el MCL, el agua debe ser tratada para remover esa sustancia, o el abastecimiento de esta debe decomisionarse.

¿Por Qué Hay Tanta Publicidad Sobre La Calidad Del Agua Potable?

Las fuentes del agua potable (de ambas agua de la llave y agua embotellada) incluye ríos, lagos, arroyos, lagunas, embalses, manantiales, y pozos. Al pasar el agua por la superficie de los suelos o por la tierra, se disuelven minerales que ocurren al natural, y en algunas ocasiones, material radioactivo, y pueden levantar sustancias generadas por la presencia de animales o por actividades humanas.

Entre los contaminantes que pueden existir en las fuentes de agua se incluyen:

- Contaminantes microbiales incluyendo los virus y la bacteria, los que pueden venir de las plantas de tratamiento de aguas negras, de los sistemas sépticos, de las operaciones de ganadería, y de la vida salvaje;
- Contaminantes inorgánicos, como las sales y los metales, los cuales pueden ocurrir naturalmente o como resultado del desagüe pluvial, industrial, o de alcantarillado, producción de gas natural y petróleo, minas y agricultura.
- Pesticidas y herbicidas, los cuales pueden venir de varias fuentes tales como la agricultura, del desagüe pluvial, y de usos residenciales;
- Contaminantes de otras sustancias químicas orgánicas, incluyendo químicos orgánicos volátiles y sintéticos que son productos de procesos industriales y de la producción de petróleo, y que pueden provenir de las estaciones de gasolina, desagües pluviales urbanos, y aplicación de agricultura y de sistemas sépticos;
- Contaminantes radioactivos, los cuales pueden ocurrir naturalmente o que pueden ser resultados de las actividades de la producción de gas natural y minería.

A fin de asegurar que el agua del grifo es segura para beber, la Agencia de Protección Ambiental y el Departamento de Salud Pública de California (CDPH) prescriben regulaciones que limitan la cantidad de ciertos contaminantes en el echar agua proporcionado por sistemas de echar agua públicos. Las regulaciones de CDPH también establecen límites para contaminantes en el echar agua embotellado que debe proporcionar la misma protección para la salud pública.

Toda el agua potable, incluyendo el agua embotellada, puede contener cantidades pequeñas de ciertos contaminantes. La presencia de contaminantes no necesariamente indica que haya algún riesgo de salud. Para más información acerca de contaminantes y riesgos a la salud favor de llamar a la USEPA a la línea Especial de Seguridad de Agua Potable al teléfono (1-800-426-4791). Usted puede obtener más información sobre el agua potable al conectarse al Internet en los siguientes domicilios:

- www.epa.gov/OGWDW (página federal de la USEPA)
- www.cdph.ca.gov (sitio Web de CDPH)

¿Debería Tomar Otras Precauciones?

Algunas personas pueden ser más vulnerables que otros a los contaminantes en el agua potable. Las personas que tienen problemas inmunológicos, tales como personas que estén en tratamiento por medio de quimioterapia cancerosa; personas que tienen órganos transplantados, o personas con SIDA y otros desordenes inmunológicos, personas de edad avanzada, y los bebés pueden ser particularmente susceptibles a ciertas infecciones. Estas personas deben de consultar a sus proveedores de salud médica para que les guíen sobre que agua beber. Las guías de la USEPA/Centros de Control de Enfermedades aconsejan cómo disminuir los riesgos para prevenir la infección de Cryptosporidium y otros contaminantes microbiales están disponibles por la USEPA en la línea Especial de Seguridad de Agua Potable en el teléfono (1-800-426-4791).

Valoración de su Abastecimiento de Agua

La Ciudad de South Gate condujo una valoración de su abastecimiento de aguas subterráneas en el 2003. El abastecimiento de agua subterránea es considerado más vulnerable a pozos de agua. Una copia de la valoración aprobada puede ser obtenida llamando a John Chambers, Gerente de la División de Agua de South Gate al (323) 563-5779.

¿Cómo Puedo Participar en las Decisiones Sobre Asuntos Acerca del Agua Que Me Afectan?

Se le invita al público a asistir a reuniones del Concejo Municipal y de La Autoridad de Agua cada segundo y cuarto martes de cada mes a las 6:00 P.M. en la sala principal del Concejo en el Ayuntamiento en el 8650 California Avenue, South Gate, CA 90280.

¿Cómo Me Pongo En Contacto Con Mi Agencia del Agua Si Tengo Preguntas Sobre La Calidad del Agua?

Si usted tiene preguntas específicas sobre la calidad del agua potable, por favor llame a John Chambers, Gerente de la División de Agua de South Gate al (323) 563-5779.

¿Cómo Puedo Conservar Agua en Casa?

- Arregle llaves que gotean en su casa y ahorre hasta 20 galones de agua cada día por cada goteo evitado
- Ahorran entre 15 y 50 galones cada vez por sólo lavando cargas máximas del lavado de ropa
- Ajuste su sistema de rociadores para que el agua caiga en su jardín o sacate y no en la banqueta o área de estacionamiento. Se podría ahorrar 500 galones de agua por mes
- Usan el pajote orgánico alrededor de plantas para reducir la evaporación – salvan cientos de galones un año

Visítenos en la página: www.cityofsouthgate.org

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Results are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations. The State allows the City to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE-MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

ORGANIC CHEMICALS (µg/l)	GROUNDWATER		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (b)	2.47	ND-8.5	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser). Some people who use water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The City has taken action using a highly effective treatment technique (TT).
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	1.17	ND-3.4	5	0.8 (a)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

INORGANICS					
Sampled from 2006 to 2008					
Aluminum (mg/l)	0.09	ND-0.65	1	0.6 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (µg/l)	1.80	ND-3.5	10	0.004 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; glass/electronics production wastes; runoff
Barium (mg/l)	0.1	ND-0.15	1	2 (a)	Oil drilling waste and metal refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	0.41	0.34-0.79	2.0	1 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (mg/l as NO ₃)	6.46	2.6-9	45	45 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion

RADIOLOGICAL - (pCi/l) Analyzed 4 consecutive quarters every 4 years (results are from 2005 to 2008)					
Gross Alpha	2.47	ND-5.4	15 (c)	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	NA	NA	50 (c)	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226	0.14	0.05-0.31	5 (d)	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	0.5	ND-1.9		0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2.03	ND-3.3	20 (c)	0.5 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

MICROBIALS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	AVERAGE % POSITIVE	RANGE % POSITIVE		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0.7%	0-3.3%	5%	0%
Fecal Coliform and E.Coli Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%
No. of Acute Violations	0	0	-	-

MICROBIALS	
AVERAGE	RANGE
Turbidity (NTU)	0.47 0.09-1.33

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (e) AND DISINFECTION RESIDUALS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	HIGHEST RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE		
Total Trihalomethanes-TTHMs (µg/l)	4.24	ND-4.93	80	-
Halooacetic Acids (µg/l)	4.54	ND-1.4	60	-
Chlorine/chloramine Residual (mg/l)	1.19	0.01-2.5	4.0 (f)	4.0 (g)

AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS 35 sites sampled in 2006	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	90%ile	#SITES ABOVE AL		
Copper (mg/l)	ND (h)	0	1.3 AL	0.3 (a)
Lead (µg/l)	0.97 (h)	1	15 AL	2 (a)

Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE-FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

Sampled from 2006 to 2008

	GROUNDWATER		SECONDARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Aggressiveness Index (corrosivity)	12.2	12.0-13.0	Non-corrosive	-
Aluminum (µg/l) (i)	ND	ND	200	600 (a)
Chloride (mg/l)	42.7	26-59	500	-
Color (color units)	1.92	ND-10	15	-
Conductivity (µS/cm)	652.5	580-750	1,600	-
Copper (mg/L) (i)	0.01	ND-0.06	1	0.17 (a)
Iron (µg/l) (b)	29.1	ND-320	300	-
Langlier Index (corrosivity) (SI)	NA	NA	Non-corrosive	-
Manganese (µg/l) (b)	40	ND-150	50	-
Odor (threshold odor number)	0.54	ND-7	3	-
Silver (µg/l)	ND	ND	100	-
Sulfate (mg/l)	92.6	71-130	500	-
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	407.5	360-490	1,000	-
Turbidity (NTU)	0.79	ND-8.5	5	-

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM-FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		SECONDARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Color (color units)	5	5	15	-
Odor (threshold odor number)	0	0	3	-

ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

Sampled from 2006 to 2008

	GROUNDWATER	
	AVERAGE	RANGE
Alkalinity (mg/l)	167.5	140-200
Calcium (mg/l)	66.2	54-79
Magnesium (mg/l)	14.2	10.0 - 17.0
Perchlorate (ug/l)	ND	ND
pH (standard unit)	7.9	7.7-8.1
Potassium (mg/l)	2.9	1.9-3.5
Sodium (mg/l)	43.5	41-48
Total Hardness (mg/l)	224.2	180-270

FOOTNOTES

- (a) California Public Health Goal (PHG). Other advisory levels listed in this column are federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs).
- (b) The City has taken action using a highly effective treatment technique (TT). For this well system, aeration and blending treatment techniques are used prior to distribution to remove Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), Iron, and Manganese, which have exceeded the standards.
- (c) MCL compliance based on 4 consecutive quarters of sampling.
- (d) Combined Radium 226 + Radium 228 has a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.
- (e) Running annual average used to calculate average, range, and MCL compliance.
- (f) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
- (g) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)
- (h) 90th percentile from the most recent sampling at selected customer taps.
- (i) Aluminum and copper have primary and secondary standards.

ABBREVIATIONS

- < = less than
- mg/l = milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)
- NA = constituent not analyzed
- ND = constituent not detected at the reporting limit
- NTU = nephelometric turbidity units
- pCi/l = picoCuries per liter
- SI = saturation index
- µg/l = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)
- µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter

DEFINITIONS

- 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- 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. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 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.
- 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 which a water system must follow.
- Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)**: MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- Secondary Water Standard (SDWS)**: MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect the aesthetic qualities of water such as taste, odor, or appearance. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que entienda bien. Para obtener una copia en Español, llame a (323) 563-5779.

CITY OF SOUTH GATE
8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280