2008 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: **MD-73A, Quartz Mountain** Report Date: 6/5/09

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2008.

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

Type of water source(s) in use: Three wells drawing from fractured rock.

Name & location of source(s): Pond wells #1 and 2 are located within MD-73A, as is Ridge Well #1.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: An assessment was conducted in May 2001. No contaminates were found, other than those occurring naturally. Identified as having the potential for outside contamination were: septic systems in the area and/or surface water influence from a nearby pond. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the State's website, www.dhy.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/dwp/source_info/source_index.htm, or by visiting the Madera County Environmental Health Department.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday, except the fifth Tuesday of any month, at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers: 200 W 4th Street, Madera. Visit the County website, www.madera-county.com/supervisors/agenda.html for a copy of the agenda.

For more information, contact: Julio Padilla Phone: (559) 675-7817

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

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 (USEPA).

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.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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 that a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

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

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

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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*, 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 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*, that 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 USEPA and the state Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	**Highest No. of detections**	**No. of months in violation**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Typical Source of Bacteria**
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a Mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or *E. coli*	(In the Year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or *E. coli*	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	**No. of samples collected**	**90th percentile level detected**	**No. sites exceeding AL**	**AL**	**PHG**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb) – 2008	10	<5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) – 2008	10	0.46	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Sodium (ppm)	6/08	21.5	15 – 35.3	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	6/08	158.3	135 – 198	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

**Any violation of an MCL or AL is marked with an asterisk. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.*

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL [MRDL]**	**PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Chromium (ppb)	6/08	5.9	<1 – 10.8	50	(100)	Discharge from steel & pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	3 & 9/08	1.48	<1.0 – 3.23	5	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	6/08	2	0.1 – 0.4	2	.1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	12/08	9.6	2.7 – 37.6	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	6/08	2.2	<2 – 2.2	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	12/08	6.13	<1 – 7.7	20	.43	Erosion of natural deposits
Toluene (ppb)	6/08	2	<0.5 – 2	150	150	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	6 & 8/08	5.5	5.5	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	8/08	3.2	3.2	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Chloride (ppm)	6/08	14.2	2 – 23.9	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	6/08	13.8	5 – 25	15	N/A	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	6/08	**2253.5***	304 – 6890	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	6/08	**212.5***	138 – 313	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
SEC (µMHO/cm)	3 & 6/08	386.3	330 – 460	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	6/08	35.9	27.1 – 52.7	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	12/05	256	240 – 270	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Odor	6/08	1	1	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity (units)	6/08	**26.7***	0.8 – 100	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	6/08	**22.6***	<0.05 – 45	5	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

**Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.*

Additional General Information on 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

We are required to *monitor* your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

Our testing in 2008 again showed secondary violations in ***Iron**, ***Manganese**, ***Turbidity** and ***Zinc.** The high levels are the due to leaching of natural deposits and soil run-offs. Both Iron and Manganese, in turn, through the process of oxidation, impact the Turbidity. Secondary violations do not pose a risk to public health. We will continue to treat the water by adding a suspension (or sequestering) agent to block the oxidation process; however, it does not remove Iron or Manganese. More extensive treatment for the removal of Iron and Manganese would result in an increase in the cost of your water.

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements for primary contaminants. Though we've learned through our monitoring that some contaminants have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please call our office if you have questions. The County of Madera works continuously to provide the best available water to every tap. We ask that you, our customers, help us protect our water sources. Water is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our future.