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Coastside County Water District Water Quality Report 2023

Coastside County Water District (District) is pleased to present the 2023 Annual Water Quality Report in accordance with state and federal regulations. The data presented are from sampling and testing done in accordance with Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

The treated drinking water delivered to your home or business met all drinking water quality standards set by the state and federal governments.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este reporte en Español, favor de llamar al Coastside County Water District, y le enviaremos una copia por correo.

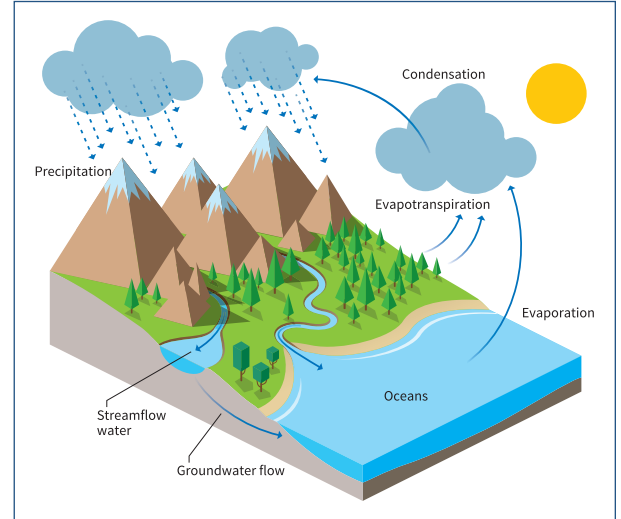
Where Your Water Comes From

The District receives water originating from pristine and highly protected watersheds in California's Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and San Mateo County's Coastal Mountain Range.

The District owns and operates the Denniston Project (surface and groundwater) and the Pilarcitos Creek Infiltration Well Field, both of which receive water originating from the local coastal range.

The District purchases raw water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Raw water from SFPUC originates from Pilarcitos Reservoir, which is supplied by local runoff from the coastal range, and from Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, which is supplied by imported water from SFPUC's Regional Water System, including the Hetch-Hetchy watershed.

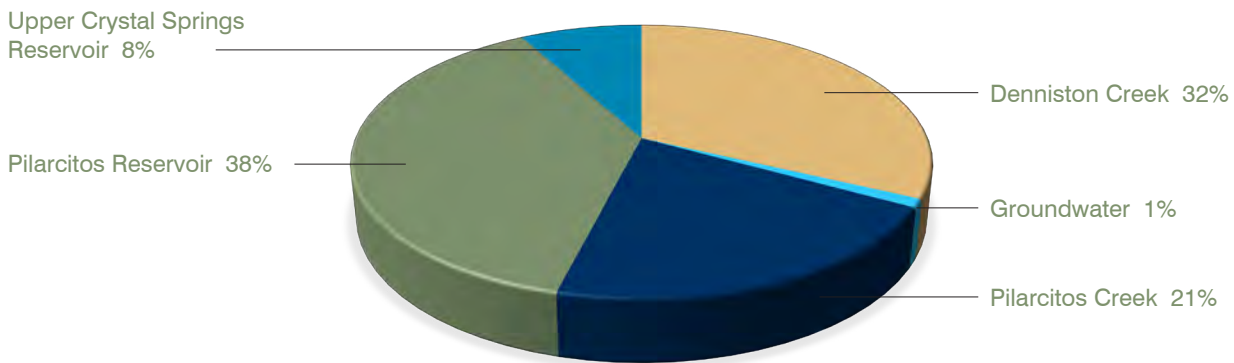
Water delivered to customers receives full treatment at our two water treatment facilities in accordance with federal and state standards. The Nunes Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating up to 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from Pilarcitos Reservoir, infiltration wells in Pilarcitos Creek Canyon and Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir. The Denniston Water Treatment Plant treats up to 1.4 mgd of water from Denniston Creek and Denniston Well Field.



Coastside County Water District does not fluoridate its drinking water.

For information about fluoridation, go to https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html

District Water Sources for Calendar Year 2023



Source Water Assessment – Watershed Sanitary Survey

The District updated the source water assessment in 2021 for the San Vicente Creek and the Denniston Creek watersheds. This assessment can be found on the District's website under Resources. The Upper Pilarcitos Creek watershed and Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir watershed source water assessments were completed by SFPUC. The assessments are available for review at the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) – San Francisco District Office.

DDW–San Francisco District ▶ (510) 620-3474



*Denniston Creek Reservoir
Image courtesy of Todd Schmidt*

Conserving Water Around the House and Yard

Implementing changes in our daily water use can make a big impact toward ensuring we have enough water supply to meet current and future needs. We all need to do our part to conserve water and use it as efficiently as possible. Here are ways you can do your part to save water:

- Consider replacing your lawn with water wise plants, and add hardscaping elements to your yard, like pavers, decomposed granite, or bark, to create year-round spaces that eliminate the need to weed, mow, and irrigate regularly.
- Install drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Adjust sprinkler heads to make sure your sprinklers water the plants, not your driveway.
- Use mulch to help the soil retain more moisture.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean outdoor areas and save up to six gallons of water every minute.
- Instead of letting cold water go down the drain, place a bucket under the showerhead while you wait for the water to warm up, then use it to water your outdoor garden.

Let's make every drop count!

More information ► <https://coastsidewater.org/save-water>



Wash Full Loads of Clothes & Dishes

Washer: saves 15–45 gallons per load
Dishwasher: saves 5–15 gallons per load



Install a High-Efficiency Toilet

Saves 19 gallons per person/day



Fix Leaks

Even a small leak can waste up to 6,300 gallons of water per month!



Adjust Sprinkler Heads

Saves 12–15 gallons each time you water



Use Mulch

Saves 20–30 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. each time



Drought Resistant Trees & Plants

Saves 30–60 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. each time

Quench CA

Water infrastructure is vital to the prosperity of the Coastsides. Investing in and modernizing the water systems used to capture, store, treat, and deliver drinking water is crucial for the resilience of the Coastsides. Water infrastructure projects provide water to fight fires, keep businesses operating, and maintain community health.

Coastside CWD's water infrastructure projects such as the Carter Hill Tank Replacement Project help ensure our community has the water it needs. Replacing and upgrading treated water storage tanks to withstand earthquakes provides resilience during natural disasters. The Nunes Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project supports the district's goal of providing the highest quality drinking water to our community.

Pipeline replacements help protect the community against catastrophic pipeline failures. Valve replacements ensure that

valves are operable during emergencies to prevent water loss and help isolate portions of the distribution system for repairs. Coastside CWD invests in the San Francisco Regional Water System to diversify our water supplies and leverage regional water infrastructure to support the water needs of the Coastsides.

Infrastructure projects like these can help contribute to a reliable and sustainable water system that our community can depend on. Investing in these projects means investing in the present and future of the Coastsides.

To learn more about Coastside CWD's water infrastructure visit <https://coastsidewater.org/projects/>.

To learn more about the importance of investing in California's water infrastructure, visit www.QuenchCA.com.

2023

Water Quality Test Results



The Annual Water Quality Report contains water quality data tables that show the results of treated water from the Nunes and Denniston Water Treatment Plants as well as the distribution system. In addition, the District monitors the treatment process 24 hours a day. The District's water quality monitoring program includes many compounds or water quality parameters that are not regulated or harmful, such as Hardness, Alkalinity, Magnesium and many others. Knowledge of these parameters allows us to provide you with the best treatment available.

The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG/PHG), the range of samples detected from lowest to highest, and the usual sources of the constituent. To help you understand these tables, we have included definitions and notes on the following page.

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 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline ► (800) 426-4791



More information ► For more information about this report or the District's water quality monitoring program contact: James Derbin, Superintendent, at (650) 276-0129.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED STANDARDS)									
PARAMETER	Unit	MCL, (AL), or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG), or [MRDLG]	Nunes WTP		Denniston WTP		Typical Sources*	
				Average	Range	Average	Range		
SOURCE WATER SAMPLING									
INORGANIC CHEMICALS									
Aluminum	ppm	1	0.6	ND	ND-0.075	ND	ND	3, 4	
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	ND	ND-0.2	0.2	ND-0.2	3, 5, 6	
Nitrate (NO ₃) as Nitrogen (N)	ppm	10	10	0.4	0.4	ND	ND	3, 18, 19	
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSOR									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	TT	NA	1.4	1.2-1.8	1.4	1.2-1.8	8	
MICROBIOLOGICAL									
Turbidity	NTU	TT _a	NA	0.02	0.015-0.102	0.029	0.017-0.144	2	
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SAMPLING									
DISINFECTION RESIDUAL				Average		Range		Typical Sources*	
Disinfectant Residual as Chlorine (Cl ₂)	ppm	[4]	[4]	0.86		0.20-1.54		1	
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS				Highest LRAA		Range		Typical Sources*	
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppb	80	NA	70		29-100		7	
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	ppb	60	NA	37		10-56		7	
LEAD AND COPPER (2021 AT-THE-TAP SAMPLING)				90th percentile		Samples above AL		Typical Sources*	
Lead (35 Sample Sites) _b	ppb	(15)	0.2	2.7		None		3, 15, 17	
Copper (35 Sample Sites) _b	ppm	(1.3)	0.3	0.086		None		3, 15, 16	
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (AESTHETIC STANDARDS)									
PARAMETER	Unit	MCL		Average	Range	Average	Range	Typical Sources*	
Aluminum	ppb	200		ND	ND-75	ND	ND	3, 4	
Chloride	ppm	500		29	23-36	37	26-44	9, 10, 12	
Color	Color Units	15		ND	ND-7	5	3-10	3, 15, 16	
Manganese	ppb	50		ND	ND-272	ND	ND	10	
Odor - Threshold	T.O.N.	3		ND	ND-2	ND	ND-2	11	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600		320	263-397	311	221-386	12, 14	
Sulfate	ppm	500		21	7-32	9	7-23	9, 10, 13	
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000		172	126-202	172	146-196	9, 10	
UNREGULATED PARAMETERS									
PARAMETER	Unit	NL		Nunes WTP		Denniston WTP		Distribution System	
				Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
Boron	ppb	1000		ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA
OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS									
PARAMETER	Unit	MCL		Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
Alkalinity	ppm	NS		80	54-112	77	50-92	NA	NA
Calcium	ppm	NS		25	18-33	21	14-24	NA	NA
Hardness (as Calcium Carbonate)	ppm	NS		93	67-118	79	55-91	NA	NA
Magnesium	ppm	NS		7.4	5.5-9.0	6.6	4.6-7.7	NA	NA
Potassium	ppm	NS		0.7	0.5-0.9	0.8	0.6-1.0	NA	NA
pH	no unit	NS		8.0	7.5-8.5	8.0	7.5-8.7	7.92	7.3-8.6
Sodium	ppm	NS		25	20-31	30	22-37	NA	NA

Reading the Water Quality Test Results Chart

Definitions of Key Terms

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. MCLs are established by USEPA and the State Water Board.

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 USEPA.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). 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.

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

Notification Level (NL). Notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by the State Water Board for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs. When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply.

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

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.

Regulatory Action Level (AL). The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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

Total Organic Carbon (TOC). TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts including trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Drinking water containing disinfection byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of cancer.

Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. It is a measure of the clarity of the water and is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of a filtration system. The MCL for turbidity is based on the TT. For unfiltered water, the MCL is 5.0 NTU. For filtered water, the MCL is ≤ 0.3 NTU 95% of the time.

Waiver. State permission to decrease the monitoring frequency for a particular contaminant.

Abbreviations

DDW	Division of Drinking Water
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NS	No standard established
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit
ppb	Parts per billion (micrograms per liter)
ppm	Parts per million (milligrams per liter)
μS/cm	MicroSiemens per centimeter
LRAA	Locational running annual average
SFPUC	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
TON	Threshold odor number
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

* Typical Sources in Drinking Water

- 1 Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
- 2 Soil runoff
- 3 Erosion of natural deposits
- 4 Residue from some surface water treatment processes
- 5 Water additive that promotes strong teeth
- 6 Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
- 7 By-product of drinking water disinfection
- 8 Various natural and man-made sources
- 9 Runoff from natural deposits
- 10 Leaching from natural deposits
- 11 Naturally occurring organic materials
- 12 Seawater influence
- 13 Industrial wastes
- 14 Substances that form ions when in water
- 15 Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems
- 16 Leaching from wood preservatives
- 17 Discharges from industrial manufacturers
- 18 Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
- 19 Leaching from septic tanks and sewage

Table Notes

- a For filtered water, the MCL is < 0.3 NTU 95% of the time. This standard was met 100% of the time.
- b Data collected prior to 2023.
- c In 2023, there were no requests for lead testing in schools.

Health and Education Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 by-products 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.

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 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 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline ► (800) 426-4791

Important Information about your Water Quality

Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: www.epa.gov/lead



Hardness

Water hardness is determined mainly by the presence of calcium and magnesium salts. Although hard water does not pose a health risk, it may be considered undesirable for other reasons. Some benefits of water softening are reductions in soap usage, longer life for water heaters and a decrease in encrustation of pipes. Some disadvantages of water softening are an increase in sodium intake (depending on type of water softener used), an increase in maintenance and servicing requirements and potential adverse effects on salt-sensitive plants and landscaping. To convert hardness from ppm to grains per gallon, divide by 17.1. A hardness scale is provided for your reference.

Hardness Classification	Grains per Gallon	mg/L or ppm
Soft	less than 1.0	less than 17.1
Slightly hard	1.0–3.5	17.1–60
Moderately hard	3.5–7.0	60–120
Hard	7.0–10.5	120–180
Very hard	over 10.5	over 180

Facility Highlight:

Crystal Springs Pump Station

The District's Crystal Springs Project, approved in 1985, provided the infrastructure for pumping water from Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir to Nunes Water Treatment Plant.



Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir



Tour group at Crystal Springs Pump Station

Since the project's completion in 1994, the District has enhanced its water supply through San Francisco Regional Water System deliveries over the Santa Cruz Mountains to Half Moon Bay.

Connect With Us!

The District encourages community participation in the decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Board meetings occur at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the District's Board Room at 766 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Videos of past Board meetings are available at <https://www.coastsidewater.org/board-activities/board-meeting-videos.html>, and are also broadcast on Pacific Coast Television.



If you have any questions or desire additional information about this report or water quality, contact James Derbin, Superintendent, at (650) 276-0129.

To receive communications from the District about current events and news, sign up for our E-newsletter on the District's website.

To communicate with Customer Service and Utility Billing (650) 726-4405 | customerservice@coastsidewater.org

WaterSmart



Coastside County Water District partners with VertexOne to offer customers access to a free web portal.

In the portal you can:

- View hourly and daily water usage.
- Set up high usage alerts.
- Compare your water usage with similar homes in your neighborhood.



To register for the free web portal, go to the WaterSmart sign up page. Make sure you have your water account, email, and zip code.

<https://coastsidewater.watersmart.com>

Questions? email watersmart@coastsidewater.org or call (650) 726-4405.

Service Area Map

District service areas (in green) include the City of Half Moon Bay and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County including Moonridge, El Granada, Miramar, and Princeton by the Sea.

