

## Major Capital Improvements Planned

To better serve you, we are planning major capital improvement projects that will total about \$30 million.

### \$17 Million Quality Investment

Included will be a \$17 million upgrade of the Corona Del Mar Treatment Plant. We have already spent \$5 million for the Phase 1 modernization of the plant.

Additional upgrading is needed because of increased water quality regulations, the aging of the plant, and the increased reliability we will attain to handle heavy flows and deal with unusual circumstances.

- The other projects, involving another \$13 million, will include:
- Boosting the storage capacity of Patterson Reservoir from the current 2.8 million gallons to 3-to-3.5 million gallons to provide adequate water storage for fire fighting and for emergency use should water delivery from Lake Cachuma become disrupted.
- Upgrades to wells to help drought-proof the Valley.
- Repair of the Goleta West Conduit.

### Service Charge Increase

To pay for these projects, we are planning to refinance existing loans and considering an increase in the basic service charge.



## Frequently Asked Questions About Water Quality

**Q. Should I drink bottled or vended water, or install a treatment device?**



Lake Cachuma

**A.** The water we deliver meets all state and federal water quality regulations. Unless you prefer the taste, there is no need to purchase bottled water or install treatment devices. Bottled water is not necessarily safer than tap water. If you use a treatment device, maintain the filter according to instruction to prevent the buildup of contaminants.

**Q. What is the hardness of Goleta's water?**

**A.** The total hardness number in Goleta's water currently ranges from approximately 340 to 400 mg/l, measured as calcium carbonate, or 20 to 23 grains per gallon. This is considered to be very hard water. Hardness in water is primarily comprised of natural and harmless calcium and magnesium ions. Although not a health concern, excessive hardness can make cleaning tasks more difficult and form scale.

## Citizens Committee Submits Recommendations

In developing a funding approach for the needed capital improvements described on the left column, the District enlisted the aid of a Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee, composed of 25 customers drawn from across the Goleta Valley, studied the facility and financial issues and developed recommendations to the Board of Directors. The general consensus of the committee was that the proposed capital improvements were clearly needed and that Certificates of Participation and an increase in the District's basic service charge would be the preferable financing methods.

## Vulnerability Assessment Being Prepared

Our consultants are now preparing a vulnerability assessment for our operations to ensure our security. Meanwhile, we have taken steps to improve gate security at the treatment plant and operations yards and have instituted other security measures.

Printed on recycled paper. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.



*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

Russell R. Ruiz, General Counsel

and Chief Engineer

Kevin D. Walsh, General Manager

Chuck Evans, Larry Mills, Carey Rogers

Harry E. De Witt, Vice-President

Jack Cunningham, President

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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GOLETA WATER DISTRICT



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INFORMATION  
ABOUT YOUR WATER

# WATER NEWS

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

## Consumers Enjoy High Quality Water

The main source of your water is Lake Cachuma with treatment from the Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant. In addition, the District maintains a number of wells as a backup supply. In 2002, University Well was used briefly in April.

### Source Water Assessment Available To Customers

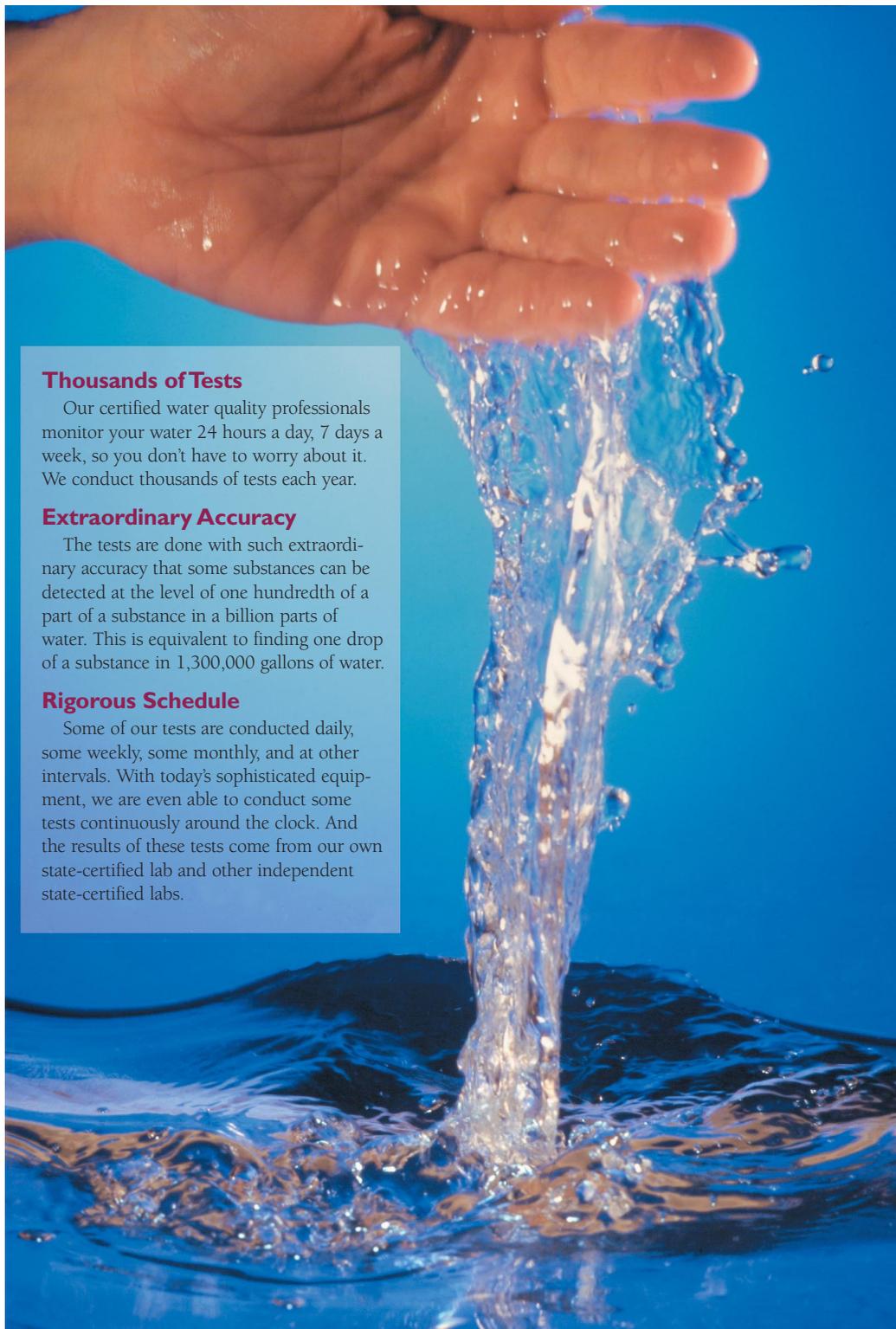
A source water assessment of Lake Cachuma was completed in December 2000, as an attachment to the District's Watershed Sanitary Survey Update. This water source is considered most vulnerable to the following activity associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: gas stations and recreational surface water activities. In addition, this water source is most vulnerable to this activity, for which no associated contaminant has been detected: historic mining operations. An assessment of University Well was completed in January 2002. University Well is considered most vulnerable to the presence of injection wells. The District operates these injection wells as part of an aquifer storage and recovery project and closely monitors the quality of the treated surface water that is injected.

A copy of the complete assessments is available at the District's main office. You may request a summary of the assessments by contacting Operations Manager Michael Kanno at 879-4630.

## 2003 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

# We Passed Our Annual Water Quality Checkup

We are pleased to provide you with this report showing that your water continues to meet or improve upon all state and federal water quality standards. This report explains in detail how we maintain high quality standards set by state and federal regulators. For more information about your water, contact Dije Ndreu at 879-4678.



### Thousands of Tests

Our certified water quality professionals monitor your water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you don't have to worry about it. We conduct thousands of tests each year.

### Extraordinary Accuracy

The tests are done with such extraordinary accuracy that some substances can be detected at the level of one hundredth of a part of a substance in a billion parts of water. This is equivalent to finding one drop of a substance in 1,300,000 gallons of water.

### Rigorous Schedule

Some of our tests are conducted daily, some weekly, some monthly, and at other intervals. With today's sophisticated equipment, we are even able to conduct some tests continuously around the clock. And the results of these tests come from our own state-certified lab and other independent state-certified labs.

# Our Commitment High Quality Water Each and Every Day

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (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 must provide the same protection for public health.

## Sources of Potential Contaminants

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 before treatment 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, 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, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### A Special Note To Immuno-compromised Customers

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).

### Safe Drinking Water Hotline

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) or by visiting the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

### DEFINITIONS USED IN THE CHART:

**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.

**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 Standard or PDWS:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**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.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detected at testing limit.

**ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**pCi/l:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**µmhos/cm:** micromhos per centimeter (an indicator of dissolved minerals in the water).

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity units. A measure of clarity.

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### FOOTNOTES TO THE CHART:

<sup>1</sup> In March 2002 a sample taken at University Well had a detection of 0.9 ppb dichloromethane. University Well was not in use at this time. Subsequent samples taken at this well have been non-detect for dichloromethane.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1) Be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month; 2) Not exceed 1.0 NTU.

<sup>4</sup> Conventional surface water treatment plants must remove a certain percentage of the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in their raw intake water using a specialized treatment technique. The percentage removal required depends on raw water quality characteristics. For Goleta Water District's raw water source, the required percentage is 15%. Due to the nature of Goleta Water District's raw water source TOC, this is not technically feasible. Goleta Water District has received verbal approval of a waiver from this treatment requirement from the USEPA and the California Department of Health Services, and we are awaiting formal written approval.

<sup>5</sup> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA and the California Department of Health Services to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated. Goleta Water District completed its required Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing in 2001. The data in this section of the report are from 2001.

<sup>6</sup> Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. 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 the home through soil, radon entering the home 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 in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

Note: The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. All of the surface water and distribution system data presented in the tables are from samples taken in 2002, except for the following. The Lead and Copper Rule data are from 2000. The surface water gross alpha and uranium data were obtained in 1999. The surface water radon data are from 2000. All of the groundwater data in the tables are from samples taken in 2001, except for the following. The dichloromethane and radon data are from 2002. The groundwater gross alpha and uranium data were obtained in 1999.

## Results of 2002 Drinking Water Quality Tests

These tables list drinking water contaminants and other substances detected during 2002. The District also tested for many additional substances that were not detected, and therefore are not listed in the report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data is for testing done January 1-December 31, 2002. The test results show that the District met all water quality standards.



REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLS							
INORGANIC	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.182	0.077-0.520	ND		Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.43	0.38-0.48	0.34		Erosion of natural deposits
ORGANIC							
Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	4	ND		ND	ND-0.9 <sup>1</sup>	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide
RADIOLOGICAL							
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/l)	15	N/A	2.2	ND-5.2	3.1	2.8-3.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.5	2.5		2.7		Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD AND COPPER RULE	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	90th Percentile Value	# of Sample Sites	# of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)	AL = 1.3	0.17	0.33	30	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems	
Lead (ppb)	AL = 15	2	ND (< 5)	30	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems	
MICROBIOLOGICAL	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest Single Measurement		Lowest Percentage of Samples Meeting TT		Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	TT <sup>3</sup>	N/A	0.131		100%		Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS & BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	System Average		System Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	n/a	61.6		39.3-85.6		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	n/a	23.4		8.7-54.6		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[MRDLG = 4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	0.96		0.17-2.16		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP precursors (TOC in ppm)	TT <sup>4</sup>	n/a	3.0		2.3-3.6		Various natural and manmade sources
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH REQUIRED MONITORING <sup>5</sup>							
CONSTITUENT	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range			
Boron	295	260-330	305	290-320			
Vanadium (ppb)	ND		ND	ND-4.8			
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLS							
CONSTITUENT	Secondary MCL	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	500	18		16			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	15	ND	ND-5	5			Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor---Threshold (units)	3	1	1-4	3			Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	1600	840	784-886	751			Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	260		265			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	594	583-608	620			Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	0.118	0.051-0.450	0.25			Soil runoff
OTHER CONSTITUENTS							
CONSTITUENT	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range			
Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	161	138-187	153				
Bicarbonate (ppm)	191		186				
Calcium (ppm)	71		85				
Hardness (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	342	306-384	381				
Magnesium (ppm)	42		41				
pH (units)	7.85	7.59-8.16	7.60				
Potassium (ppm)	2.7		2.7				
Radon <sup>6</sup> (pCi/l)	ND		329	97-560			
Silica (ppm)	14		18.2	16-20.4			
Sodium (ppm)	48		46				

**Variance:** Goleta Water District (GWD) serves unfiltered Lake Cachuma water to about 33 connections on the Goleta West Conduit. The water receives chlorination treatment but does not comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). The State Department of Health Services allows GWD to provide bottled water to these customers for drinking and cooking as a permanent solution. GWD notifies these consumers quarterly that the water delivered is not in compliance with the SWTR and should not be used for domestic purposes.

**How You Can Get Involved.** Our water board normally meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the District Board Room at 4699 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.