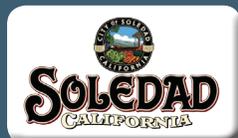
The background features a close-up of water splashing from a faucet, with a bowl of fresh fruit (raspberries, blackberries, and red grapes) in the lower-left corner. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and greens, with a white and teal graphic design overlay.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING  
PERFORMED IN 2015

*Presented By*  
**The City of Soledad**



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

PWS ID#: 2710011

## Meeting the Challenge

Once again we are proud to present our Annual Drinking Water Report, covering all drinking water testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all State and Federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to your homes and businesses. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Community Participation

You are invited to attend City of Soledad Council meetings and share your ideas and concerns about your drinking water. The Soledad Council meets the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 248 Main Street, Soledad, CA.

In 2015, the City of Soledad residents conserved 125 million gallons of drinking water compared to the base year, 2013. This is an average of 18.25 percent less! The City's goal is a 24 percent reduction from the 2013 baseline.

The City of Soledad is providing Water Conservation Kits to local residents to help our community conserve water. If you are interested in obtaining a free water conservation kit, please stop by City Hall, 248 Main Street, Soledad, CA. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 2 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](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## To the Last Drop

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines drought as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and/or people. Drought strikes in virtually all climate zones, from very wet to very dry.

There are primarily three types of drought: Meteorological Drought refers to the lack of precipitation, or the degree of dryness and the duration of the dry period; Agricultural Drought refers to the agricultural impact of drought, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, and reduced ground water or reservoir levels needed for irrigation; and Hydrological Drought pertains to drought that usually occurs following periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that can impact water supply (e.g., stream flow, reservoir and lake levels, ground water).

Drought is a temporary aberration from normal climatic conditions; thus it can vary significantly from one region to another. Although drought occurs normally, human factors, such as water demand, can exacerbate the duration and impact that drought has on a region. By following simple water conservation measures, you can help significantly reduce the lasting effects of extended drought.

To learn more about water conservation efforts, check out the U.S. EPA's Water Conservation Tips for Residents at [www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water\\_conservation\\_residents.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_residents.html).

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to being filled with tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Soledad's residents were fortunate, during this past year, to enjoy an abundant groundwater supply from the City's wells. One of the five wells, Well 09, is currently inactive. The wells have a combined pumping capacity of about 4,300 gallons per minute. In 2015, the four active wells pumped a total of more than 640 million gallons of clean drinking water. And, our water treatment process consists only of chlorination for disinfection.

The water supply for the City of Soledad wells comes from aquifers that are continuously being replenished with releases of water from the San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs. The reservoirs are operated by the Monterey County Water Resource Agency. According to Monterey County Water Resource data, approximately 90.4 percent of the water from the Salinas Valley aquifers is consumed by agricultural operations. City populations consume about 9.6 percent of the groundwater supply.

To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to Surf Your Watershed at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is an Assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please contact our office during regular office hours.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Gamaliel Romero, Water System Supervisor, at (831) 223-5184 or send email to [Gamaliel.Romero@cityofsoledad.com](mailto:Gamaliel.Romero@cityofsoledad.com).

## Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State Board requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentration for these substances does not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppb)	2015	10	0.004	1.8	1–2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2015	1	2	0.056	0.041–0.078	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chromium</b> (ppb)	2015	50	(100)	7	6–7	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2015	2.0	1	0.18	0.10–0.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Gross Alpha Particle Activity</b> (pCi/L)	2015	15	(0)	7.35	4.75–9.16	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)</b> (ppb)	2015	60	NA	ND	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Hexavalent Chromium</b> (ppb)	2014	10	0.02	2.5	2.2–5.3	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrate [as nitrogen]</b> (ppm)	2015	10	10	0.4	0.2–0.6	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrite [as nitrogen]</b> (ppm)	2015	1	1	0.3	0.3–0.3	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> (ppb)	2015	50	30	2.2	2–3	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]</b> (ppb)	2015	80	NA	6	1–10	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria [Total Coliform Rule]</b> (# positive samples)	2015	No more than 1 positive monthly sample	(0)	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Copper</b> (ppm)	2014	1.3	0.3	0.302	0/32	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead</b> (ppb)	2014	15	0.2	ND	0/32	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2015	500	NS	47	17–80	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2015	300	NS	12	ND–50	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2015	1,600	NS	722	539–967	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2015	500	NS	144	102–209	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2015	1,000	NS	467	346–637	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES - FOR CONSUMER INFORMATION ONLY

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2015	39	27–55	The salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	2015	268	194–360	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally calcium and magnesium; Usually naturally occurring

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE PART 3 (UCMR3)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE
Molybdenum (ppb)	2014	7.3	4.7–11	NA
Strontium (ppb)	2014	655	410–930	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	12	9.2–17	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level of 50 ppb may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals

## Definitions

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

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) 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. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs 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. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).