

Presented By



**SOLEDAD**  
CALIFORNIA

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

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

PWS ID#: 2710011

## We Have Come a Long Way

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31 of 2016. Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## 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, California.

In 2016, the City of Soledad residents conserved 173 million gallons of drinking water compared to the base year of 2013. This is an average of 21.4% less! The City's goal is a 25% reduction from the 2013 baseline.

The City of Soledad is providing Water Conservation Kits to its 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–Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Important Health Information

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 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 at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Substances That Could Be in 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

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 can result from urban storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or can 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.

## Additional General Information on Drinking Water

### 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.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Soledad's residents were fortunate during this past year to enjoy an abundant ground water 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 2016, these four wells pumped a total of more than 632 million gallons of clean drinking water. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to Surf Your Watershed at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

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% of the water from the Salinas Valley aquifers is consumed by agricultural operations. City populations consume about 9.6% of the ground water supply.

### Testing For Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot 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. You should pursue radon removal if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L of air or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call California's radon program (1-800-745-7236), the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236).



### 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 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).



## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call Anthony Karl, Public Works Manager, at (831) 223-5190 or email at [Anthony.Karl@cityofsoledad.com](mailto:Anthony.Karl@cityofsoledad.com).

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule (by different times on a fiscal year basis). The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do 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 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 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>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	Daily	[4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	0.34	0–0.76	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<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)	2016	15	(0)	2.76	1.73–3.80	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Haloacetic Acids</b> (ppb)	2016	60	NA	0.5	0–2.0	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)	2016	10	10	0.6	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)	NA	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)	2016	80	NA	4	1–10	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Tap Water Samples 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

## OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2015	39	27–55	“Sodium” refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	2015	268	194–360	“Hardness” is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally calcium and magnesium. The cations are usually naturally occurring

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 3 (UCMR3)<sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Molybdenum (ppb)	2014	7.3	4.7–11
Strontium (ppb)	2014	655	410–930
Vanadium <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	2014	12	9.2–17

<sup>1</sup> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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

**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).