



# San Lorenzo Valley Water District Consumer Confidence Report

WATER QUALITY 2017

WWW.SLVWD.COM

SPRING 2018

## Your Water Passes All Tests

Once again, San Lorenzo Valley Water District is pleased to report that our water quality met or surpassed all State and Federal criteria for public health protection. SLVWD operates four (4) independent water systems. These four water systems are: the SLVWD System, the SLVWD-Felton System, the SLVWD-Lompico System and the SLVWD-Manana Woods System. The SLVWD System and the Felton System each have their own source water supply, whereas the Lompico System and Manana Woods System rely on interconnections with the SLVWD System for water supply. For additional information regarding water quality, please contact the San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Water Treatment and System Supervisor, Nate Gillespie at (831) 216-9019 or email to [ngillespie@slvwd.com](mailto:ngillespie@slvwd.com).

## Sources of Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 including radioactive material and other substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Public Involvement

The Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District invite you to attend its meetings to express your views and opinions. The Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 5:00 PM. The meeting location currently rotates at various locations throughout the SLVWD service area. Please consult the District website at [www.slvwd.com](http://www.slvwd.com) for meeting location and agenda information, or call (831) 430-4636.

## Is the Water Safe for Everyone to Drink?

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 800-426-4791 or on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/safe-water>

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our 2017 monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our surface water for the SLVWD North System. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide our customers and all future generations with reliable, safe and high quality water at an equitable price; to create and maintain outstanding customer service; to manage and protect the environmental health of the aquifers and watersheds; and, to ensure the fiscal vitality of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District."

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## Where Does Your Water Come From?

All water comes in the form of precipitation. Surface water accumulates mainly as a result of direct runoff from precipitation in the form of streams, creeks and rivers. Part of the precipitation that falls infiltrates the soil, which drains downward (or percolates) below the soil surface. The percolated water eventually reaches a level at which all of the openings or voids in the ground are saturated with water. This zone of saturation is referred to as the aquifer, which is where groundwater wells draw water from. The SLVWD operates four water systems. All of these water systems have interconnections, which enable the District to exchange water between these systems for both operational and emergency situations. The characteristics of these four water systems are described as follows:

### San Lorenzo Valley Water District

The SLVWD System can be broken up into two independent sections: SLVWD North and SLVWD South. An interconnection exists between the North and South sections, allowing for the exchange of water between these two sections, which can be a combination of both ground and surface waters. In 2017, the North section received from the South section approximately 1.4% of its total supply (or, 7 million gallons), whereas the South section received from the North section approximately 28.6% of its total supply (or, 34.5 million gallons).

**SLVWD North:** Services the areas of North Boulder Creek, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, Quail Hollow, Glen Arbor and Zayante. Water supply in these areas primarily utilizes surface water sources from November to May. During these months, surface water may provide up to 100% of all drinking water. Streams utilized by the SLVWD North system contain water from granite formations with very low mineral content. This results in very soft, pleasant tasting water. Collection points for these streams are in remote areas high within the District's protected watershed, away from human contamination. For these surface water sources, drinking water treatment is provided at a conventional surface water treatment plant. During the summer months from June-November, the SLVWD North system blends surface water with groundwater sources from wells located in the Ben Lomond and Zayante areas. All wells conform to State construction standards. Quail wells 4a and 5a can be found in the Ben Lomond area and produce soft water with water quality similar to that of the SLVWD North's surface water supplies. Olympia wells 2 and 3 found in the Zayante area have a higher mineral content, primarily iron, manganese and carbonate hardness. These minerals do not pose a health hazard when consumed in water, but affect the aesthetic qualities of the water such as taste, odor and color. Dissolved gases present in ground-

water may also affect taste and odor. Customers in the Hihn Rd and Zayante areas may experience periods of discolored water caused by iron and manganese. As water comes in contact with chlorine at the well head and oxygen during the trip through the mainline distribution piping, the iron and manganese precipitate deposits in the water mains. The SLVWD adds polyphosphate to the Olympia well water to slow down the precipitation process. However, this is not completely effective and some deposition still occurs. Occasionally, during higher flows, the deposits can become dislodged resulting in discolored water. If discolored water is observed at your faucet's cold water tap, the water is safe to use; however, you may want to avoid washing laundry as staining may occur. If you experience prolonged periods of discolored water in all of your indoor cold water taps, please contact us at (831)338-2153.

**SLVWD South:** Services the Scotts Valley areas of Whispering Pines Dr, Lockwood Ln, Hidden Glenn, Estrella Dr, Twin Pines Dr, Brookdale Assisted Living Facility, Spring lakes and Vista Del Lago Mobile Home Parks. District customers in the South section are primarily supplied water through groundwater wells, known as the Probation wells. These wells were constructed to State standards and produce generally soft water.

### San Lorenzo Valley Water District; Mañana Woods System

Services the Scotts Valley areas of La Cuesta Dr, El Sereno Dr, Miraflores Dr, and Canepa Dr. District customers in the SLVWD-Manana Woods System receive 100% of their water through the interconnection between the SLVWD South section.

**SLVWD- Lompico System.** Services the Lompico area of Lompico Rd, West Dr, and Lake Blvd, formerly known as the Lompico County Water District. District customers in the SLVWD-Lompico System receive 100% of their water through the interconnection between the SLVWD North section.

**SLVWD- Felton System.** Services the town of Felton, Hwy 9 south to Big Trees, San Lorenzo Ave, Felton Empire Grade, Felton Grove and El Solyo Heights. District customers in the SLVWD-Felton System are supplied water from Bennett Springs, Bull Springs, and Fall Creek. Drinking water treatment from these sources is provided at a conventional surface water treatment plant. An interconnection exists between the SLVWD North section and the SLVWD-Felton System. In 2017, the SLVWD Felton System received from the SLVWD North section approximately 4.2% of its total supply (or, 6.6 million gallons).

## Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California State Water Resources Control Board 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. 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Possible Contaminants

Contaminants that may be in the water prior to treatment may 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 agricultural, 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.

## Lead in Your Water

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. San Lorenzo Valley Water 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 mini-

mize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

The San Lorenzo Valley Water District monitors for lead and copper at the customers tap throughout the District on a regular basis in accordance with the USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule regulations. The rule requires public water systems to sample at customers' homes that meet specific criteria where elevated levels of lead and copper are more likely to be found. Since 1993 samples have shown levels of lead and copper in District homes to be well below the action levels set by the USEPA. See the enclosed water quality table for test results from the latest round of sampling.

In 2017, the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District requested that the San Lorenzo Valley Water district conduct lead sampling at all of the SLVUSD campuses. Sample locations at all campuses included food preparation areas, drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations. All samples collected at SLVUSD campuses were well below the state's Lead Action Level of 15 ppb.

In an effort to provide this report to everyone, the District encourages landlords to provide a copy of this report to their tenants.



Storm Damage from 2016 - 2017 winter rains created a challenge to access the Lyon Water Treatment Plant

SAN LORENZO VALEY WATER DISTRICT WATER QUALITY REPORT 2017				SLVWD SYSTEM SLVWD North, South, Manana Woods, Lompico						SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WATER QUALITY REPORT 2017	
				GROUND WATER			SURFACE WATER				
PRIMARY HEALTH STANDARDS	Notes	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Inorganic Constiuents Aluminum (ppm)	1	1	0.6	2015	< 0 - 0.5	< 0.05	2017	< 0.05 - 0.68	< 0.05	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.	
Arsenic (ppb)	1	10	0.004	2017	< 1 - 3.2	2.5	2017	< 1	< 1	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Fluoride (ppb)	1	2000	1000	2015	140 - 480	240	2017	< 100	< 100	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)		10	10	2017	< 0.4 - 2.2	0.6	2017	< 0.4	< 0.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Radioactive Constituents Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1	15	0	2012	< 3.0 - 3.2	< 3.0	2012	< 3.0	< 3.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Turbidity [Nephelometric Turbidity Units] (NTU's)	2	(TT) = 95% of Samples ≤ 0.2 NTU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2017	≤ 0.2 in 99.4% of samples	Highest Measurement = 0.28	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.	
SECONDARY STANDARDS		Secondary MCL	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Chloride (ppm)	1	500	N/A	2015	5.7 - 8.8	7.3	2017	5.8 - 6.3	5.9	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Iron (ppb)	1, 3	300	**	2017	220 - 1300	480	2017	< 100 - 880	< 100	Leaching from natural deposits.	
Manganese (ppb)	3	50	**	2017	95 - 270	152	2017	< 20	< 20	Leaching from natural deposits.	
Sulfate (ppm)	1	500	**	2015	8 - 200	89	2017	2.0 - 2.8	2.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	1	1000	**	2015	120 - 550	308	2017	88 - 110	100	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Turbidity [Nephelometric Turbidity Units] (NTU's)		5	N/A	2017	0.22 - 1.90	1.08	N/A	N/A	N/A	Soil runoff.	
					Range of Detection		Average Amount				
				GROUND WATER			SURFACE WATER				
ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED		MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Sodium (ppm)		N/A	N/A	2015	10 - 14	12	2017	6.9 - 9.2	7.8	Refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.	
Total Hardness (ppm)		N/A	N/A	2015	46 - 400	204	2017	38 - 68	50	Hardness is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.	
Phosphate PO <sub>4</sub> (ppm)		N/A	N/A	2017	< 0.3 - 3.4	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Treatment additive.	
PRIMARY HEALTH STANDARDS		MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection		Average Amount			MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Disinfection By-products/Residuals* TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)		80	N/A	2017	2 - 57		53			By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)		60	N/A	2017	< 2 - 41		28			By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
Chlorine (ppm)		[4.0]	[4.0]	2017	0.19 - 1.52		0.90			Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.	
MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS		No more than 5% Positive Samples in any one month.	0	2017	0 Positive		0 Positive			Naturally present in the environment	
E. Coli		0	0	2017	0 Positive		0 Positive			E. Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes	

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WATER QUALITY REPORT 2017				FELTON SYSTEM						SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WATER QUALITY REPORT 2017	
				GROUND WATER			SURFACE WATER				
PRIMARY HEALTH STANDARDS	Notes	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Inorganic Constituents Aluminum (ppm)	1	1	0.6	2015	Single Sample	< 0.05	2017	< 0.05 - 0.36	< 0.05	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.	
Arsenic (ppb)	1	10	0.004	2015	Single Sample	< 1	2017	< 1.0 - 1.2	< 1	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Fluoride (ppb)	1	2000	1000	2015	Single Sample	100	2017	< 100 - 150	124	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)		10	10	2017	Single Sample	< 0.4	2017	< 0.4	< 0.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Radioactive Constituents Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1	15	0	2014	Single Sample	< 3	2014	< 3.0 - 4.3	< 3.0	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Turbidity [Nephelometric Turbidity Units] (NTU's)	2	(TT) = 95% of Samples ≤ 0.2 NTU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2017	≤ 0.2 in 100% of samples	Highest Measurement = 0.15	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.	
SECONDARY STANDARDS		Secondary MCL	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Chloride (ppm)	1	500	N/A	2016	Single Sample	6.8	2017	7.5 - 9.6	8.6	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Iron (ppb)	1, 3	300	**	2015	Single Sample	< 100	2017	< 100 - 360	< 100	Leaching from natural deposits.	
Sulfate (ppm)	1	500	**	2016	Single Sample	16	2017	5.9 - 7.4	6.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	1	1000	**	2015	Single Sample	280	2017	140 - 280	223	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits.	
Turbidity [Nephelometric Turbidity Units] (NTU's)		5	N/A	2017	Single Sample	0.28	N/A	N/A	N/A	Soil runoff	
				Range of Detection			Average Amount				
				GROUND WATER			SURFACE WATER				
ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED		MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amounts	Sample Year*	Range of Detection	Average Amount	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Sodium (ppm)		N/A	N/A	2015	Single Sample	6.7	2017	7.7 - 8.7	8.3	Refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.	
Total Hardness (ppm)		N/A	N/A	2015	Single Sample	220	2017	91 - 260	187	Hardness is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.	
PRIMARY HEALTH STANDARDS		MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	Sample Year*	Range of Detection		Average Amount		MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER		
Disinfection By-products/Residuals* TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)		80	N/A	2017	13 - 30		27		By-product of drinking water disinfection.		
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)		60	N/A	2017	4 - 28		16		By-product of drinking water disinfection.		
Chlorine (ppm)		[4.0]	[4.0]	2017	0.29 - 1.15		0.74		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.		
MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS		No more than 5% Positive Samples in any one month.	0	2017	0 Positive		0 Positive		Naturally present in the environment		
Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule) (P/A)											
E. Coli		0	0	2017	0 Positive		0 Positive		E. Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes		

**Terms and Definitions used in table: (Previous Page)**

**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. MRDLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCL's and MRDL's for contaminants that effect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's or (MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

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

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

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

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units. **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter **CU:** Color Units

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter. **P/A:** Presence /Absence **N/A.:** Not Applicable

**N.D.:** Not Detectable at testing limit. \* Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

\*\* There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetics.

**Notes: 1)** The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

**Notes: 2)** Surface Water Treatment Technique ( Type of Approved Filtration Technology); Microfloc package plant with upflow clarification and gravity filtration.

**Notes: 3)** District Wells Olympia 2 and 3 and Pasatiempo 6, periodically exceed the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for Iron and Manganese. SMCL's are set for aesthetic reasons only, and do not cause adverse health effects. Iron and Manganese can cause discolored water and staining. To offset this effect, the District adds phosphate, which acts to keep Iron and Manganese in solution and help prevent problems associated with this mineral.

**Lead and Copper Sampling SLVWD System (Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond, Olympia, Zayante, Scotts Valley)**

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	Number of Samples Collected	90th percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	Number of schools that requested lead sampling in 2017	Action Level	Public Health Goal	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	August 2017	36	<5.0	0	3	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems discharges from industrial manufacturers erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	August 2017	36	0.50	0		1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives

Lead and Copper Sampling SLVWD- Felton System								
Lead and Copper	Sample Date	Number of Samples Collected	90th percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	Number of schools that requested lead sampling in 2017	Action Level	Public Health Goal	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	August 2017	20	<5.0	0	4	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems discharges from industrial manufacturers erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	August 2017	20	0.50	0		1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives

Lead and Copper Sampling SLVWD-Lompico System								
Lead and Copper	Sample Date	Number of Samples Collected	90th percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	Number of schools that requested lead sampling in 2017	Action Level	Public Health Goal	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	January 2017	20	<5.0	0	N/A	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems discharges from industrial manufacturers erosion of natural deposits
	July 2017	22	<5.0	0				
Copper (ppm)	January 2017	20	0.60	0		1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives
	July 2017	22	1.2	0				

Lead and Copper Sampling SLVWD- Manana Woods System								
Lead and Copper	Sample Date	Number of Samples Collected	90th percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	Number of schools that requested lead sampling in 2017	Action Level	Public Health Goal	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	September 2017	12	<5.0	0	N/A	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems discharges from industrial manufacturers erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	September 2017	12	0.42	0		1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems erosion of natural deposits leaching from wood preservatives

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## Protecting Our Watershed

Many common household products are hazardous if carelessly handled or stored. Chemicals poured on the ground or down the drain or toilet can pollute our drinking water. Of particular concern are volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs). VOCs are chemicals commonly found in paints, thinners, solvents, degreasers, and automotive products. SOCs are found in herbicides and pesticides. These products should never be poured down the sink, toilet or drain. The County of Santa Cruz receives household hazardous waste at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. The District strongly encourages consumers to make use of this convenient program and to dispose of household hazardous waste in a proper and responsible manner. For more information on disposal and receiving times, you may call the County at (831) 454-2606. You can help protect our drinking water from sources of pollution. It is extremely important to help protect our drinking water from possible sources of pollution by exercising care with all household chemicals. A little pollution can go a long way!

## Source Water Assessments

In 2002 and 2004 the District completed source water assessments of its deep water well aquifers and surface water watershed in Ben Lomond, Zayante and Boulder Creek. A source water assessment lists possible contaminating activities and the susceptibility of identified contamination threats that might affect the quality of our drinking water supplies.

### Quail Hollow Well Field Aquifer

Factors contributing to the potential vulnerability of the District's Quail Hollow Wells include: the high percolation capacity of the Santa Margarita Sandstone Aquifer and associated Zayante soils, the absence of a confining zone above the aquifer, residential septic tank systems, and unused production wells.

### Olympia Well Field Aquifer

Factors contributing to the potential water-quality vulnerability of the District's Olympia wells include: the high percolation capacity of the Santa Margarita Sandstone Aquifer, residential septic tank systems, and equestrian activities.

### Foreman, Peavine, Clear, and Sweetwater Creeks Watershed

Factors contributing to the potential vulnerability of the District's surface water include: managed forests, septic systems, recreational, government or institutional facilities. Copies of the Source Water Assessments for each water source are available at the District Office.

## State Standards and Monitoring

Individual water suppliers do not arbitrarily decide what constitutes "safe" drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board require all public water suppliers to meet stringent quality standards. Compliance is mandatory for public water utilities.

In California, drinking water standards (also called Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) are established for two categories. Primary Standards are set for the protection of public health. Secondary Standards are set only for aesthetic qualities such as taste, odor and color, but do not represent any threat to health.

The District maintains a monitoring program to sample and test all water sources in accordance with State and Federal standards. Should the District fail to monitor, or the District's water exceed the MCLs allowable in the Primary Standards, it is required by law to notify all customers of the nature of the problem and any possible health effects. Some contaminants that are routinely monitored by the District are bacteria, turbidity, inorganic chemicals, metals, general minerals, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), disinfection by-products (THMs), and radiation. The table in this report shows our test results for 2017. Once again, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District is pleased to report that our water quality met or surpassed all State and Federal criteria for public health protection. For additional information regarding water quality, please contact the San Lorenzo Valley Water District at (831) 338-2153.

## Using Your Water Meter to Check for Leaks

1. It's good preventive maintenance to conduct a leak check of your house periodically.
2. Start by firmly turning off all water devices inside and outside the house.
3. Next, go outside to the meter and mark down the reading, including the red flow detection indicator.
4. Wait 15 minutes and then check the meter again.

If the meter has not moved, your house is leak free. If the meter has moved, you have a leak to hunt down. The most likely cause is a leaking toilet. Most meters also have a triangular low-flow indicator, which should not be spinning unless a leak is present. To avoid receiving a surprisingly high water bill caused by an undetected leak, we suggest you check your meter regularly.