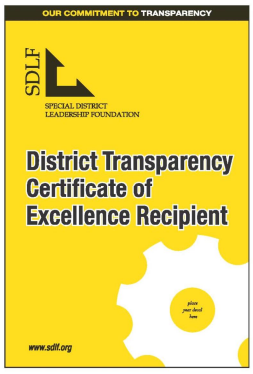
AROMAS WATER DISTRICT

Aromas Water District is proud of the installation of a Solar Power System to generate clean power and pass the savings of $35,000 in energy costs per year on to our customers!

Annual Water Quality Report

2014 *(Prepared in 2015)*

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo, hable con alguien que lo entienda bien, o llame a nuestra oficina: 831-726-3155



The Aromas Water District received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

This report gives you information on the Aromas Water District water quality monitoring done during the year 2014. It includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State Standards. We take pride in providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are pleased to report that our water meets all primary and secondary drinking water standards. We test our water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our testing for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2014.

Contacting Your Aromas Water District

388 Blohm Avenue Phone: (831) 726-3155 Fax: (831) 726-3951

Mail: PO Box 388 Aromas, 95004 or email admin@aromaswaterdistrict.org

Public participation is encouraged at our regularly scheduled Board meetings held the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office. General Manager, Vicki Morris can be reached at the office phone or email listed above. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm. In case of an after-hours emergency, we have a 24-hour Answering Service available by following the directions in our voice message. More information is available on our website. It contains Board agendas and minutes, water quality information, conservation tips and much more: www.aromaswaterdistrict.org

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General Manager's Corner:

We are proud to present to you this 2014 Annual Water Quality Report, showing water quality test results all within the recommended levels, meeting all State and Federal standards.

We are in the fourth year of a serious drought in California; water conservation continues to be the best way to safeguard our precious supplies. Again this year, we received less than 50% of our seasonal average rainfall which is relied upon to replenish our groundwater aquifers. The governor issued strict mandatory restrictions to achieve a 25% statewide reduction in use. Aromas Water District customers have stepped up to the challenge and we are close to this goal. With all of our continued water conservation diligence we will meet the State's mandatory reduction goal. Of course, summertime is the most difficult, please check your irrigation systems for leaks and reduce the schedule of outdoor irrigation to two days per week.

We monitor all of our well levels carefully and are confident our supply is adequate as long as we continue to conserve. Our District is not in a crisis yet, but a prolonged drought could have severe consequences, please read the great conservation tips and advice later in this newsletter.

Exciting news on the energy fronté AWD contracted to install a solar energy generation plant at one of our large pumping plants (to be completed in June 2015). We will produce clean energy to offset over $35,000 per year in power costs; this savings is directly passed on to you, the customer.

The Board of Directors has developed long term strategic plans, a financial reserve policy to protect and provide financial security long into the future, capital improvement plans to repair and replace aging water facilities and infrastructure. In 2014 we retrofitted a storage tank for earthquake preparedness, replaced meters and upgraded our radio telemetry system for more precise monitoring.

In cooperation with Monterey County and the California Department of Public Health, we are helping our neighbors of the Oakridge and Via del Sol areas who have asked to be served by Aromas Water, due to their problematic water quantity and quality issues. Those residents paid for this new pipeline constructed in 2014-2015. This may add up to forty-seven new water customers by mid 2015.

Did you know you can receive your water bill by email, view your own water account information remotely, make credit card payments, automatically debit your water payment, view your past usage and billing information on-line? Visit our website at: AromasWaterDistrict.org for more information. We welcome your visit to our office and staff, where you can view our historical Aromas photo collection and stroll through the exhibition garden of drought tolerant succulents and plants. See what grows well here in Aromas, with very little water. You are always welcome to attend the monthly public Board meetings. We are here and pleased to serve you. **Vicki Morris, GM**

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2014 WATER SOURCES USED:

Your water comes from 3 ground water wells from within the Pajaro Basin named and located as follows:

- **San Juan Well - located south of San Juan Road - provided 63% of total water production in 2014.**
- **Carpenteria Well - located east of Carpenteria Road - provided 36% of total water production in 2014.**
- **Pleasant Acres Well - located north of San Juan Road - provided less than 1% of total water production in 2014.**

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT: *

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 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. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
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 Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

SDWS (Secondary Drinking Water Standards): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

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.

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

NA: Not Applicable in this situation.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

Micromhos Measure of electric conductance.

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: part per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

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

**** Note: For those samples which the district is allowed to monitor less often than once a year, the most recent testing has been used.***

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, ponds, 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, which 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive contaminants***, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, *the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (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.*

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these constituents in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of them are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, some of the data is more than one year old, but representative of the water quality. **Our system had no violations in 2014.**

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of detections in 2013	No. of months in violation	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	MCLG (Ideal Goal)	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule)	(In a mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and *E. coli* (Total Coliform Rule)	(In 2014) 0	0	A routine sample & repeat sample detect total coliform & either sample also detects fecal coliform or *E. coli*	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 – RESULTS OF CONSUMER TAP SAMPLING TO SHOW DETECTION OF LEAD OR COPPER

Lead and Copper Most recently tested in 2013	Number of sites sampled	90th percentile level detected	Number of Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	10	6	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	10	166	0	1300	170	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS WITH ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Latest Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	7/18/12	85	49-106	NA	NA	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	7/18/12	121	111-156	NA	NA	Generally found in ground and surface water
pH (laboratory units)	7/18/12	7.8	7.8-7.9	NA	NA	Inherent characteristic of water
Calcium (ppm)	7/18/12	30	28-34	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	7/18/12	11	10-21	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Latest Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	7/18/12	3	2-4	10	.004 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/18/12	111	97-137	1000	2000 (NA)	Discharges of oil drilling wastes & from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED) - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Fluoride (ppm)	7/18/12	0.19	0.13-0.23	2.0	1 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. (AWD does not add Fluoride.)
Nitrate (ppm)	7/2/14	ND	ND	45 (as nitrate)	45 (as NO3)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	11/10/14	ND	ND	10	.02	Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer
TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Iron (ppb)	12/3/14	13	ND-37	300	NA	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	12/3/14	21	ND-58	50	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	7/18/12	0.91	0.04-1.4	5.00	NA	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	7/18/12	347	310-368	1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromos)	7/18/12	613	508-673	900	NA	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	7/18/12	76	47-87	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	7/18/12	5	1-13	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits' industrial wastes
TABLE 6 – DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS : DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RESULTS						
TTHMs (ppb) [total trihalomethanes]	7/16/14	18	13-23	80	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 (ppb) [Haloacetic Acids]	7/16/14	2.25	1.9-2.6	60	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine (ppm)	Daily	1.19 Running Annual Average	0.65-1.69	MRDL 4.0	NA	Drinking Water disinfectant added for treatment

Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the District were completed in 2002 and 2012. A source water assessment lists possible contaminating activities that might affect the quality of your water sources. The assessment also identifies the susceptibility of the District's drinking water wells to identified contamination threats.

A study of the aquifer feeding the Pleasant Acres Well identifies residential septic systems, other animal operations, and agricultural irrigation as the greatest threat to the District's drinking water. A study of the aquifer feeding the Carpenteria Well identifies residential septic systems as the greatest threat to the District's drinking water. The San Juan Well is in the same aquifer and in close proximity to the Pleasant Acres Well and, therefore, has the same threats.

Copies of the Executive Summary for each assessment are available free-of-charge at the District office. The full reports are available upon request or can be viewed at the District's office located at 388 Blohm Ave., Aromas. For information about these Source Water Assessments, or your water quality in general, please contact the District at (831) 726-3155 or visit our web site at www.aromaswaterdistrict.org.

WAYS TO CONSERVE OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE:
WATER SAVING IDEAS

In the garden:

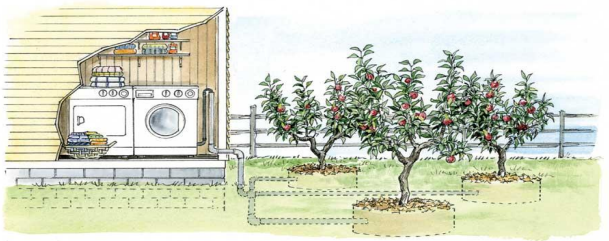
- *Please schedule your outdoor watering to a maximum of only two days a week.*
- *Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and reduces weeds. There is free mulch available at 490 Carpenteria (next to the fire station).*
- *Remove your lawn and replace it with California natives and water-conserving succulents.*

Other outdoor use:

- *Use brooms and water buckets for outdoor cleaning, instead of a water hose.*
- *Put shut-off nozzles on all hose ends.*
- *Fix all leaky or dripping faucets.*

Indoors:

- *Use water efficient washing machines and dishwashers and add aerators to faucets.*
- *Install water saving toilets and check for leaks in the tank. Free test tablets are available at the water district office.*
- *Collect water in containers when you wash fruits and vegetables to use for watering plants.*
- *Don't let good water run down the drain. Ever. Thank you!*



LAUNDRY TO LANDSCAPE:

The simplest greywater irrigation system to install is the permit-free laundry-to-landscape option. If you do, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency offers $100 rebates to our customers. Check out our website **www.AromasWaterDistrict.org** for the Laundry to Landscape packet under the Conservation tab.

Lawn Gone!

What can you replace your lawn with and still be able to walk or play on it? Here are just a few ideas:

GRAVEL * BRICK * STURDY GROUND COVER PLANTS * **SAND** * **BARK** * PATHWAYS * **DIRT** * STAMPED CONCRETE * PLANKS * *ARTIFICIAL TURF* * PAVERS.

Please share your ideas with us. Call the office at 726-3155. Together, we can make a difference!

Aromas Water Usage - Customer Worksheet - Calculate Gallons Per Day

1) Fill in your usage from monthly bill card (in cubic feet)		_____
2) Multiply times 7.48 (gallons)	X	_____7.48_____
3) Equals total gallons, per month, per household	=	_____
4) Divide by 30 days	÷	_____30_____
5) Equals total gallons, per day, per household	=	_____

Take the Challenge to Save 20 Gallons Per Day !

HOW TO GARDEN IN A *drought*

California is in a drought and that means that we need to be careful with every drop of water that we use, particularly outdoors. Here's a guide to how to help your landscape survive the drought.

GET EFFICIENT

- introduce drip irrigation
- invest in a smart controller
- water less frequently, but longer and close to plant roots
- redirect downspouts to capture rainwater and direct it to garden areas

PRIORITIZE YOUR LANDSCAPE

1. **VEGETABLES & FRUITS GET PRIORITY**
They help feed your family.

2. **WATER-WISE PLANTS & SHADE TREES**
Water-wise plants use little or no water once established. Shade trees help keep plants cool and less thirsty.

3. **THIRSTY PLANTS – LAWN, HIGH-WATER-USE & CONTAINER PLANTS**
These plants are the lowest on the priority list. If you have to cut back, start here.

USE MULCH

There are many benefits using mulch in your landscape.

- **RETAIN MOISTURE**
Less watering needed and grow healthier plants.
- **MODERATES TEMPERATURE**
Cool soil in the summer and warm soil in the winter.
- **DECOMPOSES NUTRIENTS**
Enrich soil and better soil quality.
- **DISCOURAGE WEEDS**
Keep weeds away and reduce maintenance.

CAN I PLANT?

Check with your local water agency and if you can water at least two times a week, you can plant water-wise plants and shade trees. This is not the time to install new lawn or thirsty, non-California friendly plants.

RECYCLE INDOOR WATER OUTDOORS!

Recycle water you are using indoors by capturing what otherwise might go down the drain and use it on plants.

- put a bucket in your shower
- use cooled cooking water
- wash your fruits & veggies over a bucket
- keep a pitcher next to the sink and empty water glasses in it

For more tips on reducing water use, visit saveourH2O.org!

FOLLOW US

Save Our WATER

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

All 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 the 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). 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).

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 Aromas 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 minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The Aromas Water District is a non-profit Multi-County Special District governed by five elected members of the AWD community, each serving a four-year term. AWD was formed in 1959 and today we serve 908 connections including areas in Monterey and San Benito Counties.

The mission of Aromas Water District: To provide a reliable supply of high quality water.

AROMAS WATER DISTRICT

P.O Box 388
Aromas, CA 95004

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

First Class Mail
PRESORTED
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Permit #1

Important information about your water enclosed!
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable!

2014 Water Quality Report

(Published in 2015)

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