



New Home of the Aromas Water District: 388 Blohm Ave.



Annual Water Quality Report

2012 (Prepared in 2013)

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

This report gives you information on the Aromas Water District water quality monitoring done during the year 2012. 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, 2012.

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

Contacting Your Water District

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

Mail: PO Box 388 Aromas, 95004 or email aromaswd@aol.com.

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

General Manager's Corner:

2012 was a great year for this District. It was our 53rd year providing clean drinking water to our wonderful small community. Our water quality testing results are all within recommended levels, meeting all State and Federal standards. The District as a whole is doing a great job of conserving water: the average usage per family is 8,500 gallons per month. Water is still one of our best values, averaging less than one cent per gallon.

In early 2012, we started the remodel of our newly purchased old Ducky Deli building. The move was completed in October 2012; this new office will be a wonderful asset to the District for many years to come. We are able to offer the Board Room to local non-profits for a free meeting space. Contact us for a tour. Please come for a stroll in our recently developed demonstration garden to showcase drought tolerant plants, it is in the rear of the office building. See what grows well, here in Aromas, with very little water.

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 to be served by Aromas Water, because of their long standing water quantity and quality issues. Those residents will be responsible for all costs to bring water to their homes. The financing and final voter approval for the infrastructure construction will take place this year, 2013.

Aromas Water District Board members and staff have taken an active interest in the concerns to water quality and quantity brought on by recent interest in hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration in the Aromas area. The Board helped encourage local San Benito County Supervisors to review and update that county's oil and gas ordinance to reflect an emphasis on protecting our ground water supplies.

We are implementing a new software billing program which will enable you to view your water account information on-line and make payments remotely; watch for the roll-out date on your monthly note-card bill. We welcome your visit to our new office. Please come, chat with staff, view our historical Aromas photo collection and stroll in the garden. We are here to serve you.

Vicki Morris, General Manager

2012 WATER SOURCES USED:

Your water comes from 3 Ground Water Wells named and located as follows:

The Pleasant Acres Well provided 1% of total water production in 2012. This well is located north of San Juan Road.

The San Juan Well provided 58% of total water production in 2012. This well is located south of San Juan Road.

The Carpenteria Well provided 41% of total water production in 2012. It is located east of Carpenteria Road.

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 (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.

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 2012.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of detections in 2012	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 <i>E. coli</i> (Total Coliform Rule)	(In 2012) 0	0	A routine sample & repeat sample detect total coliform & either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	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 2009	Number of sites sampled	90 th 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	266	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	82	68-106	NA	NA	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	7/18/12	123	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	114	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	0.13-0.18	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)	7/18/12	ND	ND	45 (as nitrate)	45 (as NO ₃)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Iron (ppb)	7/18/12	35	ND-86	300	NA	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	7/18/12	17	ND-41	50	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	7/18/12	0.85	0.1-1.4	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	344	310-368	1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	7/18/12	604	508-673	900	NA	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	7/18/12	74	47-87	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	7/18/12	6	1-13	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits' industrial wastes

TABLE 6 - DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS : DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RESULTS

TTHMs (ppb) [total trihalomethanes]	7/7/10	10	ND-10	80	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
HAA5 (ppb) [Haloacetic Acids]	8/4/10	3.6	ND-3.6	60	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine (ppm)	Daily	.98 Running Annual Average	0.61-1.34	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 387 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.

Aromas Water District Averages

2012 Water Production = 104,253,000 gallons for 892 households and businesses

December was the lowest month of production = 5,101,000 gallons

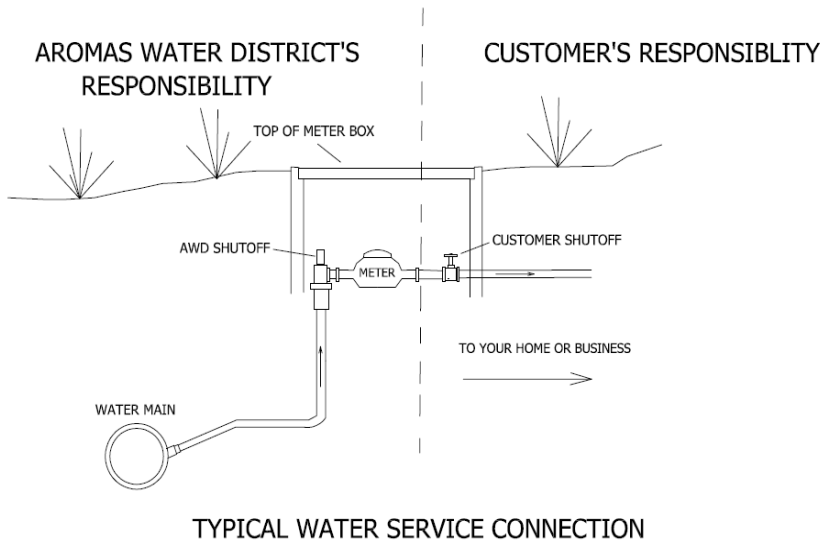
July was the highest month of production = 14,125,000 gallons

Average Single-family residence monthly usage overall: 1,200 cubic feet (8,987 gallons)

Lowest winter monthly usage in 2012: 636 cubic feet (4,758 gallons) average per single-family residence

Highest summer monthly usage in 2012: 2,248 cubic feet (16,816 gallons) average per single-family residence

Important Information about your Water Meter



TYPICAL WATER SERVICE CONNECTION

* Note the location of the customer shutoff valve in the above diagram. The ideal location is as close to the meter as possible so that your entire system can be turned off during repairs or emergencies.

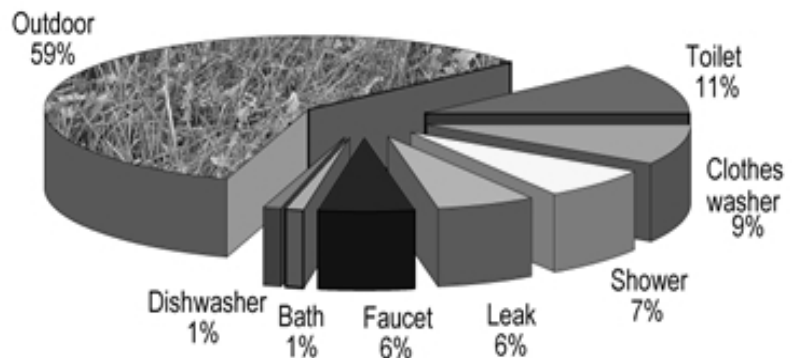
Aromas Water District personnel read **every meter every** month. Maintenance is done by District personnel for any problems that occur on the District side of the meter (including the meter). Service personnel must have a 3-foot wide by 6-foot-high unobstructed path to access the water meter. This is a condition of service and, if necessary, access will be made by the District if "Request to Clear" notices are ignored by the customer.

The customer is responsible for all repairs necessary to their side of the meter. This includes the service line to the house, landscape pipes, pressure boosters or pressure reducers. A suitable pressure regulating valve must be installed and maintained to protect your system from high pressure, which can result in broken lines, flooding, and loss of water. AWD takes no responsibility for damage resulting from a malfunctioning or missing pressure regulating valve. It is recommended you check these items regularly to avoid leaks and expense. **Please make sure that you have a shutoff valve*** near the beginning of your system for repairs and emergencies. If your system is equipped with a Pressure Booster Pump, please call the District office for additional information that will be helpful to you.

Outdoor Conservation Tips

1. Watering your yard only before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind can save 25 gallons per day.
2. Installing a smart sprinkler controller can save 40 gallons per day.
3. If you use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks, you can save 150 gallons each time.
4. Checking your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads can save 500 gallons a month.
5. Mulch! Save hundreds of gallons a year by using organic or inorganic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
6. Plant flowers/trees/bushes that require less watering. Select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions.
7. Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.
8. Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.

Residential Average Water Use



Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, End Uses of Water

**NEW BEGINNINGS:
A DROUGHT-TOLERANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN at the District Office**



The old sign from our office at 387 Blohm is now located in the demonstration garden

A bonus resulting from the purchase of our new office building was a small yard, badly in need of some TLC. Mostly dirt and weeds, the yard was a blank slate, ready to be filled with beautiful plants suitable to the Aromas area. The garden now demonstrates water-wise gardening practices with drip irrigation and mulch to help in establishing the plants picked for their low maintenance requirements. Stop by any time and take a stroll on the gravel path to enjoy and get ideas from our evolving garden behind the office at 388 Blohm Ave., next to the Town Square Park.



The layout of path and garden area prior to planting.



After planting: Succulents, native plants and small shrubs are beginning to get established.

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>.

Aromas Water District
P.O Box 388
Aromas, CA 95004

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

First Class Mail
PRESORTED
U. S. Postage Paid
AROMAS, CA 95004

Permit #1

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

2012 Water Quality Report

(Published in 2013)