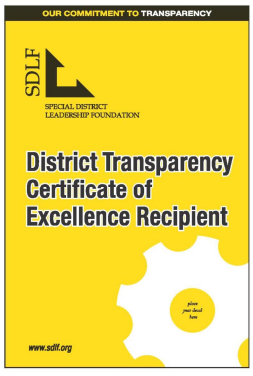
AROMAS WATER DISTRICT

Annual Water Quality Report

2015 *(Prepared in 2016)*

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 completed during the year 2015. 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, 2015.

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 2015 Annual Water Quality Report, showing water quality test results meeting all the recommended levels for State and Federal standards. This is our 57th year providing clean water to our wonderful small community.

The serious drought in California over the last five years has made all of us aware of just how precious our water resource is. While we did receive an average yearôs rainfall this 2015-2016 period, it will take many years to restore the deep aquifers. In 2015 the Governor issued mandatory restrictions to achieve a 25% statewide reduction in use; the Aromas customers rallied to the request and conserved over 30%! At this time, voluntary restrictions have been continued until 2017. With all of our continued water efficiency and conservation diligence, we will again meet the Stateôs 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. Please read the great conservation tips and advice later in this newsletter.

The 2015 installation of the 94 kW solar field on Carpenteria Road has generated enough energy over this past year to offset over $35,000 in pumping power costs. This savings is directly passed on to you the customer by allowing our rates to remain as low as possible while maintaining a robust and efficient system. We welcome your visit to our office where you can meet our staff, 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 held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. We are here and pleased to serve you safe reliable water.

Visit our website at: AromasWaterDistrict.org for more information Thanks again for doing your part to conserve water.

Vicki Morris, GM

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2015 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 68% of total water production in 2015.**
- **Carpenteria Well - located east of Carpenteria Road - provided 31% of total water production in 2015.**
- **Pleasant Acres Well - located north of San Juan Road - provided less than 1% of total water production in 2015.**

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 State Water Resources Control 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 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 2015.**

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of detections in 2015	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 2015) 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)	7/13/15	81	48-100	NA	NA	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	7/13/15	187	111-323	NA	NA	Generally found in ground and surface water
pH (laboratory units)	7/13/15	7.8	7.4-8.1	NA	NA	Inherent characteristic of water
Calcium (ppm)	7/13/15	45	28-75	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	7/13/15	11	10-33	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)	7/13/15	3	2-4	10	.004 (NA)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/13/15	175	127-262	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)	**Latest Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Fluoride (ppm)	7/13/15	0.2	0.2-0.2	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 as N03 (ppm)	7/13/15	0.13	ND-0.2	10	10 (as NO3)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent ChromiumVI (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)	7/13/15	15	ND-43	300	NA	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	7/13/15	0	ND	50	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	7/13/15	0.22	0.2-0.7	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)	7/13/15	432	375-488	1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromos)	7/13/15	724	593-790	900	NA	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	7/13/15	81	46-88	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	7/13/15	17	3-43	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	1.04 Running Annual Average	0.58-1.41	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.

Go California-Friendly:
Making Your Landscaping Drought-Tolerant

A drought-tolerant (or water-wise) landscape is one that allows for a beautiful healthy landscape with drought-tolerant, often native, plants, minimal supplemental irrigation and little to no adverse runoff. Here are six basic principles of a water-wise landscape:

- **Limit Your Grass:** Grass is a huge source of outdoor water waste. Consider cutting back ï or eliminating ï your turf. At the very least, make sure you have a water-efficient sprinkler system (and make sure you monitor your wateringé)

- **Appropriate Plant Selection:** Select trees, shrubs and groundcovers based on their adaptability to your regionôs soil and climate. California has an abundance of beautiful native plants which generally have lower water demands, fewer pest problems and less fertilizer needs than plants that have been brought into our state. The Sunset Plant Finder is a good tool to find the right plants for your area.

- **The Right Plants for the Right Soil:** Knowing your soil and selecting the right kind of plants for your area is an important part of a water-wise landscape.

- **Efficient Irrigation:** Most people water their landscaping more than it needs. The greatest waste of outdoor water is applying too much too often. Limit watering your lawn to a couple minutes per week to keep your grass alive and hydrated.

- **Mulch:** Use mulch wherever possible. A good mulch conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. Mulch also reduces weed populations, prevents soil compaction and keeps soil temperatures more moderate.

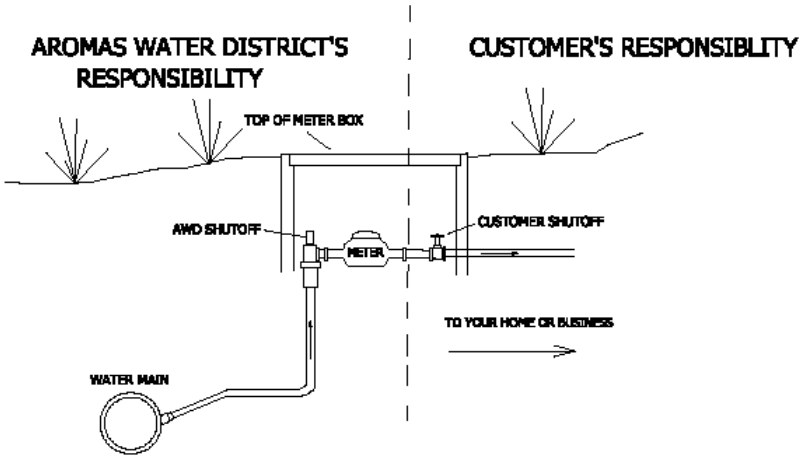
- **Maintenance:** One of the best benefits of a water-wise landscape is that it requires less maintenance. A well-designed landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing; once-a-year mulching; elimination of non-California-friendly plants; and more efficient watering techniques.

http://saveourwater.com/what-you-can-do/tips/landscaping/

Conservation tip: Reach for the broom instead of the hose to clean driveway and walkways and you'll save 8-10 gallons a minute. Nice Save!

REMEMBER:
Please limit your outdoor watering to just two days a week!

The diagram at the right shows the division of responsibility for repair and maintenance of your water service. As a friendly reminder, we ask that you keep the meter box clearly accessible at all times. Clear vegetation and prune overhanging branches to allow our operators the ability to easily walk to and open the lid of the meter box. If you have any questions, call the office at 831-726-3155.
Every meter is read every month.



TYPICAL WATER SERVICE CONNECTION

Thank you for your conservation efforts! Our customers responded to the drought by cutting back usage 30% from June through November 2015 as compared to the same period in 2013, without mandatory restrictions.
We must continue to cut back water consumption by using it carefully and wisely through 2016.

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 !

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 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 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 952connections 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
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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!

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