The Sources of Your Water

Water is supplied by two providers, Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) and Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), as follows:

Service Area 1 - Local groundwater from EGWD
Service Area 2 - Local groundwater from SCWA, with periodic surface water from SCWA.

Some wells in both Service Area 1 and 2 are treated to remove arsenic, iron and manganese. These treatment facilities also remove amounts of other similar constituents, such as barium. Some of the data presented in this report reflects the well water before treatment, so the water that you are provided may have lower levels of some of the reported constituents after treatment.

Some water assessments have been conducted for all the water sources to enable EGWD and SCWA to understand the activities that have the greatest potential for contaminating the drinking water supplies. The EGWD groundwater sources were assessed in 2003 and 2009. The SCWA groundwater sources were last assessed in 2008. These assessments were conducted in accordance with State Board guidelines and copies of the complete assessments are available for review at the respective agency offices.

EGWD and SCWA conducted assessments of their local groundwater wells. There have been no detections of contaminants in the wells that are associated with any activities, but the wells are considered most vulnerable to gas stations, boat services, chemical/petroleum pipelines and storage tanks, other animal operations, boat services, chemical/petroleum pipelines and storage tanks, other animal operations, boat services, chemical/petroleum pipelines and storage tanks, other animal operations. They also conducted a Surface Water Assessment Program (SWAP) of the Sacramento River surface water source. It was found that naturally present in the environment contributed to the presence of certain contaminants in the source water. The EGWD Service Area 1 and 2 were monitored for nine months; the SCWA Service Area 2 was monitored for ten months.

A Note for Sensitive Populations

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 (1-800-426-4719).

Cryptosporidium in Surface 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. SCWA periodically provides treated surface water to Service Area 2 and their monitoring indicates the low-level presence of these organisms in the source water, the Sacramento River.

The water is treated to remove at least 99 percent of the organisms. Current test methods do not allow SCWA 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 can 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 and those over 65 years of age to consult their doctor regarding appropriate actions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Water Quality Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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.

Public Health Goal (PHG) - 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.

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 microbial contaminants.

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

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

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

PPM - Parts per million
PPB - Parts per billion
NTU - Nephelometric turbidity unit
μCi/L - Micromicroliter
Ci/L - Curie per liter
NATURALLY OCCURING ORIGIN
---There is currently no MCL for this contaminant. The previous MCL of 10 NTU was withdrawn on September 11, 2002.
---All surface water sources must comply with MCL's for Cryptosporidium by Product Performance and turbidity, Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is measured because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. Turbidity values less than 1.0 NTU are typically indicative of a good filtration system.
---Value is lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting turbidity limit during 1997.
---In 1997 water was determined to be of the MCL of 300 ppb at all water samples. NTU values were obtained at all water samples at all wells were less than the MCL. Compliance is determined by a running annual average of four quarterly samples.
---The running annual average of quarterly samples at all wells was ND. NTU values were obtained at all water samples at all wells were less than the MCL. Compliance is determined by a running annual average of four quarterly samples.
---The State above monitoring of some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representation, are more than one year old.
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

USEPA requires public water systems to collect data for unregulated constituents in drinking water supplies under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3. Currently, these constituents have no drinking water standards but may be regulated in the future. More information on this USEPA program can be found at http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rule/unregulated.cfm.

EGWD conducted sampling during 2014 and few constituents were detected; none at any level of human health concern. SCWA also conducted sampling during 2013 and 2014 and several constituents were detected; only chlorate resulted in detection above the associated human health advisory and this is probably attributable to the disinfection process.

General Information on Lead

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. EGWD 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://water.epa.gov/lead.

EGWD tests customer tap samples every three years for lead and over ninety-five percent of samples are non-detectable and therefore not reported in the data table.

General Information on Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Get More Information

Learn more about the EGWD by visiting www.egwd.org, or by attending a monthly public Board Meeting held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. The District offices are open Monday through Thursday from 7:00am to 4:00pm, and every other Friday from 7:00am to 4:00pm. District offices are located at 9257 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, California, 95624. If you have any questions please call Mark Madison, General Manager at 916-685-3556.