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2006 Annual Water Quality Report



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San Diego's water is safe and healthy to drink for most people. People with special health concerns can learn more about important health information on page 6.

This report is being mailed to you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and covers the data for calendar year starting from January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.

NOTE: Industrial and commercial customers, including hospitals, medical centers, and health clinics, please forward this report to your Environmental Compliance Manager.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. If the report is not available in your native language, we encourage you to identify someone who understands it and can translate for you.

Spanish

Este reporte contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Copias en español de este reporte están disponibles si llama al (619) 527-3121. También encontrará este reporte por medio del internet en www.sandiego.gov/water.

Af-Somali

Ribootkani wuxuu xanbaar sanyahay warbixino muhiim ah oo ku saabsam biyaha aad cabtaan. Hadii aadan fahmeynin, Fadlan ribootka hala turjumo ama kala hadal ruux ku fahansiiya.

Tagalog

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

Chinese

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Korean

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다. 본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

Arabic

هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة تتعلق بمياه الشفة (أو للشرب).
ترجم التقرير, أو تكلم مع شخص يستطيع أن يهيم للتقرير.

Vietnamese

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department
Public Information Office
2797 Caminito Chollas, MS 43
San Diego, CA 92105-5097

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Message from the Water Director

Dear Customers,

Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, cost-effective water and outstanding customer service in an environmentally sensitive manner. This report describes the ways we fulfill our mission and demonstrates our commitment to our customers.

The City of San Diego Water Department is pleased to present you with the 2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) require that all water agencies produce an annual report to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. This report fulfills that requirement and provides you with water quality data for the calendar year starting from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Commitment to water quality – On the following pages, you will find important information about the origin of your water, the composition of your water, and the steps we take to protect your health and safety with our water treatment process and water quality monitoring and testing.

Last year, the Water Department's Water Quality Laboratory conducted more than 223,000 tests for 295 potential drinking water contaminants. We did not exceed any maximum contaminant compliance levels (MCLs) set by CDHS. This report contains a detailed summary of our water quality monitoring and testing efforts.

Commitment to water quality during emergencies – Additionally, you will read about how the Water Department stays prepared for emergencies and what you can do to better prepare your family for emergencies.

Last year, our crews successfully managed an unexpected situation. Read more on page 5 to see how our crews worked diligently to examine the quality of water for public health and safety when a single water sample that was taken after a water main break repair showed the presence of E. coli bacteria.

Commitment to our customers and the environment – This report highlights our capital improvements program, recycled water program, and our ongoing efforts to protect the environment through watershed and source water protection, water conservation, and storm water pollution prevention.

Commitment to our future – On February 26, 2007, the San Diego City Council approved a four-year series of rate increases for the City's water system. The first of these takes effect July 1, 2007 to upgrade our water storage, treatment and delivery systems. It will also allow us to comply with federal and state environmental and safe drinking water rules, including a State Department of Health Services Compliance Order.

We are committed to serving you with quality water and quality customer relations. If you have any questions about this report, or water quality in the City of San Diego, please contact our Public Information Office at (619) 527-3121, or visit us on the web at www.sandiego.gov/water.

Sincerely,



J. M. Barrett
Director, City of San Diego Water Department



Our Mission

To provide San Diego with Safe, Reliable, Cost-Effective Water and Outstanding Customer Service in an Environmentally Sensitive Manner.

Our Vision

To be a "Best-in-Class" water utility for our customers.

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Why is There Anything in My Water?

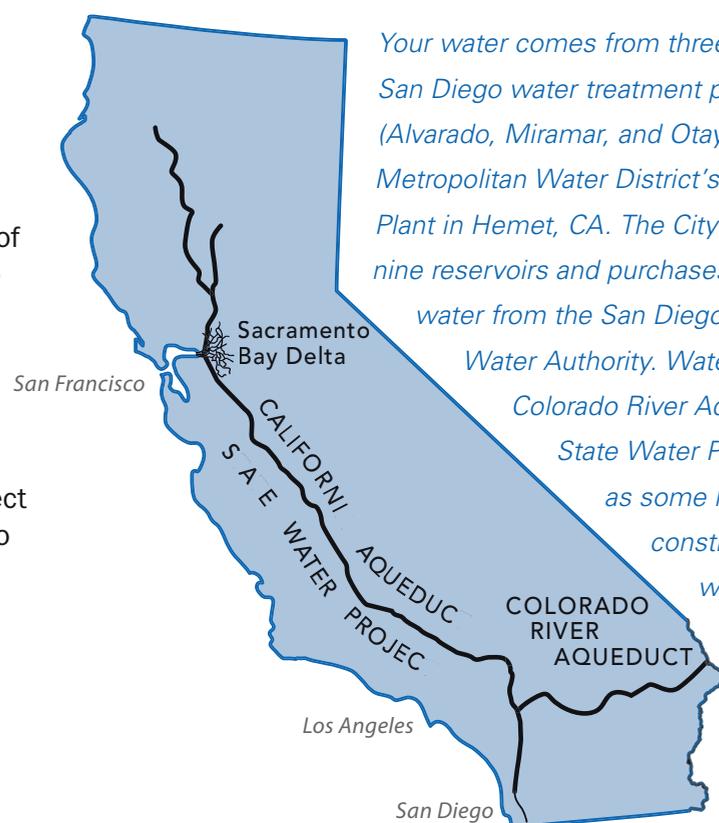
The sources of San Diego drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water from these sources travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source waters include:

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- 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 storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which 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 California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. The City of San Diego's Water Department treats water according to the CDHS regulations. Regulations within the CDHS Food and Drug Branch also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which have the same protection for public health as tap water. For more information log onto the CDHS website at: www.dhs.ca.gov/fdb.

Imported Water Assessment

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, and urban/storm water runoff, as a result of increasing urbanization in the watershed. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation and urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD by phone at (213) 217-6850.



Your water comes from three City of San Diego water treatment plants (Alvarado, Miramar, and Otay) and Metropolitan Water District's Skinner Plant in Hemet, CA. The City maintains nine reservoirs and purchases imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority. Water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project, as well as some local runoff, constitute the source waters for these plants.

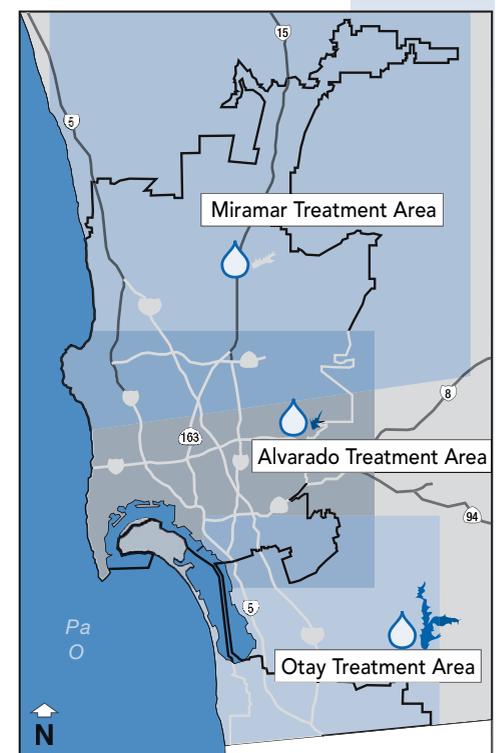
Our Imported Water Supply and the Impact on Water Quality

The City of San Diego imports an average of 85% of its water. This imported water is provided by the San Diego County Water Authority, which purchases water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Ultimately, our imported water is a blend of Colorado River water and State Water Project water (see maps). Throughout the year, the blend changes.

Several forces impact the quality of water from the Colorado River and State Water Project. The Colorado River winds through thousands of miles of unprotected watershed containing towns, farms, old mining sites and industrial sites.

Water from the State Water Project is also subject to potential contaminants such as pesticides and herbicides. This water source also has a higher organic carbon and bromide level than the Colorado River water. As organic carbon and bromide levels increase, the potential for creating higher levels of disinfection by-products exists. (The disinfectants used to treat water can react with naturally occurring materials in the water to form unintended by-products which may pose health risks).

The City continually alters its treatment process to adjust for changing water supplies. Through these continued adjustments we ensure that all drinking water safe and quality standards are met.



Emergency Preparedness



Preparing for Emergencies

The City of San Diego's Water Department works hard to provide San Diego with safe and reliable water. The Water Department continually plans and prepares for emergency situations, and immediately responds to ensure the quality of water is maintained and service is maintained/restored to customers.

Some examples of emergencies that can affect water quality are an earthquake, fire, power failure, or possible water contamination. Below are several ways the Department proactively prepares for emergencies:

- Extensive monitoring of the entire treatment and distribution system is done routinely throughout the year. Thousands of water samples are taken to ensure that your water is safe.
- Staff training is conducted throughout the year on critical security and safety topics.



- Disaster drills are conducted to improve coordination efforts throughout the region. It is important to collaborate with the California Department of Health Services, law enforcement and fire-rescue agencies in order to improve multiple agency response to water emergencies.
- A water quality emergency notification plan has been put in place to keep customers informed in an emergency situation.
- Additional security measures are in place at all water treatment plants, reservoirs, and other local and remote water facilities.
- The City has adequate water storage available. If a water supply aqueduct were to break, there should be a sufficient amount of water that could be accessed. Please read more about the Emergency Storage Project on the next column to learn about how this particular project will provide additional water storage. The City operates under Council Policy 400-4, which requires water to be stored in the event of an emergency.
- Water emergency preparedness resources are available online. Visit www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/leaks/emergencies.shtml to learn more about how you and your family can become better prepared for an emergency.

Emergency Storage Project: - San Vicente Reservoir Closure Information -

The San Diego County Water Authority is working on the Emergency Storage Project, creating a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations to improve the availability of water to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

Currently, the County Water Authority imports up to 85% of the region's water supply. The pipelines that carry imported water travel hundreds of miles and cross several major fault lines on the way to San Diego County. An earthquake, drought or other disaster could cut off the county's imported water supply for up to six months. As part of the project, the Water Authority is increasing the height of San Vicente Dam. This will greatly increase the amount of water locally available in an emergency.

To assure public safety during several years of construction, San Vicente Reservoir will limit boating, fishing, and all other water recreation for an extended period. The current timeline for reservoir closure is as follows, and may change as the project schedules are finalized.

	Thurs. & Fri.	Sat. & Sun.	Mon. - Wed.
Jan. - April 2007	Closed	Open	Always Closed
May - Sept. 2007	Open	Open	Always Closed
Oct. 2007 - Early 2008	Closed	Open	Always Closed
Mid 2008 - Construction & Refill	Closed	Closed	Always Closed

Open See City of San Diego recreation schedule to confirm what activities are allowed.

The reservoir will reopen to recreation sometime between 2014 and 2017, as soon as the water level reaches the new boat launch.

For more information about San Vicente projects and the Emergency Storage Project, call the toll-free information line: (877) 426-2010 and visit www.sdcwa.org, click on Infrastructure and then click on Emergency Storage Project.



Water Quality During an Unexpected Emergency

The Water Department's top priority is providing a reliable supply of safe drinking water for our customers. As part of our commitment, we take samples of the water at several points in our water distribution system to continually make sure the water is safe and meets all federal and state standards

An Example of an Unexpected Event

On August 5, 2006, (following a water main break repair) a single test by the Water Department showed the presence of E. coli at a residence's hose bib (also known as a spigot or water faucet) on the outside of the house.

Acting out of concern for the health and safety for the entire community, the City of San Diego worked diligently with the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health to immediately examine the water. DHS issued a boil water order, which the Mayor announced for the neighborhoods along the Interstate 15 corridor north of Mercy Road and Scripps Poway Parkway. A boil water order notice is issued when there is a possibility that the drinking water has been contaminated. To avoid contaminated drinking water, this notice advises customers that either bottled water or water that has been boiled for at least one minute should be used for drinking and food preparation. Boiling water kills bacteria and other organisms in the water and assures that the water is safe to drink.

After testing additional water samples throughout the San Diego region, it was determined that the water was safe to drink throughout the distribution system and it was only that one test that had shown possible contamination. Testing results the next day confirmed that repeat sampling of the initial site and an additional 21 separate locations throughout the previously affected area were free of potentially harmful bacteria. Thus, the boil order was lifted. Subsequent tests also show that all water for this area continued to be safe. The likely cause of the initial positive test was contamination of the hose bib and not the water supply.

Learn More about Being Prepared

Possible contamination of water can happen in a variety of unexpected ways. From broken and corroded pipes to natural disaster, the City, in collaboration with State and County officials, is ready to respond. We appreciate the community's cooperation and understanding as crews assess the situation and evaluate the quality of water.

For future reference during a disaster or an emergency, consult the U.S. EPA-recommended tips about how to disinfect your water, available on the Water Department's Emergency Preparedness webpage. To visit the webpage, log onto www.sandiego.gov/water/operations and click on "Emergency Preparedness."

How to Properly Store Water For Emergencies

The Water Department crews practice and are prepared for emergencies, and we want our customers to be prepared, too. Here are some tips on how to properly store water for emergencies.

- Store enough water to last for at least three days for everyone in your family and pets:
 - One gallon of water, per person, per day is adequate for general drinking purposes.
 - Three gallons of water, per person, per day is enough water for drinking, cooking and limited personal hygiene.
- Store water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. Never use a container that has held toxic substances.
- Store water containers in a cool, dark place.
- If you store tap water, date each container and replace the water at least once every six months.
- If you store commercially bottled "spring" or "drinking" water, keep the water in its original container and do not re-store a bottle once it has been opened. Date each bottle and replace water at least once a year.



For more information on emergency preparedness and other emergency response resources, visit www.sandiego.gov/water. Click on "Water Operations," click on "Water Leaks and Emergencies," and choose "Emergency Preparedness."

The screenshot shows the City of San Diego Water Department website. The main heading is "Water Operations" and the sub-heading is "Emergency Preparedness". The text reads: "It's important to be prepared for any disaster or emergency situation. Are you prepared? Having an ample supply of clean water should be top priority during an emergency. To find out what you need to do to be prepared for the unexpected, click on the links below." There are three links: "Emergency Preparedness Checklist (PDF: 138K)", "How to Properly Store Water for Emergencies", and "How to Disinfect Your Water". Below this is a section titled "Other Emergency Response Resources" with a list of links including "American Red Cross - San Diego Chapter", "City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's Disaster Preparedness", "County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services", "City of San Diego Office of Homeland Security", "City of San Diego Police Department", "Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)", "San Diego County Sheriff's Department", and "State of California Office of Emergency Services (OES)". The footer contains navigation links like "Water Dept. Home", "General Information", "City Lakes and Recreation", "Water & Sewer Bill/Rates", "Water Conservation", "Recycled Water", "Water Quality", "Infrastructure/Capital Improvements", "Site Map", "Privacy Notice", and "Disclaimers".

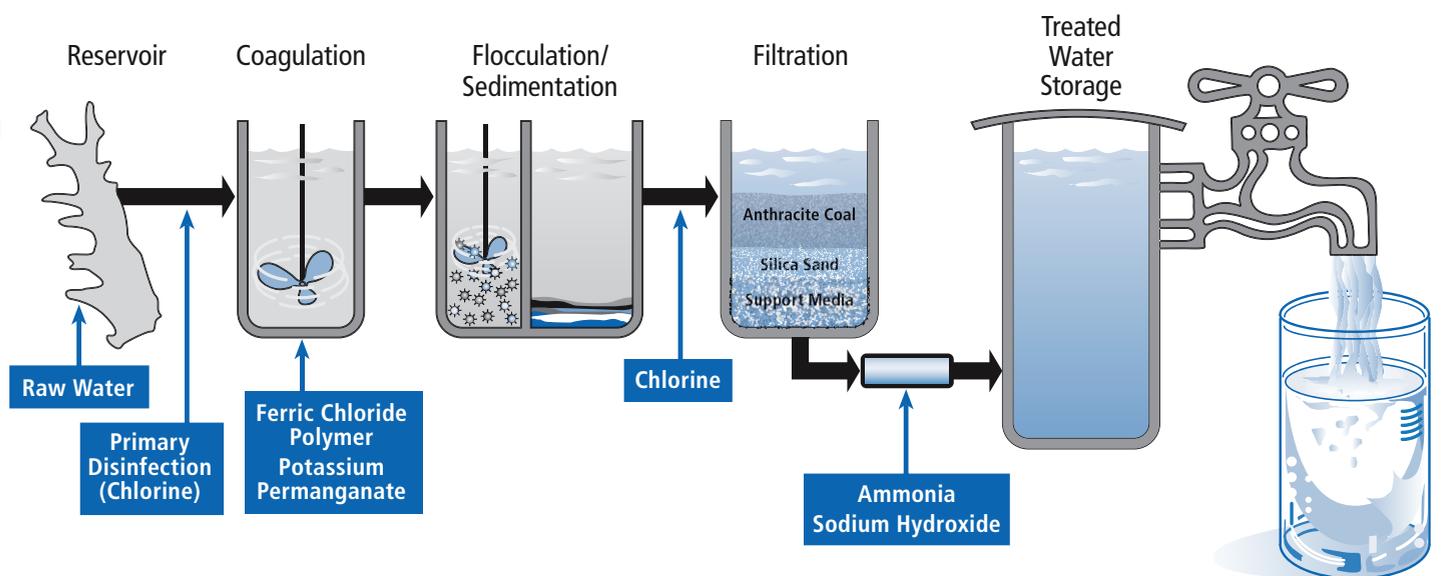
Our Water Treatment Process



San Diego uses a water treatment process similar to many other large water utilities around the nation. The process produces safe drinking water by removing and inactivating potentially harmful substances and organisms.

Raw water is treated using a multi-barrier approach to ensure our water meets federal and state drinking water quality regulations. Each treatment barrier provides an additional step to give added safety to the drinking water. The barriers include coagulation, flocculation/sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. The coagulation process uses ferric chloride and organic polymers to neutralize particles in the water to allow them to combine. Flocculation is the process in which the neutralized particles combine to form larger clumps of particles. These larger clumps of particles are then allowed to settle out of the water in the sedimentation process. Any remaining particles are then removed through the filtration process. Chlorine is added to the water as the primary disinfectant to prevent illness due to water-borne pathogens. The final barrier is the addition of ammonia to the water to react with chlorine and form chloramines. Chloramines are used to maintain a residual disinfectant throughout the water distribution system to ensure water quality to the consumer's tap.

Also, as part of the water treatment process, potassium permanganate and chlorine are used to remove taste and odor compounds, and sodium hydroxide is used to adjust the pH making the water non-corrosive and to protect the pipes, plumbing fixtures and appliances from corrosion (rust).



Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk. These people and/or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. During calendar year 2006, the City of San Diego analyzed all of our source waters for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. We detected no *Giardia* cysts or *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in any of our monthly source water samples.

How Do I Read the Tables?

The tables on the following pages list contaminants which: 1) have associated Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that are regulated and 2) were detected by the City of San Diego's Water Quality Laboratory. Contaminants were detected at or above the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Detection Limits for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs) during the calendar year 2006. The presence of these contaminants in the drinking water 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 US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or by visiting the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html. California action levels are available on the CDHS website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/index.htm. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables are from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2006.

NOTE: The CDHS requires the City to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Table 1 lists all the regulated contaminants with Primary MCLs that the City of San Diego's Water Quality Laboratory detected in the drinking water at or above the CDHS DLRs.

Table 2 is a listing of regulated contaminants with Secondary MCLs that were detected at or above the CDHS DLR for each analyte.

Table 3 is a listing of detected unregulated contaminants that were detected at or above the CDHS DLR for each analyte. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the EPA and the CDHS to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Table 4 is a listing of disinfection residuals and disinfection by-products that were detected in the treated water.

Important Health Effects Language

The following information is provided on the contaminants that are listed in Tables 1 through 4. **None of these contaminants exceed state and federal MCL limits.**

Detected Contaminants

BARIUM: Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure. (see Table 1)

BORON: Some men who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level over many years may experience reproductive effects. This information is based on animal studies. (see Table 3)

CHLORAMINES: Some people who use water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chloramines well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort or anemia. (see Table 4)

CHLORIDE: Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. (see Table 2)

COLOR: Naturally-occurring organic materials. (see Table 2)

COPPER: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the notification level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the notification level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult with their personal doctor. (see Table 1)

TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. (see Table 1)

FLUORIDE: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth. Currently, all of the fluoride in our drinking water occurs naturally due to erosion. The City of San Diego does not add fluoride to its drinking water. (see Table 1) Also, please see the "Drinking Water Fluoridation notice on page 13.

GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY: Certain materials are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The City of San Diego is required to analyze for radioactive contaminants every four years. (see Table 1)

HALOACETIC ACIDS: Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. (see Table 4)

HARDNESS: The sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally-occurring. City water does not have significant unnaturally occurring cations. (see Table 1)

LEAD: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the notification level may experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children may show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years may develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. The City of San Diego's service lines do not contain lead and our testing reflects that. If you reside in an older home, lead solder may have been used in the pipes, which could affect the lead content in your drinking water. Visit the American Water Works Association website at www.awwa.org for information on research studies. (see Table 1)

NITRATE: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and the blueness of the skin. High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of blood of pregnant women. (see Table 1)

ODOR: Naturally-occurring organic materials. (see Table 2)

SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE: Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence. (see Table 2)

SODIUM: Salt present in the water and is generally naturally-occurring. (see Table 1)

SULFATE: Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes. (see Table 2)

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS: Runoff/leaching from natural deposits. (see Table 2)

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC): TOC has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). Drinking water containing these by-products in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of cancer. (see Table 4)

TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHMS): Compliance with the MCL regulation for TTHMs are based on the running annual average of samples collected over the entire year. An individual sample greater than 80 µg/L does not constitute a violation of the MCL. Some people who use water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. (see Table 4)

TURBIDITY: Turbidity is the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. (see Table 1)

URANIUM: Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer. The City of San Diego is required to analyze for radioactive contaminants every four years. (see Table 1)

Measurement Terms

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

CORROSIVITY: The corrosivity of a sample is measured by the Langlier Stability Index. A positive index, indicating non-corrosivity, was maintained at all plant effluents.

CSD MDL: City of San Diego Water Quality Laboratory Method Detection Limit. Lowest quantifiable concentration of a measured analyte detectable by the Laboratory.

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 or technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the EPA.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

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. MRDLs are set by the EPA.

NOTIFICATION LEVEL (NL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if 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. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

2006 Water Quality Data

TABLE 1 – DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH MCLs

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) – CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS												
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	CDHS DLR	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
					ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Fluoride	ppm	2.0	1.0	0.1	0.212	.175 - .260	0.224	.180 - .268	0.241	.177 - .294	2006	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	45 as Nitrate	45 as Nitrate	2	ND	ND	ND	ND - 2.01	ND	ND - 2.21	2006	Runoff and leaching from fire damaged watershed: erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	1	2	0.1	ND	ND	ND	ND - 0.12	ND	ND	2006	Erosion of natural deposits

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) – RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS												
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	CDHS DLR	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
					ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Gross Beta Particle Activity	pCi/L	50	0	4	ND	ND - 4.75	ND	ND	ND	ND	2006	Decay of natural and manmade deposits
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	1	ND	ND - 2.83	ND	ND - 2.85	ND	ND - 2.54	2006	Erosion of natural deposits

Primary Standards – MICROBIOLOGICAL IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM											
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	CDHS DLR	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS	
					AVERAGE		RANGE				
					0.12%		0 - 0.50%				
Total Coliform Bacteria	/100ml	< 5% Positive	0	A	0.12%		0 - 0.50%		2006	Human and animal waste	

Sodium, Hardness, and Turbidity												
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
					ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Sodium	ppm	n/a	n/a	5	72.8	63.1 - 88.8	72.8	66.9 - 83.3	75.3	64.5 - 82.8	2006	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	ppm	n/a	n/a	2	198	178 - 228	204	182 - 245	198	169 - 226	2006	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	gr/Gal	n/a	n/a	0.12	11.6	10.4 - 13.3	11.9	10.6 - 14.3	11.6	9.9 - 13.2	2006	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	NTU	TT	n/a		% < 0.3 NTU		% < 0.3 NTU		% < 0.3 NTU		2006	Soil runoff
					100%	n/a	100%	n/a	100%	n/a		
				TT = 95% of samples <0.3 NTU								

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) – AT THE TAP CONTAMINANTS – LEAD AND COPPER RULE											
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	Action Limit	PHG (MCLG)	CDHS DLR	At the Tap Sample Results			YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS		
					90th PERCENTILE CONCENTRATION	NUMBER					
						SAMPLING SITES	EXCEEDING AL				
Copper	ppm	AL = 1.3	0.17	0.050	0.536	52	0	2005	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems		
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	2	5	ND	52	1	2005	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems		

TABLE 2 – DETECTED REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLs (SMCL)

Secondary Standards – Are set to protect aesthetics of water (Taste and Odor)													
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	SMCL	MCL (MCLG)	PHG	CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
						ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
						AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Color	CU	15	n/a	n/a	1	1.45	ND - 6	ND	ND - 2	1.20	ND - 4	2006	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Corrosivity	----	non-corrosive	n/a	n/a	----	0.69	0.27 - 1.11	0.28	-0.09 - 0.7	0.60	0.34 - 0.88	2006	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in water. A positive index indicates that the water is non-corrosive
Odor - Threshold	OU	3	n/a	n/a	1	ND	ND - 2	ND	ND - 1	ND	ND - 2	2006	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1,000	n/a	n/a	10	442	354 - 518	465	397 - 552	443	361 - 485	2006	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	815	706 - 966	823	710 - 951	816	712 - 972	2006	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride	ppm	500	n/a	n/a	0.5	80.5	68.2 - 94.6	80.0	66.2 - 101	89.2	70 - 105	2006	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	n/a	n/a	0.5	126	107 - 151	146	116 - 177	120	96 - 141	2006	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

TABLE 3 – DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS -

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS REQUIRING MONITORING										
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	NOTIFICATION LEVEL	CDHS DLR	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED
				ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY		
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Boron	ppb	1000	100	ND	ND - 145	ND	ND - 141	ND	ND - 147	2006



TABLE 4 – DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS PRECURSORS -

Distribution System Results												
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	MCL MRDL	MCLG MRDLG	CDHS DLR	ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY		YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Total Organic Carbon [TOC]	ppm	n/a	n/a	0.3	3.34	1.98 - 4.44	2.48	2.00 - 2.86	3.75	1.08 - 6.57	2006	Various natural and manmade sources
Disinfectant Residual [Chloramines]	ppm	4	4	n/a	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AVERAGE = 2.15				RANGE ** = 0.1 - 2.8		2006	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]	ppb	80*	n/a	n/a	HIGHEST DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE = 68.2				RANGE ** = 33.2 - 125		2006	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids [HAA5]	ppb	60*	n/a	n/a	HIGHEST DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE = 31.4				RANGE ** = 10.3 - 53.4		2006	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Note * = Total Trihalomethane and HAA5 compliance is based on system wide Running Annual Average

Note** = Ranges are based upon single sample results

Abbreviations		
A: Absent	ml: Milliliter	ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) – [1 ppt = 0.001 ppb]
AL: Action Level	n/a: Not applicable	SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
CDHS: California Department of Health Services	ND: Not detected	TT: A required treatment technique process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
CSD MDL: City of San Diego Water Quality Laboratory Method Detection Limit	NL: Notification Level	Year Sampled: This column is to record the last time a contaminant was analyzed.
CU: Color Units	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units	µS/cm: micro-siemens/cm
DLR: Detection Limit for Reporting	OU: Odor Units	< Less than
gr/Gal: Grains per Gallon	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)	> Greater than
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level	PHG: Public Health Goal	
MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – [1 ppb = 1,000 ppt]	
MDL: Method Detection Limit	ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – [1 ppm = 1,000 ppb]	

Source Water & Reservoirs

Reservoirs

The City of San Diego has nine drinking water reservoirs: Hodges, Sutherland, Miramar, Murray, San Vicente, El Capitan, Otay, Barrett, and Morena. These reservoirs capture local rainwater and runoff to supply up to 15% of the City's drinking water. The reservoirs are important components of the regional water supply system. However, the quality of water stored in these reservoirs can be negatively impacted by residential and commercial development and routine activities in the watershed areas that drain into them.

Residents can do their part to protect watershed areas and our drinking water supply by properly disposing of pet waste, chemicals, and trash. You can be a part of the solution of stopping pollutants from running off into the reservoirs. Follow these simple Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- Sweep-up or wet-mop. Do not use a water hose to clean your driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
- Litter is not harmless. Sweep-up trash and debris near your home before it gets washed into the storm drain.
- Pick-up after your pets. Animal wastes contribute pathogens to streams and reservoirs.
- Use pesticides and herbicides wisely.
- Don't feed birds, squirrels and other wildlife at local reservoirs. This can contribute to overpopulation, leading to health hazards and other problems.

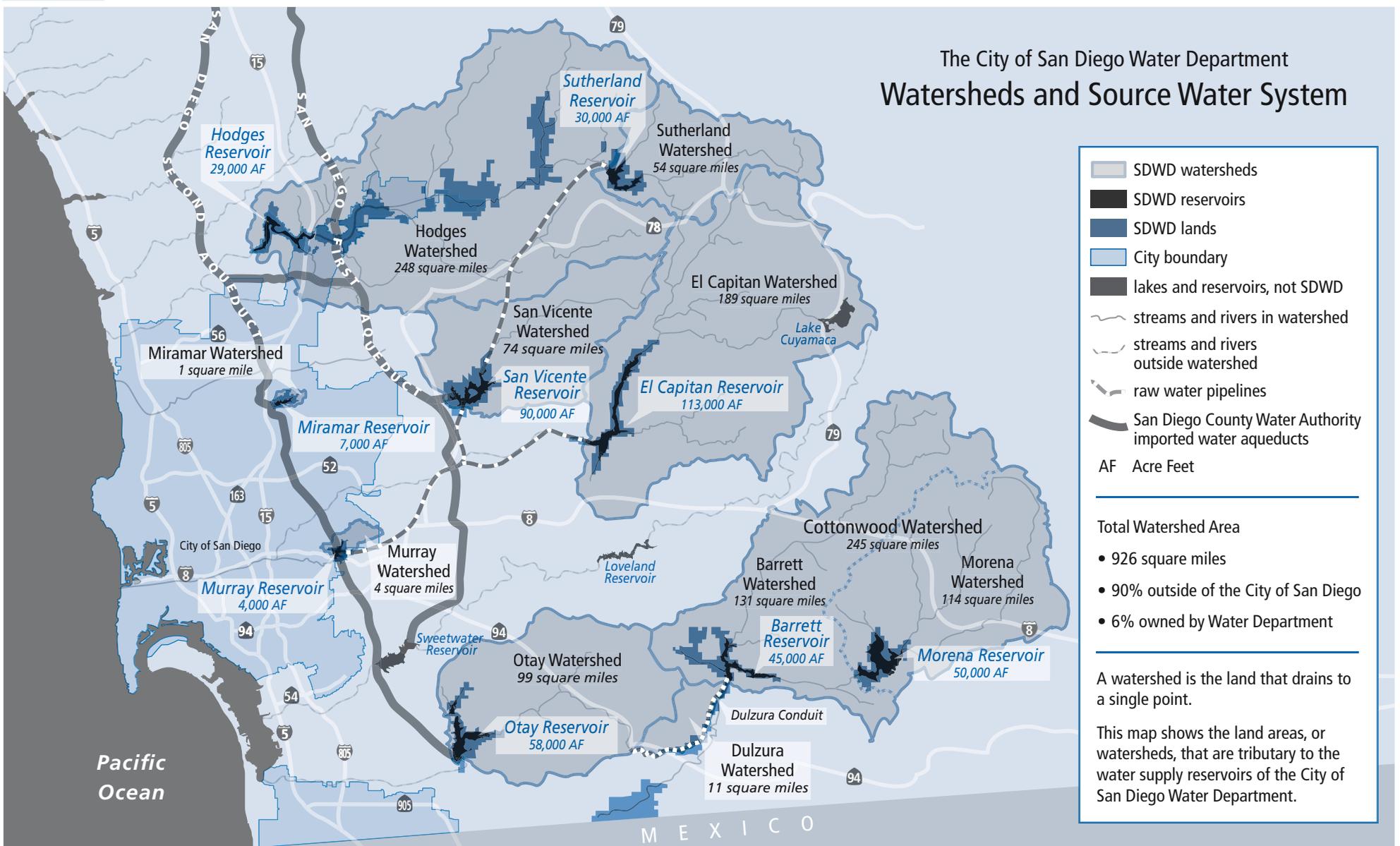
Protecting Water Quality

The City of San Diego is also doing its part to protect watershed areas. Read more about our efforts in the watershed newsletter located on pages 15 and 16 of this report.

For more information about the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program or to report illegal discharges into the storm drain system, please call (619) 235-1000 or log onto www.thinkblue.org. For information on water conservation, log onto www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation.



While it helps to keep bugs and weeds out of your garden or landscape, using pesticides and herbicides can negatively affect water quality. Using the resources of its Water, Environmental Services, Fire-Rescue, and Park and Recreation departments and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program, the City now offers a guide about limiting contamination to keep pesticides, herbicides and irrigation runoff out of our waterways. You can receive a copy of the guide "How your Pesticides and Herbicides Can Affect Water Quality," at local community service centers and libraries, or online at www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/environment/watersheds/shtml.



Quagga Mussel Update

Quagga mussels, which are related to the notorious zebra mussels that have overrun the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watershed, were found January 6, 2007, in Lake Mead, on the Colorado River. Subsequently, these mussels were also found at the Metropolitan Water District's intake pumping plant on Lake Havasu and the nearby Gene Wash Reservoir, at the beginning of the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct.

The mussels can spread when water is transferred and when recreational vehicles, such as boats, travel from different water sources. These mussels multiply rapidly, clogging pipes and pumping machinery and can ruin the ecosystem of lakes and reservoirs. Importantly, once a reservoir's ecosystem is altered by Quagga mussels, excessive algae growth can occur which effects the taste and smell of the drinking water supply. Because of this, water treatment plants experience large increases in operating expenses when mussels are present in a reservoir.

Early detection can help contain and control the spread of these mussels in the water system. In February 2007, the Metropolitan Water District launched a comprehensive program to detect and control the invasion of Quagga mussels in the regional water system that provides southern California with half of its drinking water. The first phase of this program includes underwater and topside inspections of reservoirs and aqueducts, and the purchase of specialized sampling and laboratory equipment. These actions will establish the current distribution of Quagga mussels in Southern California and will lead to appropriate mitigation strategies. The City of San Diego Water Department has joined in the regional effort by employing its SCUBA divers and biologist to inspect San Diego's reservoirs. Thus far, no Quagga mussels have been found in the San Diego region.

Please help keep Quagga mussels out of our reservoirs and lakes. Thoroughly inspect and clean any boats or motors prior to launching in a reservoir or lake in the San Diego region, especially if the boat has previously been used outside the region. For more information on how to halt the spread of Quagga mussels, please visit the web site of the California Department of Boating and Waterways at: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/PressRoom/2007/070202quagga.asp>.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan addresses water management issues within the San Diego region. This is a local water management approach preferred by the Governor, the State Department of Water Resources, and State Water Resources Control



Board. It is aimed at securing long-term water supply reliability within California by acknowledging the inter-connectivity of water supplies and the environment and then pursuing projects yielding multiple benefits for water supplies, water quality and natural resources.

San Diego's IRWM Plan is being prepared by a partnership of the City of San Diego Water Department, the San Diego County Water Authority, and the County of San Diego. The San Diego IRWM Plan builds upon the many individual and sub-regional management plans within San Diego County, with input from a comprehensive array of water management stakeholders. Scheduled to be completed by January 2008, the IRWM Plan will provide a mechanism for stakeholders to work together to effectively implement water management projects that achieve designated regional water management objectives. More information can be found at www.projectcleanwater.org/html/sdirwm.html.

Watershed Sanitary Survey

In 2006, the City of San Diego updated its Watershed Sanitary Survey. This survey examines the existing and potential sources of contaminants in the watersheds draining into the City's nine reservoirs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that this survey be completed once every five years. The Executive Summary (in printed form) or a CD-ROM of the complete document can be obtained by calling (619) 527-3121. The entire document can also be found on the Water Department's web site at www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/environment/wssurvey.shtml. We encourage all San Diegans to take an active role in supporting pollution prevention programs in their communities and to learn more about protecting their local sources of water. For a more comprehensive description of the source waters supplying our treatment plants, including the Watershed Sanitary Surveys, the Source Water Assessments and the Source Water Protection Guidelines, log on to www.sandiego.gov/water.

Right to the Source

Protecting our water supply is a tremendous challenge. Much of our watershed lands are outside the City limits, therefore they are also outside of our jurisdictional sphere of authority for land use planning, zoning and building codes. To assist these other jurisdictions, the Water Department established "Source Water Protection Guidelines for New Development." The goal of the Guidelines is to help protect local source waters as new residential and commercial developments are designed, planned and built in the watersheds.

These Guidelines for construction and new development establish water quality control measures that are specific to drinking water sources and also include recommendations for long-term maintenance of the control measures.

The Guidelines can be downloaded at www.sandiego.gov/water, or you can receive a complimentary version on CD-ROM by calling (619) 527-3121 or emailing a request to waterops@sandiego.gov.

Our Commitment



Continuing to Improve the Quality of Our Services

The Water Department's Operations and Customer Support Divisions are hard at work to provide you safe and reliable water with outstanding customer service in an environmentally sensitive manner. Under a Bid to Goal (BTG) cost-savings program, we are committed to improving the quality of our services, reducing environmental impacts and reducing costs to customers.



Developing a Local Water Supply

Up to 85% of the City of San Diego's water supply is imported from sources hundreds of miles away. The City's other two sources of water are rainfall captured in reservoirs and the recycling of municipal wastewater. Even with aggressive conservation efforts, the City could need 25% more water by 2030. Increasing the use of recycled water and exploring the use of groundwater basins can provide San Diego with a larger local water supply that will help decrease our dependence on imported water.

Recycled Water

To help meet current and future water demands, the City's water reclamation plants treat wastewater for use in irrigation, manufacturing and other non-drinking uses.

The North City Water Reclamation Plant can treat 30 million gallons of wastewater per day (MGD). Recycled water from this facility is delivered to 388 customer meters. This total includes a single service connection with the City of Poway that delivers recycled water to 195 additional meters. The South Bay Water Reclamation Plant can treat 15 MGD. Currently, recycled water is delivered from this facility to the International Boundary and Water Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant.



While most of our customers use recycled water for irrigation, some customers use it for toilet/urinal flushing, cooling towers in office buildings, and dust suppression at construction sites and landfills. Both reclamation plants produce enough recycled water to meet current customer demands. Customers use an average of 6.5 MGD during the summer months and 3.3 MGD during the winter months. The remaining water is treated to the secondary level and disposed of via an ocean outfall.

Recycled Water Quality

A variety of tests are performed on recycled water by the City's Metropolitan Wastewater Department. The requirements for these tests are specified in permits issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board authorizing the distribution of recycled water. The tests are designed by the regulatory agencies to insure that recycled water is safe for all intended uses. Moreover, we regularly test the amount of total dissolved salts (TDS) present in recycled water to ensure the TDS level remains well below 1000 parts per million, which is the appropriate level for landscape irrigation, agricultural and industrial uses.

For more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/water, and then click on "Recycled Water," or call (619) 533-7556.



Groundwater

Careful and effective evaluation and development of groundwater storage and recovery, and brackish groundwater desalination, are essential in carrying out the Long-Range Water Resources Plan approved by the City Council on December 9, 2002. The goals cited in the Long-Range Plan for 2010 are 20,000 acre-feet per year for groundwater storage and 10,000 acre-feet per year for groundwater development.

The Water Department seeks to protect and develop the City's interest in groundwater basins while maximizing water yield, storage and joint-use capabilities. The development of groundwater basins will provide storage of local and imported water to increase water availability while reducing the City's dependence on imported water.

The City is currently involved in various planning studies for the regional groundwater basins to better understand their potential before investing in full scale groundwater desalination and joint-use projects.

For more information about groundwater and the City's groundwater storage and recovery efforts, call (619) 533-5306.

Capital Improvements Program

Established in July 1998, the Water Department's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) was designed to help address critical water infrastructure needs and meet new state and federal water quality regulations. The CIP's commitment is to deliver safe and reliable water by planning, designing and constructing projects that will both upgrade and expand the City's water system.

Previous and on-going capital improvement projects include:

- Current construction of various facilities at the Miramar Water Treatment Plant, including new filters, chemical storage and distribution facilities, pre-ozone building, and administration building. This contract is almost complete, and will be followed by another component to the upgrade and expansion project.
- Construction of the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant flocculation and sedimentation basins. Approximately 40 million gallons of water flow in the basins during the flocculation and sedimentation process, a particle separation procedure.
- Upgrades to pump stations to ensure the water system operates at appropriate pressure levels.
- Replacement of more than 90 miles of cast iron water pipes and working to replace the remaining 190 miles, many of which surpass their operational lifespan at nearly 100 years old.



Large-scale projects such as these are expensive and require continuous maintenance and upkeep. However, San Diegans will benefit significantly for generations to come from the enhancement and modernization of the water treatment and delivery system. The City is committed to doing everything possible to minimize disruptions in your neighborhood that may result when crews are working to repair and improve the system.

For more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/water/cip or call (619) 533-4679.

Taste or Odor Variations in Water

Occasionally, water suppliers experience episodes of unpleasant tastes and odors in their water, often characterized as "musty" or "earthy." These taste and odor variations are caused by naturally occurring algae growth in the raw source waters. In San Diego, algae are occasionally found in the source water reservoirs and aqueducts that supply water to the City. These algae may seasonally produce trace amounts of taste and odor producing chemical compounds. The taste and odor compounds do not pose any health risks to the people using the water. The City of San Diego Water Department closely monitors our source waters for algae growth and, when possible, will switch to a different water source to avoid problems from unpleasant tastes and odors.

Drinking Water Fluoridation

The State of California requires that water agencies serving more than 10,000 customers fluoridate their drinking water supplies if outside funding is provided. At this time, the City has not received sufficient outside funding to pay for a fluoridation system that would cover our entire distribution area. However, the City does measure and report a small amount of fluoride in our water supply, which occurs naturally due to erosion.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD – the largest wholesaler of San Diego's imported water) has elected to begin fluoridating its drinking water supplies by the end of 2007. Because MWD provides the City with treated water in addition to the water to be treated at the City's three water treatment plants, there will be different areas within the City which will receive various blends of fluoridated water. For more information on anticipated blends, please call the Public Information Office at (619) 527-3121 or send an email to waterops@sandiego.gov. For more information on MWD's fluoridation program, please call (213) 217-5709 or visit www.mwdh2o.com.

What are Chloramines?

Chloramines are a type of disinfectant that the Water Department uses to prevent re-growth of potentially harmful bacteria in the water distribution system. Chloramines are a combined form of chlorine and ammonia. They are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a disinfectant for drinking water, and have been used safely for years. Chloraminated water is safe to drink because the digestive process neutralizes the chloramines before they enter the bloodstream. Chloraminated water is also safe for all other daily uses, such as bathing and cooking. In addition, the treatment process that uses chloramines produces fewer disinfection by-products, such as trihalomethanes.

Special Exceptions: Kidney Dialysis

Customers who have unique water quality needs and who use specialized home treatments, such as kidney dialysis machines, should make the necessary adjustments to remove chloramines. Like chlorine, chloramines are toxic in dialysis water.

Aquariums

Customers who have fish tanks in their homes should also take precautions to remove chloramines prior to adding water to tanks. Effective treatments include using granular-activated carbon filters or using chemicals specifically designed to remove chloramines. Allowing drinking water to stand, boiling water, and chemicals that remove chlorine, will not remove chloramines.



Resources



We Want to Hear From You!

This is a great opportunity to let the City know about your experience with our services. If there are areas we could improve upon, we want to hear about them. Our customer surveys are typically left on your door when our crew completes a water-related service call. Additionally, surveys are also available online at: www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/opssurvey.shtml

We take pride in our work and aim to provide quality customer service in every aspect of our job. We are pleased to report that in the more than 400 surveys sent in to date, 80% of our customers rated our service as “Excellent or Above Average.”

We value your comments about our services and we want to keep up the good work for each and every one of our customers, so please feel free to give us feedback. Thanks for taking the time to send us your comments.

Important Phone Numbers

General Information	(619) 515-3500
Emergency Hotline	(619) 515-3525
Water Quality Lab	(619) 668-3232
Capital Improvements Program	(619) 533-4679
Water Conservation	(619) 515-3500
City Lakes Fishing Line	(619) 465-3474
Speakers Bureau	(619) 533-6638
U.S. EPA’s Drinking Water Hotline	(800) 426-4791
Storm Water Pollution Prevention	(619) 235-1000

Important Web Links

City of San Diego Water Department	www.sandiego.gov/water
California Department of Health Services (CDHS)	www.dhs.ca.gov
California EPA	www.calepa.ca.gov
USEPA (Groundwater and Drinking Water)	www.epa.gov/safewater
County of San Diego Dept. of Environmental Health	www.co.san-diego.ca.us/deh
San Diego County Water Authority	www.sdcwa.org
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	www.mwdh2o.com
Project Clean Water	www.projectcleanwater.org
Think Blue	www.thinkblue.org

This report meets mandatory federal and state requirements for annual customer notification regarding water quality. It was produced and mailed to residences and businesses in the City of San Diego Water Department’s service area. The direct mailing of this report provides the City a cost-effective way to provide virtually all of our customers with information they should have about drinking water standards and quality.

Landscape Watering Calculator

More than half of the water used by San Diegans goes toward landscape irrigation. You can help conserve water by using the Landscape Watering Calculator. The calculator is a free, easy-to-use, web-based tool that helps you estimate the amount of water your landscape or garden needs. The calculator uses averages that adjust for weather, plants and soils in San Diego. For more information and to access the calculator, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water.



Sharing the Responsibility of Water Security

Keeping our water supply safe and secure is a top priority for the City of San Diego. The Water Department maintains heightened awareness and security to safeguard our water sources, water treatment plants, and water distribution system.

The Water Department also relies on you, the community, to be our eyes and ears. Stay alert and report any suspicious activity around Water Department facilities. Your safety is a priority, so do not approach or confront strangers. Please report any suspicious activities immediately to your local law enforcement agency and contact the Water Department at (619) 515-3525. Thank you for being part of our security team.



Speakers Bureau Program

The Water Department has a Speakers Bureau available to give presentations in the community. We can speak to your business, professional, civic or social group on specific water topics and departmental functions. Our team of experts can address water quality and water treatment, water conservation, recycled water, distribution and delivery systems, and capital improvement projects. To schedule a presentation, call our Speakers Bureau office at (619) 533-6638 or e-mail waterspeakers@sandiego.gov.

Printed on recycled newsprint.
This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

Our Drinking Water, Our Watersheds

Responsibility



Watershed Newsletter 2007

Watersheds and Reservoirs

Watersheds and reservoirs are integral parts of our regional water supply system. A watershed is an area of land that drains local runoff (and everything collected in the runoff) into reservoirs. City reservoirs, often referred to as lakes, capture local runoff and store it with imported water. This water is supplied to nearby water treatment plants. These pages provide you with information about our efforts to protect these water sources.

Watershed Sign Program Update

The City of San Diego Water Department has recently launched a pilot Watershed Sign Program in San Diego County. This program will place signs throughout the region informing motorists that they are entering a watershed where a drinking water reservoir is located. The Watershed Sign Program will increase public awareness of San Diego's watersheds and encourage environmental stewardship by our community members.

In 2006, the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Traffic Control Devices Committee unanimously approved this pilot program in the San Diego district. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority awarded funding to assist with the production, installation, and a public awareness campaign for these signs.

The design of the signs is simple and adaptable. With enough support, we hope that this sign can be adopted by Caltrans as a standard sign and be used by other agencies and organizations throughout California to designate the watershed of any critical water body, such as water supply reservoirs, groundwater basins, or coastal lagoons.

Signs Are Up In San Diego!

Next time you're out and about, check out the signs at:

- 1) I-8 near Dunbar Lane and East Victoria Dr.
- 2) SR-67 near Scripps Poway Pkwy
- 3) I-15 near Auto Park Way and Camino Del Norte



"We support this program because it helps bring important attention to the motoring public about the watersheds they are driving in. It also serves as a reminder that drinking water reservoirs are located in these watersheds."
— Rob Hutsel, executive director, San Diego River Park Foundation.

This is an exciting program that can improve our environment both in San Diego and throughout California. Already a number of other jurisdictions in the state have expressed interest in using the signs in their communities to call the public's attention to their respective watersheds.

Show Support: Post Program Info Online

The California Watershed Network featured the Watershed Sign Program on its web site in May 2007. The nonprofit Network helps people protect and restore the natural environments of California's watersheds while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities. Visit www.watershednetwork.org to learn more.

Program Contact: Destree Lazo,
Program Coordinator, (619) 232-2112, Ext. 104.

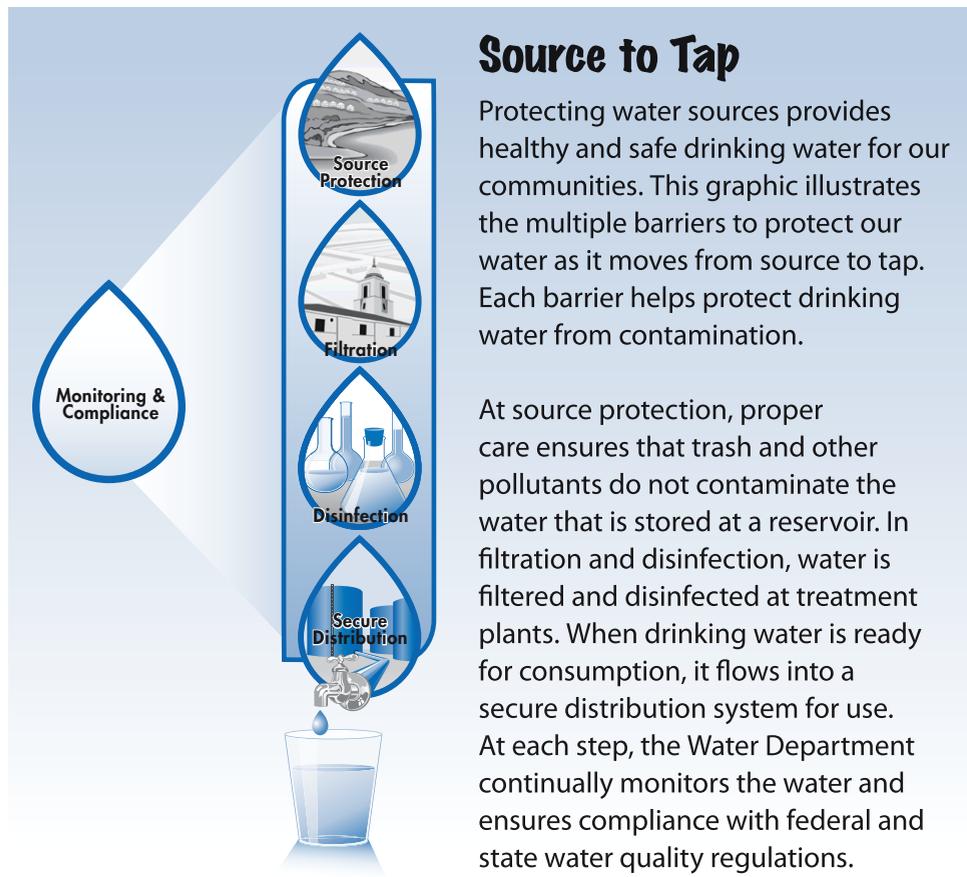
Learn More: Visit the Watershed Sign Program Webpage

A webpage on the Watershed Sign Program is now available on the City of San Diego website. Learn more about the program by visiting: www.sandiego.gov/water/operations. Click on "Environment," and then choose "Watershed Sign Program."

Show Support: Write a Letter

The installation of watershed signs in San Diego is a pilot program. Caltrans will determine whether to install these signs in other parts of California depending upon the success of the program here. Letters of support are welcome. Directions for writing and submitting letters of support are available online at the program web page mentioned above.

Our Drinking Water, Our Watersheds, Our Responsibility



Managing our Watersheds

The City Water Department has been actively involved in the development of watershed management plans in three key watersheds in San Diego County: San Diego River, Otay River, and San Dieguito River. These three watershed management plans are now complete and can be viewed and downloaded at the Project Clean Water web site at www.projectcleanwater.org.

Because much of these watershed areas fall outside of the City limits, successfully protecting them depends upon cooperation with other jurisdictions. The Water Department continues to be active in watershed management. For example, a Watershed Council has been formed in the San Dieguito Watershed to implement key elements of the Plan; the Water Department is a founding member of the Watershed Council.



Get Involved!

We need your help protecting watersheds in the San Diego Region.

Please refer to these resources to learn more about watersheds and ways to participate in the protection of our water quality.

Organization	Activity Type	Phone Number	Website Address
California Department of Health Services	A, B, C, E, T	(916) 445-4171	www.dhs.ca.gov
California Watershed Network	A, B, E, L, P, T	(916) 549-4017	www.watershednetwork.org
Center for Watersheds Protection	A, E, P, L, T	(410) 461-8323	www.cwp.org
City of San Diego - Water Department	A, B, C, E, F, L, R, T	(619) 527-3121	www.sandiego.gov/water
County of San Diego - Department of Environmental Health	A, B, C, E, T	(619) 338-2222	www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh
County of San Diego - Project Clean Water	A, B, C, E, L, T	(888) 846-0800	www.projectcleanwater.org
I Love a Clean San Diego	A, B, C, E, S	(619) 291-0103	www.ilacsd.org
Multiple Species Conservation Plan - County of San Diego	E, L	(619) 533-4543	www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp
Otay Valley Regional Park	A, C, E, L	(858) 966-1344	www.ovrp.org
Resource Conservation District - Greater San Diego County	A, B, E	(760) 745-2061	www.rcdsandiego.org
San Diego Audubon Society	A, C, E, L	(619) 682-7200	www.sandiegoaudubon.org
San Diego Coastkeeper	A, C, E, T	(619) 758-7743	www.sdbaykeeper.org
San Diego Conservation Resource Network	A, C, E, L, P	(858) 357-1708	www.sdcrn.org
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge	A, C, E, F, L	(619) 691-1262	www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board	A, B, C, E, L	(858) 467-2952	www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego
San Diego River Conservancy	B, C, E, L, P	(619) 645-3183	www.sdrca.gov
San Diego River Park Foundation	A, B, C, E, F, L, P, R, T	(619) 297-7380	www.sandiegoriver.org
San Dieguito River Park	A, B, E, L, C	(858) 674-2270	www.sdrp.org
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy	E, L	(858) 755-6956	www.sdrvc.org
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project	E, L	(510) 286-4181	www.scwrp.org
Tijuana Estuary	A, B, C, E, T	(619) 575-3613	www.tijuanaestuary.com
The Trust for Public Land	A, E, L	(415) 495-4014	www.tpl.org
Think Blue	A, B, C, E, S	(888) 844-6525	www.thinkblue.org
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9: The Pacific Southwest	B, E, L, T	(415) 947-8707	www.epa.gov/region9/water
USDA Forest Service- Pacific Southwest Region	A, B, C, E, F, L, P, R	(707) 562-8737	www.fs.fed.us/r5
Watershed Management Council	A, E, T	(208) 364-4094	www.watershed.org

Activity Type Key

A: Environmental activism	L: Land conservation and management
B: Business related protection and education activities	P: Planting trees and streambank repair/protection
C: Clean-up of trash and litter	R: Rowing, canoeing, and related boating activities
E: Environmental education	S: Storm drain marking
F: Fishing or recreation activities	T: Water quality testing

