

South Tahoe Public Utility District  
**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2015**



**IS MY WATER SAFE?** Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The South Tahoe Public Utility District vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and, once again, we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

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. EPA/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 USEPA's Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?** There are 11 active drinking water and 2 standby wells to more than 14,000 homes and businesses. All our drinking water is pumped from underground aquifers. No water is taken from Lake Tahoe or any other surface water source.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION**

The District's Groundwater Management Plan (California Water Code Section 10750) was adopted on December 21, 2000 and is on file with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). We are

currently completing the Groundwater Management Plan in early 2016. You may view the document by visiting the District's website at [www.stpud.us](http://www.stpud.us) or by requesting a copy by calling Customer Service at 530-544-6474.

The District has an ongoing drinking water source development program that seeks potential drinking water well locations. Due to the volume of the average annual Sierra snowpack and Lake Tahoe itself, our aquifer has a significant recharge capability. The District continues to work diligently to protect and maintain this precious natural resource.

**WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?**

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, 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. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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, 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, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (DPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?** The information contained in the Consumer Confidence Report may not answer all the questions you may have about the quality of the South Tahoe Public Utility District's drinking water supply. The District welcomes public participation in developing water quality and quantity policy. If you would like more detailed scientific information, please call the District Laboratory at 530-544-6474 extension 6231, or check our website at [www.stpud.us](http://www.stpud.us).

The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Customer Service Facility located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. All meetings are open to the public and the District encourages our customers to attend and become involved in the policy making process.

**RESULTS OF RADON MONITORING** Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

**RESULTS OF VOLUNTARY MONITORING**

See data sheets.

**REGARDING ARSENIC** Arsenic is a naturally occurring substance that is sometimes found at very low levels in drinking water, primarily groundwater. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was required by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to finalize a new drinking water standard for arsenic in 2001 based on good scientific information and data.

**WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE** The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected that are applicable for the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data

presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

**ADDITIONAL CONTAMINANTS** In an effort to insure the safest water possible, the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed on the last page under "Additional Contaminants" were found in your water.

**IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS**

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

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

**PHG** Primary Health Goal: The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.

**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.

**MNR** Monitored Not Regulated

**MPL** Maximum Permissible Level: As determined by the state of California

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG/PHG OR MRDLG	MCL OR MRDL OR NL	AVERAGE	MIN	MAX	SAMPLE DATE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	3.1	ND	8.4	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	1	2	0.09	ND	0.14	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.20	0.03	0.58	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	NA	MPL	12	4.62	30	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>RADIONUCLIDES</b>								
Gross Alpha (pCi/L), minus Uranium		15	5.27	1.34	9.90	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	0.43	20	4.82	0.61	14.7	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	0.05		1.15	0.38	2.31	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	0.019		1.56	0.21	3.97	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 + Radium-228		5	2.71	0.90	6.28	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
MTBE [Methyl Tert Butyl Ether] (ppb)	5	13	ND	ND	0.5	2015	No	Leaking underground fuel storage tanks
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	2.1	ND	16	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HaloAcetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	0.2	ND	2.3	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Total Coliforms (% Positive each month)		5	0.2	0	1.2	2015	No	Naturally present in environment
E. Coli (% Positive)		0	0	0	0	2015	No	Human and animal fecal matter
Heterotrophic Plate Count or HPC (CFU)		NA	0.3	ND	4	2015	No	NA
Turbidity (NTU) The Turbidity limit for the highest single measurement.		5	0.17	0.02	0.58	2015	No	Soil runoff
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	MCLG/PHG	AL	90TH PERCENTILE	SAMPLE DATE	# SAMPLES EXCEEDING AL	EXCEEDS AL	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	ND	15	ND	2014	0	No	Corosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	ND	1,300	71	2014	0	No	Internal corosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	

ADDITIONAL CONTAMINANTS	UNITS	STATE MCL	AVERAGE	VIOLATION	SAMPLE DATE	EXPLANATION AND COMMENT
Alkalinity, Total	ppm	NA	50.1	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum	ppb	1,000	21	No	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2,000	11	No	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromide	ppm	NA	0.01	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium	ppm	NA	12.4	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide, Free	ppm	NA	13.2	No	2015	Naturally occurring
Chloride	ppm	500	9.4	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine, Free	ppm	4	0.65	No	2015	By-product of disinfection process
Chromium 6	ppb	NA	0.42	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Color	Units	15	5	No	2015	Naturally occurring organic materials
Copper	ppb	NA	2	No	2015	Old plumbing/erosion of natural deposits
Dissolved Solids, Total	ppm	1,000	94	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Electrical Conductance	µS/cm	1,600	146	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness	ppm	NA	45	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron	ppb	300	26	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	NA	0.5	No	2015	Old plumbing/erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	ppm	NA	2.5	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	2	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor-Threshold	Units	3	1	No	2015	Naturally occurring organic materials
ortho-Phosphate, as P	ppm	NA	0.04	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Phosphorus, Total	ppm	NA	0.04	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	Units	NA	7.78	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Potassium	ppm	NA	1.5	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Radon	pCi/L	NA	203	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	500	3.3	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Temperature - System	°F	NA	51.1	No	2015	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium	ppb	NA	3.6	No	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	ppb	5,000	ND	No	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

#### UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

**µg/L:** Micrograms per Liter, or parts per billion

**mg/L:** Milligrams per liter or parts per million

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per Liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per Liter (µg/L)

**ppt:** Parts per trillion, or nanograms per Liter

**ppq:** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per Liter

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per Liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**MFL:** Million Fibers per Liter, used to measure asbestos concentration

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**positive samples/month:** The number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive

**positive samples/yr:** The number of positive samples taken that year

**% positive samples/month:** Percentage of samples taken monthly that were positive

**CFU/ml:** Colony Forming Units per milliliter

**NA:** Not Applicable

**ND:** Not Detected

**NR:** Not Required, but recommended

**ADDITIONAL MONITORING** As part of an on-going evaluation program called *UCMR-3* (unregulated contaminant monitoring rule 3), the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

The US EPA uses the UCMR to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water to help determine if drinking water standards need to be developed in the future. The District is required to monitor 28 chemical contaminants. The first round was completed in August 2014. The second and final round was conducted in February 2015. In the absence of identifiable industrial sources other than chlorate, these contaminants are naturally occurring in our watersheds. Chlorate is a degradation product of the disinfectant used by STPUD for water disinfection and is a common contaminant found in water treatment facilities throughout the nation.

CONTAMINANTS/CHEMICALS	UNITS	AVERAGE	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	SAMPLE DATE
Chlorate	ppm	0.083	ND	0.440	2/2015
Chromium, Total	ppb	0.52	ND	1.30	2/2015
Chromium-6	ppb	0.43	0.09	1.10	2/2015
Cobalt	ppb	ND	ND	ND	2/2015
Molybdenum	ppb	13.8	ND	65	2/2015
Strontium	ppb	124	15	330	2/2015
Vanadium	ppb	3.6	ND	13	2/2015