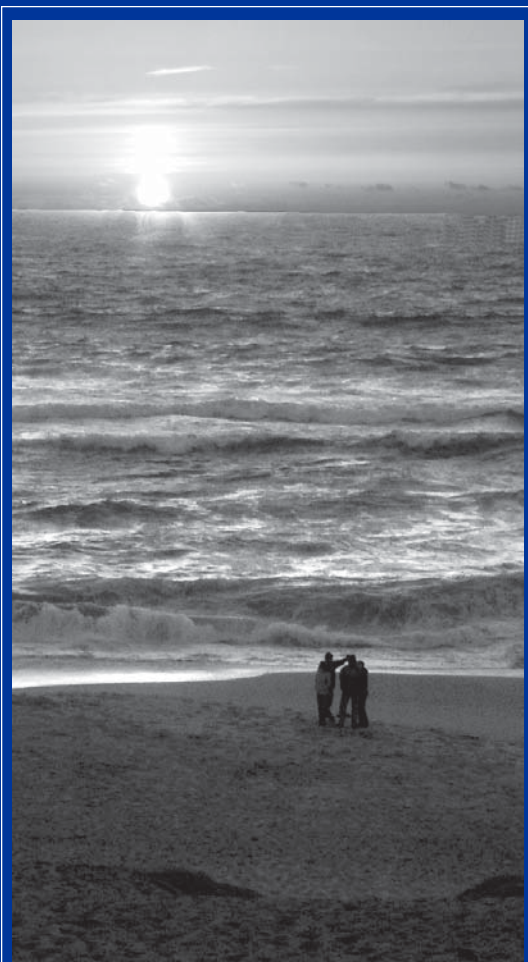


2003 Consumer Confidence Report



**Marina Coast
Water District**

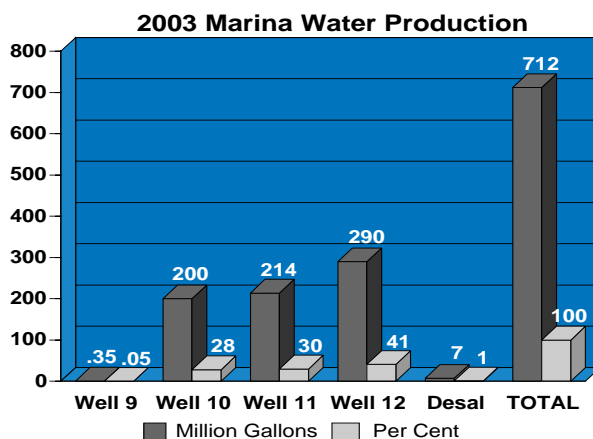
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hablo con alguien que lo entiende bien.

The Marina Coast Water District proudly presents this annual water quality report to our water customers in Marina. We are pleased to inform and assure you that your drinking water meets or surpasses all State and Federal drinking water standards. If you have any questions regarding the information in this report or about your water, please contact Technical Services Manager Evelina A. Adlawan at 384-6131. Also, please visit our website at www.mcwd.org.

Water Sources

Marina's water supply is from three deep wells that pump groundwater from the 900-foot deep aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Less than one percent comes from one well that draws groundwater from the 400-foot aquifer. A measured amount of disinfectant chlorine is added to the groundwater to protect against microbial contamination and remove naturally occurring hydrogen sulfide, which can cause odor. At full capacity, Marina's Desalination plant could provide thirteen percent of Marina's water supply. In 2003, desalinated water production was limited to only one percent. Water is delivered to our Marina customers through a network of two storage tanks and forty-two miles of pipeline.

Our greatest water quality challenge in and around the Marina area is seawater intrusion. Each year as more water is pumped from the basin than is naturally replenished, an imbalance may result in salt water from the ocean infiltrating the basin aquifers. The District works hard to explore alternative water sources and appreciates your water conservation efforts to control this serious problem.



Water Quality

Assessment and Protection Program

In July 2001, the California Department of Health Services (DHS) completed an assessment of each of Marina's water supply sources. The report identifies possible sources of contamination and helps prioritize cleanup and pollution prevention efforts. It was found that Marina's groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to contaminants associated with military installation, historic waste dumps and landfill activities. Marina's desalination plant seawater intake well is considered most vulnerable to contaminants associated with injection wells, dry wells, sumps and wastewater treatment plant activities. Full details of the assessment may be viewed at the following locations: MCWD, 11 Reservation Road, Marina or DHS, 1 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Building 1, Suite 120, Monterey.

Disinfectants-Disinfection Byproducts Rule

Marina's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to ensure that the water is free of harmful bacteria. Disinfectants such as chlorine, while effective in controlling most microorganisms, also react with natural organic and inorganic matter in water sources and distribution systems to form potentially harmful disinfection byproducts (DBPs) such as trihalomethanes (THM's) and haloacetic acids (HAA5), which have been linked to cancer and other health effects in laboratory animals. The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lowered the standard for THM's from 100 parts per billion (ppb) to 80ppb, set the HAA5 standard at 60ppb and the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) for chlorine at 4.0 milligrams per liter. Marina's drinking water THM's, HAA5 and chlorine residual levels are well below the standards. To reduce chlorine taste or smell, try refrigerating your water before drinking.

Arsenic

Arsenic is an element that occurs naturally in the earth's crust. Its presence in drinking water is most often the result of underground rock formations. The USEPA lowered the arsenic standard in drinking water from 50 ppb to 10 ppb. The new standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California DHS 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 and will implement the new standard in January 2006. While Marina's water supply meets the new USEPA standard, it does contain low levels of naturally occurring arsenic.

Radon

The USEPA proposed to set a drinking water standard for radon that could range from 300-400 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Marina's water supply sources were tested for radon in 2000. The results range from 208 to 1,408 pCi/L. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. 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. Breathing air containing radon may increase the risk of lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon, test the air in your home. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L or greater. The best way to reduce the overall risk from radon is to reduce radon levels in indoor air. For additional information, call the USEPA's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

Sodium and Hardness

Although sodium and hardness do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), they are of interest to many consumers who are concerned about sodium intake and may believe that the water hardness could affect their health. Sodium generally refers to the naturally occurring salt in water. Water hardness is attributed to naturally dissolved minerals such as calcium and magne-



Water Distribution Operator Tim Buhl tests a water sample.

sium and also affects the ability of water to react with soap to form suds. Hard water requires more soap because the soap first reacts chemically with calcium and magnesium (naturally present in the water) before it can be used for cleaning. Water is considered soft if total hardness is less than 75 ppm; moderately hard at 75 to 150 ppm; hard at 150 to 300 ppm; and very hard at 300 ppm or higher. To determine total hardness in grains per gallon, simply divide hardness in ppm by 17.1. With an average of 96 parts per million or 5.6 grains per gallon, Marina's drinking water hardness is considered to be moderate.

Water Softeners

It is a personal and aesthetic choice to use a water softener since hard water is considered not harmful to health. The District encourages the use of potassium chloride instead of sodium chloride in water softeners. However, in either case, water softening may pose some health concerns, and people on certain diets and medications should consult their physicians before using softened water.

Drinking Water

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.



Dear Marina Neighbors,

As in previous years, we present our 2003 Consumer Confidence Report to give you the assurance that your drink-

ing water meets the State and Federal health and safety requirements.

This report contains detailed information about your water supply that we hope you find educational and useful. If you should have any questions regarding the information in this report or about your water, please contact our technical services manager, Evelina A. Adlawan, at 384-6131. Also, I encourage you to visit our website at www.mcwd.org.

Your District board of directors and staff remain fully committed to providing you with excellent water quality and superb customer services. Thank you for your continued efforts to conserve our precious water supplies.

— Mike Armstrong, General Manager



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Board meetings are open to the public and held the fourth Wednesday of every month at the District office, 11 Reservation Road (Marina State Beach) at 7 p.m. Agendas are posted in the following places at least 72 hours before each meeting: Marina Coast Water District, Marina City Hall, Marina Library and the Marina Post Office.

2003 MCWD Statistics

Number of Groundwater Wells	4 plus Seawater Intake Well
Active Groundwater Aquifers	900-ft & 400-ft Aquifer
Other Water Source	Desalination Plant
Water Produced	712.1 million gallons
Water Produced	2,185 acre feet
Population Served	18,200
No. of Service Connections	3,785