

# Rate Increase Approved

To accommodate effects of continuing inflation and the impact of strict State and Federal regulations, the District's Board of Directors recently approved a water rate increase, effective July 1, 2005. For urban customers, the rate will rise 8% and for agricultural customers the rate will go up 5%. For the average residential customer, the increase will come to \$3.91 per month.

While the District has undertaken cost cutting measures, soaring fuel, construction, and other costs have impacted the budget. The new rates will provide the necessary funds to maintain quality customer service. Meanwhile, the capital improvement program will provide a more reliable water supply, better fire flow, and enhanced emergency storage, as well as improvements in water quality.

## Free Water Checkup To Help You Save Water

Reduced water use will lower your bill. We offer customers a free water checkup to help you save water and check for leaks. Included is an evaluation of your irrigation system to make sure it works efficiently. To schedule a free checkup or for more information on how to save water, call 964-6761 Ext. 643. Check out [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) for more tips on saving water.

## Where to Get More Water Quality Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or by visiting the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ow/>.



## Tap Water or Bottled Water – Which is Right For Me?

These days, it is hard to go food shopping without passing shelves full of bottled waters. The bottles go by various names: "spring water," "mountain water," "distilled water," or "drinking water."

### Which is the Right One for Me?

Perhaps the best one is not on the shelf nor in the bottle at all, but can be found right in your own home—tap water. It is delivered directly to you, clean, tested, and safe. At less than a penny per gallon it is a bargain compared to the dollars you pay for bottled water.

### Higher Quality Standards for Tap Water

Your tap water is required to meet much more stringent regulations and is monitored more closely than bottled water. Tap water is regulated by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services, and bottled water is regulated only by the Food and Drug Administration.

Unless you prefer the taste or the label, there is no need to buy bottled water if your concern is healthfulness. Tap water is entirely healthful and safe. In fact, if you use a home filter system, you are cautioned to carefully follow instructions for changing the filter or the water could actually become contaminated by the filter.



Printed on recycled paper. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

**GWD Seeking Customer Volunteers for Advisory Committee**  
The Board of Directors of Goleta Water District is in the process of forming a Citizens Water Rate Committee to assist it in establishing a new rate structure. For more information visit [www.goletawater.com](http://www.goletawater.com) or call Marie at 964-6761 Ext. 643.

Russell R. Ruiz, General Counsel

Kevin D. Walsh, General Manager  
and Chief Engineer

Jack Cunningham, Harry E. De Wit, Lynette Mills  
Chuck Evans, Vice-President  
Carey Rogers, President

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT  
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*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

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INFORMATION  
ABOUT YOUR WATER

# WATER NEWS

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

## Providing Outstanding Water Quality is a Team Effort

**Monitoring Around the Clock.** There are no holidays from water quality. Our certified professionals monitor your drinking water quality 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the year.

**Accuracy is the Standard.** Goleta Water District staff conducts thousands of tests each year to ensure the quality of the water you receive, to within one-hundredth of a part in a billion parts of water!

**Full-Time Testing.** Some quality tests are conducted daily, some weekly, some monthly, and some continuously. All records are carefully maintained, and many are submitted to government regulatory agencies for review.

**Laboratories Are Licensed, Certified.** Certain tests are conducted at our own State-certified laboratory; independent laboratories using the most modern and sophisticated equipment carry out others.

## 2005 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

# Again—District Meets All Quality Standards for Drinking Water

*Last year, as in years past, your drinking water met every Federal and State health standard.*

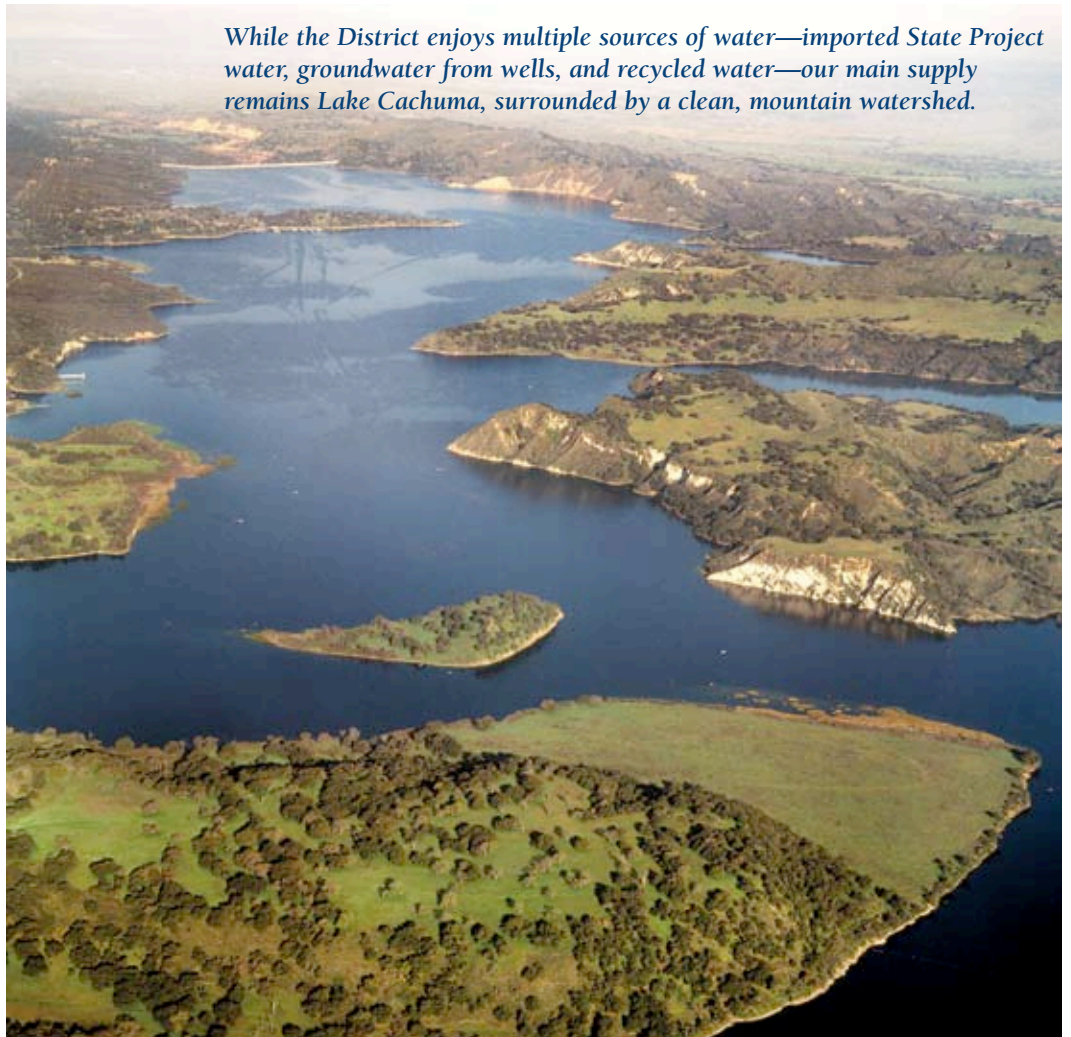
### Quality Report Provides the Details

This newsletter carries the full story of our water quality efforts. It provides a snapshot of last year's testing results, including where your water comes from, what substances it contains, and how the water compares to health standards. It also has information about the basic healthfulness of the water, and even an account of how it met so-called esthetic recommendations like hardness.

### Keeping Customers Informed

Goleta Water District is committed to providing customers with helpful information about water. For more information about water quality, you can call Dale Armstrong at 805-879-4678.

*While the District enjoys multiple sources of water—imported State Project water, groundwater from wells, and recycled water—our main supply remains Lake Cachuma, surrounded by a clean, mountain watershed.*



# Your Water Starts With a High Quality Source

The main source of your water comes from Lake Cachuma and is treated at the Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant. In addition, the District maintains a number of wells as

a backup supply. In 2004, University Well was used briefly in April, and Sierra Madre Well was used in February and August.

## Sources of Possible Contaminants in Tap and Bottled Drinking Water

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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, USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Source Water Assessment Available for Public Inspection

A source water assessment of Lake Cachuma was completed in December 2000. This water source is considered most vulnerable to the following activity associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: gas stations and recreational surface water activities. In addition, this water source is most vulnerable to this activity, for which no associated contaminant has been detected: historic mining operations. An assessment of University Well was completed in January 2002; it is considered most vulnerable to injection wells. The District operates these injection wells as part of an aquifer storage and recovery project and closely monitors the quality of the treated surface water that is injected. An assessment of Sierra Madre Well was completed in April 2003; it is considered most vulnerable to sewer collection systems. The District closely monitors the quality of the water in Sierra Madre Well for the presence of contaminants. A copy of the complete assessments is available at the District's main office. You may request a summary by contacting Operations Manager Michael Kanno at 879-4630.

### DEFINITIONS USED IN THE CHART:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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 Environmental Protection Agency.

**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. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

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

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.

**pCi/l:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity units. A measure of clarity.

**ND:** Not detected at testing limit.

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**µmhos/cm:** micromhos per centimeter (an indicator of dissolved minerals in the water).

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### FOOTNOTES TO THE CHART:

<sup>1</sup> In March 2002 a sample taken at University Well had a detection of 0.9 ppb dichloromethane. University Well was not in use at this time. Subsequent samples taken at this well have been non-detect for dichloromethane.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1) Be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month; 2) Not exceed 1.0 NTU.

<sup>4</sup> Conventional surface water treatment plants must remove a certain percentage of the TOC in their raw intake water using a specialized treatment technique. The percentage removal required depends on raw water quality characteristics. For Goleta Water District's raw water source, the required percentage is 15%. Due to the nature of Goleta Water District's raw water source TOC, this is not technically feasible. Goleta Water District has received verbal approval of a waiver from this treatment requirement from the USEPA and the California Department of Health Services, and we are awaiting formal written approval.

<sup>5</sup> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA and the California Department of Health Services to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated. Goleta Water District completed its required Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing in 2001. The data in this section of the report are from 2001.

<sup>6</sup> 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).

Note: The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. All of the surface water and distribution system data presented in the tables are from samples taken in 2004, except for the following. The surface water uranium data were obtained in 1999. All of the groundwater data in the tables are from samples taken in 2004, except for the following. The dichloromethane data are from 2002. The silica data are from 2001. The sodium, potassium, alkalinity, bicarbonate, sulfate, chloride, fluoride, pH, specific conductance, total dissolved solids, color, turbidity odor and turbidity data are from 2001 and 2004. The hardness, calcium and magnesium data are from 2003 and 2004. The groundwater gross alpha and uranium data were obtained in 1999 and 2004.

## Results of 2004 Drinking Water Quality Tests

The tables below list drinking water contaminants and other constituents detected during the 2004 calendar year. The District also tested for many additional substances that were not detected, and therefore are not listed in the report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data is for testing done January 1-December 31, 2004. The test results show that the District met all water quality standards.



REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLS							
INORGANIC	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.131	0.072-0.260	ND	ND-ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.58	0.40-0.65	0.29	0.24-0.34	Erosion of natural deposits
ORGANIC							
Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	4	ND	N/A	ND	ND-0.9 <sup>1</sup>	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide
RADIOLOGICAL							
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/l)	15	N/A	ND	ND-ND	ND	ND-3.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.5	2.5	N/A	2.7	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD AND COPPER RULE	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	90th Percentile Value	# of Sample Sites	# of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Copper (ppm)	AL = 1.3	0.17	0.27	30	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems	
Lead (ppb)	AL = 15	2	ND (< 5)	30	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems	
MICROBIOLOGICAL	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest Single Measurement		Lowest Percentage of Samples Meeting TT		Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	TT <sup>3</sup>	N/A	0.147		100%		Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS	MCL or MRDL	PHG (MCLG) or MRDLG	System Average		System Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	N/A	65.0		38.0-96.0		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	13.9		5.5-22.0		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	MRDLG = 4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	0.96		0.31-1.97		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP precursors (TOC in ppm)	TT <sup>4</sup>	N/A	2.9		2.6-3.4		Various natural and manmade sources
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH REQUIRED MONITORING <sup>5</sup>							
CONSTITUENT	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range			
Boron (ppb)	295	260-330	153	ND-320		N/A	
Vanadium (ppb)	ND	N/A	2.35	ND-4.8		N/A	
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLS							
CONSTITUENT	Secondary MCL	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	500	25.0	25.0-25.0	218	16-420		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	15	ND	ND-3	3	ND-5		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor---Threshold (units)	3	1	1-5	2	1-3		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	1600	927	844-972	1446	751-1683		Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	280	N/A	198	130-265		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	602	564-640	825	620-1030		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	0.11	0.05-1.47	0.23	0.20-0.25		Soil runoff
OTHER CONSTITUENTS							
CONSTITUENT	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range		<b>Variance:</b> Goleta Water District (GWD) serves unfiltered Lake Cachuma water to about 33 connections on the Goleta West Conduit. The water receives chlorination treatment but does not comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). The State Department of Health Services allows GWD to provide bottled water to these customers for drinking and cooking as a permanent solution. GWD notifies these consumers quarterly that the water delivered is not in compliance with the SWTR and should not be used for domestic purposes.  <b>How You Can Get Involved.</b> Our water board normally meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the District Board Room at 4699 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.	
Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	162	135-182	158	153-162			
Bicarbonate (ppm)	175	N/A	192	186-198			
Calcium (ppm)	75	N/A	130	89-170			
Hardness (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	355	264-420	478	387-569			
Magnesium (ppm)	46	N/A	38	35-40			
pH (units)	7.51	6.99-8.09	7.40	7.30-7.60			
Potassium (ppm)	3.0	N/A	2.2	1.7-2.7			
Radon <sup>6</sup> (pCi/l)	ND	N/A	462	97-730			
Silica (ppm)	14.3	14.1-14.4	23.5	16.0-31.6			
Sodium (ppm)	54	N/A	68	47-90			