



# Nipomo Water System

Consumer Confidence Report  
on Water Quality for 2016



## Providing Quality Drinking Water in California Since 1929

**Golden State Water Company** is pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report for 2016.

Bringing you clean drinking water is serious business, and our team of more than 500 water professionals is committed to ensuring you have reliable, high-quality water service available whenever you need it.

It is important for our customers to remain informed about the quality of the water that you and your family drink. You should rest assured knowing that Golden State Water tests water delivered to its customers to ensure it meets stringent quality standards.

Golden State Water strictly adheres to federal and state drinking water quality guidelines required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). We test for more than 230 elements in our water to ensure high quality. In 2016 alone, we invested more than half a million dollars on laboratory testing to meet regulatory standards.

In the uncommon event that drinking water standards are exceeded, we take immediate action to notify customers and restore normal service.

We pride ourselves on getting the job done right, and our team of experts strives to provide consistent water service and prevent water quality issues by regularly investing to maintain and improve our water system. This ensures our ability to provide you with high-quality drinking water—24 hours a day, seven days a week—is not compromised.

In January 2017, the State of California announced a new program encouraging schools to test their drinking water for the presence of lead. Golden State Water is proudly collaborating with schools in our service areas to test and ensure drinking water quality is not being compromised by plumbing issues within the school facilities. Supplying drinking water that complies with State and Federal requirements to families is of paramount importance, and we appreciate the opportunity to work closely with our local school administrators on this key initiative.

Our customers have always been our top priority, and we are always available to provide you with information or answer any questions you may have about your water service. We encourage customers to visit [www.gswater.com](http://www.gswater.com) and follow us on Twitter @GoldenStateH2O. In addition, Golden State Water's Customer Service Representatives are available around-the-clock for customers at 1.800.999.4033.

We have proudly served California for more than 85 years, and we currently provide water to approximately 1 million customers throughout the state. On behalf of the men and women at Golden State Water who serve you, thank you for being a valued customer.

Sincerely,



**Robert Sprowls**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Golden State Water Company



**Mark Zimmer**  
General Manager, Coastal District  
Golden State Water Company

### About the Company

Golden State Water Company, a subsidiary of American States Water Company (AWR), provides water service to approximately one million Californians located within 75 communities throughout 10 counties in Northern, Coastal and Southern California. The Company also distributes electricity to more than 24,000 customers in the Big Bear recreational area of California. AWR's contracted services subsidiary, American States Utility Services, Inc., provides operations, maintenance and construction management services for water and wastewater systems located on military bases throughout the country.

# Making Conservation a Way of Life

After five consecutive dry years depleted California's water resources, steady rain and snowfall during the winter months have improved conditions at many of the state's reservoirs and contributed to statewide snowpack levels that are far above the historical average. This is great news for California's water situation; however, we must remain diligent with responsible water use and make water conservation a way of life. California has been prone to long stretches of drought, and there is no guarantee that long-range weather patterns will produce such an abundance of water to our state. To learn more about water-use efficiency and the conservation resources available in your area, please visit [www.gswater.com/conservation](http://www.gswater.com/conservation) or call 1.800.999.4033.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Water delivered to customers in the Nipomo System is groundwater pumped from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin through wells owned and operated by Golden State Water Company. The groundwater basin is recharged from a collection of local drainage basins, streams and creeks, as well as natural percolation from rain, agriculture and domestic use.

## Glossary of Terms

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the public health goals and maximum contaminant level goals as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

### California Notification Level (NL)

Non-regulatory, health-based advisory levels established by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for contaminants in drinking water for which an MCL has not been established.

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Maximum contaminant level goals are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

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.

### Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)

MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

### Public Health Goal (PHG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Public health goals are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

### Regulatory Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

## Cross Connection Control Program

Golden State Water's Cross Connection Control Program provides a level of certainty that the water in the company's distribution system is protected from possible backflow of contaminated water from commercial or industrial customers' premises. For additional information, visit <http://www.gswater.com/protecting-our-drinking-water/>.

## If You Have Questions – Contact Us

For information about your water quality or to find out about upcoming opportunities to participate in public meetings, please contact our 24-hour Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-4033. Visit us online at [www.gswater.com](http://www.gswater.com) or email us at [customerservice@gswater.com](mailto:customerservice@gswater.com).

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

## For People with Sensitive Immune Systems

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those individuals with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly populations, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers.

The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control issue guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please call the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Connect with us to learn more!

Visit [www.gswater.com](http://www.gswater.com) to learn how to:

- ▶ Access the latest Water Quality Report for your area
- ▶ Get the latest updates and news regarding the drought and state/local restrictions
- ▶ Learn more about water-use efficiency, including programs and rebates in your area
- ▶ Understand your water bill and learn about payment options
- ▶ Obtain information about programs for low-income customers (CARW)
- ▶ Sign up to receive email updates about your water service.

For additional information, please contact our 24-hour Customer Service Center at **1-800-999-4033** or email us at [customerservice@gswater.com](mailto:customerservice@gswater.com).

## Measurements

Water is sampled and tested consistently throughout the year to ensure the best possible quality.

### Contaminants are measured in:

- ▶ Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ▶ Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- ▶ Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- ▶ Grains per gallon (grains/gal) – A measurement of water hardness often used for sizing household water softeners. One grain per gallon is equal to 17.1 mg/L of hardness.
- ▶ MicroSiemens per centimeter (µS/cm) – A measurement of a solution's ability to conduct electricity
- ▶ Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) – A measurement of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is noticeable to the average person.
- ▶ PicoCuries per liter (pCi/L) – A measurement of radioactivity in water.

### If this is difficult to imagine, think about these comparisons:

| Parts per million:   | Parts per billion:       | Parts per trillion:                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 second in 12 days  | 1 second in 32 years     | 1 second in 32,000 years                       |
| 1 inch in 16 miles   | 1 inch in 16,000 miles   | 1 inch in 16 million miles                     |
| 1 drop in 14 gallons | 1 drop in 14,000 gallons | 10 drops in enough water to fill the Rose Bowl |

**YOUR WATER MEETS ALL CURRENT FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS**

**Nipomo Water System – Source Water Quality**

| Primary Standards - Health Based (units)      | Primary MCL        | PHG (MCLG) | Range of Detection | Average Level | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent  |
|---|--------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Inorganic Constituents</b>                 |                    |            |                    |               |                           |  |
| Fluoride (mg/L)                               | 2.0                | 1          | ND - 0.29          | 0.17          | 2014                      | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories         |
| Nitrate [as N] (mg/L)                         | 10                 | 10         | ND - 5.4           | 2.1           | 2016                      | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits                      |
| <b>Radioactive Constituents</b>               |                    |            |                    |               |                           |  |
| Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)                  | 15(a)              | (0)        | ND - 4.2           | ND            | 2012                      | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Uranium (pCi/L)                               | 20                 | 0.43       | ND - 3.4           | 1.5           | 2009                      | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Secondary Standards - Aesthetic (units)       | Secondary MCL      | PHG (MCLG) | Range of Detection | Average Level | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent  |
| Color (units)                                 | 15                 | n/a        | ND - 5.0           | 1.5           | 2014                      | Naturally-occurring organic materials  |
| Chloride (mg/L)                               | 500                | n/a        | 33 - 89            | 58            | 2014                      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence  |
| Iron (µg/L)                                   | 300                | n/a        | ND - 540           | ND            | 2016                      | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes  |
| Manganese (µg/L)                              | 50                 | n/a        | ND - 100           | ND            | 2016                      | Leaching from natural deposits   |
| Specific Conductance (uS/cm)                  | 1600               | n/a        | 260 - 960          | 750           | 2014                      | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence  |
| Sulfate (mg/L)                                | 500                | n/a        | 21 - 280           | 170           | 2014                      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes   |
| Turbidity (units)                             | 5                  | n/a        | ND - 3.5           | 1.4           | 2014                      | Soil runoff  |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)                 | 1000               | n/a        | 220 - 750          | 560           | 2014                      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits  |
| Other Parameters (units)                      | Notification Level | PHG (MCLG) | Range of Detection | Average Level | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent  |
| Alkalinity (mg/L)                             | n/a                | n/a        | 23 - 230           | 150           | 2014                      |  |
| Calcium (mg/L)                                | n/a                | n/a        | 10 - 87            | 60            | 2014                      |  |
| Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (mg/L)       | n/a                | n/a        | 43 - 400           | 270           | 2014                      | The sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; the cations are usually naturally occurring |
| Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (grains/gal) | n/a                | n/a        | 2.5 - 23           | 16            | 2014                      |  |
| Magnesium (mg/L)                              | n/a                | n/a        | 3.9 - 41           | 27            | 2014                      |  |
| pH (pH units)                                 | n/a                | n/a        | 7.0 - 7.4          | 7.3           | 2014                      |  |
| Potassium (mg/L)                              | n/a                | n/a        | 1.5 - 3.1          | 2.5           | 2014                      |  |
| Sodium (mg/L)                                 | n/a                | n/a        | 33 - 81            | 58            | 2014                      | Refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring   |

**Nipomo Water System – Distribution Water Quality**

| Microbiological Constituents (units)                          | Primary MCL                            | PHG (MCLG)  | Value   |                    | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent   |
|---|--|-------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Total Coliform Bacteria <40 Samples/ Month (Present / Absent) | No more than 1 positive monthly sample | (0)         | Highest Number of monthly samples positive was 1            |                    | 2016                      | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals (units)    | Primary MCL (MRDL)                     | PHG (MRDLG) | Average Level   | Range of Detection | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent   |
| Chlorine [as Cl <sub>2</sub> ] (mg/L)                         | (4.0)                                  | (4)         | 0.47 - 2.04   | 1.40               | 2016                      | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment   |
| HAA5 [Total of Five Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)                  | 60                                     | n/a         | 1.6   | 1.6                | 2016                      | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| TTHMs [Total of Four Trihalomethanes] (µg/L)                  | 80                                     | n/a         | 9.8   | 9.8                | 2016                      | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection  |
| Inorganic Constituents (units)                                | Action Level                           | PHG (MCLG)  | Sample Data   | 90th % Level       | Most Recent Sampling Date | Typical Source of Constituent   |
| Copper (mg/L)   | 1.3                                    | 0.3         | None of the 21 samples collected exceeded the action level. | 0.35               | 2014                      | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

(a) MCL is based on Gross Alpha minus Uranium.

ND = Not Detected

CaCO<sub>3</sub> = Calcium Carbonate

This table includes data only on constituents that were detected.



*Golden State Water's top priority is to protect the quality of your water supply. In every one of our water systems, a team of highly-trained employees monitors water quality on an on-going basis to ensure that our customers are receiving high-quality water.*

# Source Water Assessment

GSWC conducted a source water assessment in December 2002 for each groundwater well serving the customers of its Nipomo System.

All five groundwater well sources are considered most vulnerable to one or more of the following possible contaminating activities. Contaminants associated with these activities have not been detected in the water supply: agricultural wells, drinking water treatment plant, fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide application, high-density housing, high density septic systems, irrigated crops, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/waste discharge requirements-permitted discharges, roads/streets and storm drain detention facilities.

Two of the five groundwater well sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities which have been associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide application and irrigated crops.

A copy of the assessment may be viewed at:

DDW Coastal District Office  
1180 Eugenia Pl., Suite 200, Carpinteria, CA 93013  
or

Golden State Water Company, Los Osos Office  
1140 Los Olivos Ave., Los Osos, CA 93402

You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:

DDW Coastal District Office at 1-805-566-1326

For more details, contact Matthew Hubbard, Associate Water Quality Engineer, at 1-800-999-4033.

## Laboratory Analyses

Through the years, we have taken thousands of water samples to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants in your drinking water. The table we provide shows only detected contaminants in the water.

Even though all the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of these substances were present in your water. Compliance (unless otherwise noted) is based on the average level of concentration below the MCL. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, while representative, is more than a year old.

**Lead** — If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Golden State Water is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Iron** — The secondary MCL for iron is set for aesthetic reasons and there is no health concern associated with the iron levels detected in this water system.

**Manganese** — The secondary MCL for manganese is set for aesthetic reasons and there is no health concern associated with the manganese levels detected in this water system.

**Nitrate** — Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry

oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

## Risk to Tap and Bottled Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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 at 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 layers in the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, which can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

To be certain that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the DDW prescribe regulations limiting the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and DDW regulations also provide the same public health protection by establishing limits for contaminants in bottled water.

### Contaminants in Drinking Water Sources May Include:

- ▶ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife
- ▶ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming
- ▶ Pesticides and herbicides that 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems
- ▶ Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

## Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing is an essential maintenance procedure that all water providers must perform periodically to ensure the delivery of water that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

Flushing is a necessary part of maintaining the water system and the quality of the water within it. Golden State Water has modified procedures to minimize the amount of water released during flushing activities. Water used for flushing represents less than 1 percent of the total water usage in each of our water systems.

For more information about hydrant flushing, visit <http://www.gswater.com/flushing-info/>

